

The Enemy In the Pacific

Japan's Soldiers and Strategy As Seen From the Front Lines

(First of a series of three articles)
Editor's Note: Clark Lee has had an adventurous life in covering the Pacific war and his stories have won him wide notice and honor. The industry Journal praised his stories from Bataan as "the best this war has produced." He has been the Japanese soldier in China, in the Philippines and in the Solomons, and here he appraises the qualities of that unique fighting man.

By CLARK LEE

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 29—(Wide World)—It is difficult to generalize about the fighting qualities of Japanese soldiers.

Many of them are imbued with a fanaticism that makes them fight on even when there's no hope of winning. Japanese seldom surrender.

This might appear to be supreme courage on the part of the ones but it really is courage mixed with fear. They have been and most of them believe, that they will be tortured, then captured by Americans.

Therefore to die fighting is, in their minds, less terrible than surrender.

Once captured they readily admit they are glad to be alive and don't regret their failure to die a hero's death. This is true even though a soldier who surrenders "can never return to Japan." The stigma attached to being taken prisoner undoubtedly is firmly implanted in the minds of the Japanese people and disgrace brought upon a prisoner's family makes it impossible to return to the homeland.

Nevertheless, there's reason to believe that Japanese soldiers have discussed among themselves the possibility of being captured. Prisoners captured in widely separated areas of the Philippines all expressed the same hope that the Americans would "let us live on some South Sea island after the war."

Many Take Own Lives

Many times the Japanese, especially officers, commit suicide rather than surrender or continue to fight under heavy fire.

For instance on Bataan, some 500 Japanese jumped from Mariveles Point behind General MacArthur's front line within range of Corregidor's 12-inch mortars. When our artillerymen pin-pointed their positions and dropped big shells among them, 85 committed suicide by leaping from a 100-foot cliff to the rocks below.

Some who survived the leap said it was their first experience with artillery fire and they couldn't stand the terrible strain.

However, whatever it is that impels them, the Japanese are a dangerous enemy and fighting them is costly. A hundred Americans may have to risk their lives to rout out and exterminate a handful of Japanese dug in among the tree roots of Bataan's jungle or tunneled in the limestone caves of Tulagi.

The Japanese prodigal waste of lives to gain even small objectives astonished General MacArthur in the Philippines as it did General Archibald Wavell in Malaya. But such tactics are tradition with the mikado's armies.

At Mukden in the Russian-Japanese war, they charged day after day into devastating artillery fire which piled corpses many feet deep. Early in the Bataan fighting they stormed strong river positions held by the 37th Filipino scouts for three solid days. The living kept charging over the dead until our positions finally were overwhelmed.

Always Look Unimpressed

I have watched the Japanese fight in China and in the Philippines where they were winning; I have watched them in the Solomons where they are losing.

Most armies naturally look better in winning than in losing. But the Japs never look good.

Physically they are unimpressed. Their pants bag at the seats, their leggings are carelessly wound, their shoes run down at the heel, their rifles are battered and unpolished and their equipment, with some exceptions, seems poorly made.

Many are small and apparently weak. In the Philippines some 90 per cent of the prisoners were chronically diseased. This run-down appearance sometimes leads to underestimating them as enemies.

But their appearance belies their Spartan training and toughening program which gives them tremendous endurance. Excepting the Chinese, they probably can fight with fewer comforts, with less food and endure greater hardships without complaining than any other soldier in the world.

One of their proudest campaigns, which they believe should rank high in world military annals, was their drive into southwestern Shan-shi province in China early in 1938. In 12 days they rode, walked and climbed from Taiyuan across range after range of rugged mountains and broke out onto the southern plains to capture their objectives.

They've Had Experience

Campaigns like that gave them invaluable experience for bigger campaigns that they had been planning for years. And therein lies one reason for Japan's successes. To know where you're going, and why, is a tremendous advantage.

But, in estimating the strength of the Japanese enemy, it is necessary to recall that on only a few cases have the Japanese been forced to fight on equal terms and every time they have been defeated.

At Shanghai, where Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek sacrificed his crack German-trained Chinese divisions in 1937 to stall the Japanese for three months, the Japanese were badly defeated, also by the soviet far eastern army at Changkufeng in 1938 and again at Nomonhan in 1940.

Nomonhan especially was extremely costly but the Japanese generals probably considered the price worth the lessons learned in the use of tanks and airplanes in determining the strength of the Russians. The Japanese also lost the first phase of the battle of Bataan, extending from early January to early February when MacArthur's artillery and machine-guns stopped them cold and smashed the original force they had landed in Luzon.

And, of course, more recently the Japanese were cut to pieces by the US marines in the Solomons. Casualties may give some line respecting the fighting ability of American and Japanese troops.

On Tulagi, Jap casualties were 100 per cent; ours 25 per cent. In wiping out the Japanese force of 670 men which landed on Guadalcanal after the American occupation, United States marines lost less than 20 killed.

In the Guadalcanal battle, the marines had tanks which partly accounts for the smallness of their losses.

Time Necessary to Defeat

There is no doubt that the Japanese can be beaten but beating them probably will take years because of the great distances necessary to get at them and the tactical difficulties involving landings against strongly fortified bases.

In addition to her pre-war bases, Japan now has fortified or is fortifying vast territories won since December 7.

If our strategy is to fight back island by island, advancing gradually northward and reconquering countries Japan has taken, the war certainly will last a number of years.

There are several alternate shortcuts, through Siberia, through China or directly against Japan. Whichever plan is followed we undoubtedly will meet bitter last-ditch resistance. That resistance, of course, will have to be overcome by superiority, numerical and qualitative, in planes, ships and men.

Engineering Well Under Way On Columbia, Coast Roads For Post-War Improvement

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—(AP)—Engineering work on a \$500,000,000 post war highway program in California, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and District of Columbia is well under way Brig. Gen. Philip B. Fleming, federal works administrator, reported Tuesday.

He said the engineering, extending from conception of the improvements through surveys and preparations of plans for contractors' bids, was going forward as a federal-state undertaking and was being financed by \$10,000,000 authorized in the defense highway act of 1941. States will be required to match federal funds under the usual federal aid plan.

General Fleming made clear this program was only a part of improvements to be undertaken after the war. "At the present time," he added, "road-building like all other construction activities of the federal works agency is of necessity confined to projects that are indispensable to the successful prosecution of the war."

Among projects listed by the

FWA Tuesday as approved (costs undisclosed) were:

Oregon—Major relocation of the Columbia river highway (U S 30) is practically a continuous section between Cascade Locks and The Dalles, following as closely as possible along the Columbia river. Length 41 miles.

Relocation of Oregon Coast highway (US 101) between Tillamook and Pleasant Valley. Length 8 miles.

Seaman Released

SEATTLE, Sept. 29—(AP)—A 29-year-old seaman, half Japanese and half Hawaiian, was released from federal custody Tuesday to become a crew member of one of the nation's new merchant ships.

The Oregon Statesman

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NINETY-SECOND YEAR

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Russians Rout German Assaults

Allies Capture Ioribaiwa Ridge; Japs Claim Isles

Enemy Retires Northward in New Guinea

Piles of Equipment Captured by Allies As Planes Attack

By MURLIN SPENCER
GEN. MACARTHUR'S HEAD-QUARTERS, Australia, Wednesday, Sept. 30—(AP)—Allied troops in a swelling counter-thrust against the Japanese in New Guinea have recaptured Ioribaiwa ridge 32 miles above Port Moresby and "our advance continues," a communique said Wednesday.

The Japanese were reported retiring toward Nauro, ten miles to the north, and piles of equipment they abandoned were seized by the allied jungle fighters who considerably eased the enemy's pressure on Port Moresby.

The communique said: "Ioribaiwa ridge has been captured by our troops. The enemy is retiring in the direction of Nauro, ten miles to the north. Quantities of supplies and equipment were abandoned by him and are in our hands."

Allied troops, the communique added, found that the Japanese had constructed field trenches and barricades in anticipation of the allied counter-drive.

In this first allied ground offensive General MacArthur's troops were using the same deceptive tactics of infiltration and flanking movements which characterized the Japanese advance to Ioribaiwa in a drive which began late in July from Buna on the northern side of the towering Owen Stanley mountains.

The allies were supported by 25-pounders, by heavy aerial action, and by shorter supply hauls. At Ioribaiwa the Japanese had been (Turn to Page 2)

Two Billions Sought for Navy Planes

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—(AP)—To build thousands of new navy planes, President Roosevelt Tuesday asked congress for an immediate appropriation of \$2,622,000,000, which would send the current fiscal year's outlay for the sea service to a record of approximately \$20,000,000,000.

In a brief memorandum to Speaker Rayburn, the president concurred in a budget bureau assertion that the new planes were essential for "the prosecution of the war."

Neither the chief executive nor the budget bureau gave any details of how many planes the extra funds would provide, but appropriations committee members, who were expected to approve the request quickly along with approximately \$4,000,000,000 for other emergency items, estimated it would add in the (Turn to Page 2)

Chessman Has 2 Nominations

ASTORIA, Ore., Sept. 29—(AP)—Nominated by both the Clatsop county republican and democratic central committees, Merie R. Chessman, publisher of the Astorian-Budget, Wednesday accepted the call to succeed the late Frank M. Francisovich as state senator.

"I am doing what I have always said I would never do, becoming literally a candidate for public political office," Chessman said. "However, when the central committees of both parties are willing to waive partisan considerations and join in urging me to fill the vacancy, it is difficult for me not to waive my personal objections."

The GOP committee unanimously nominated Chessman, a republican, Monday night. The democratic committee took similar action last week.

Argentina's House Urges Axis Break

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 29—(AP)—The Argentine chamber of deputies Tuesday night approved a resolution recommending a break in diplomatic relations with the axis.

The vote was not expected to have any effect on the government's policy of "prudent neutrality," however, for the conservative senate is supporting president Ramon S. Castillo and is not likely to act with the chamber, where a coalition of liberals can outvote the conservatives.

The resolution was adopted after a lengthy debate on foreign relations.

The radical and socialist parties, joining forces, pushed the measure through by a vote of 67 to 64. It called for an immediate break with Germany, Italy and Japan.

Argentina and Chile are the only American republics which still maintain relations with the axis.

Senate Delays Inflation Vote

Hatch Enters New Amendment; FR Deadline Near

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—(AP)—With tempers frayed and nerves frizzled, the senate Tuesday night deferred until Wednesday a final decision of the farm price controversies tied up in the anti-inflation bill. With its action, any lingering hope that the legislation might be enacted by October 1, the deadline fixed by President Roosevelt, disappeared.

During the day, the farm bloc by a vote of 48 to 43 wrote its higher farm parity price levels

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—(AP)—Here's the way Pacific northwest senators voted on the Thomas-Hatch amendment to the anti-inflation bill Tuesday. For: McNary of Oregon, Thomas of Idaho, Bone of Washington, Holman of Oregon, Clark of Idaho. Against: Walkers of Washington.

into the measure. Then, it began a determined but apparently losing fight to keep its amendment in the bill.

Immediately after the vote, Senator Barkley (D-Ky), the administration leader, proposed a compromise substitute. A majority of the senate, including many who voted for the farm bill, (Turn to Page 2)

Hitler Slates Radio Speech

BERLIN (From German Broadcasts), Sept. 29—(AP)—Adolf Hitler will address a mass meeting of the national socialist party at 6 p.m. Wednesday (8 a.m., PWT), on the occasion of the opening of the 1942-43 German winter relief campaign, it was announced Tuesday night.

The announcement did not disclose the meeting place, but said all German radio stations would broadcast the speech.

(At a similar occasion a year ago, Hitler told a packed sports-palace that the Russian "enemy had been hit so hard that he never again will rise up.")

(In that speech, intended mainly to pep up the German people to a third winter of war, he declared for the first time that he had made a mistake in not knowing "how awfully big were the preparations" of the Russians for war.)

Weather
Monday's max. temp. 72, min. 51. River Tuesday -4.1 ft. By army request weather forecasts are withheld and temperature data delayed.
Dinner: Wednesday's sunset 5:35 p.m. Thursday's sunrise 7:16 a.m.

Auto Driven Onto Scrap Pile Here

City salvage officials received their most surprising contribution to date Tuesday afternoon in the current drive for scrap metals needed for war plants.

It was a nine-year-old automobile with usable tires, driven to a salvage depot by the donor.

"This is for your scrap heap," the driver, Julius Mikila, who said he came from Detroit, Mich., told H. L. Braden, executive secretary of the Salem United War

City trucks will start picking up householders' scrap metal and rubber donations to the United War Chest and the war program at 9 a. m. today in the district bounded by Hood street, the Southern Pacific main line, State, Church and Center streets and the Willamette river. Thursday they will operate north of Hood street. See day-by-day map on page two.

Chest, beneficiary of the salvage drive. "You can get the title at the secretary of state's office."

Scarcely believing what he saw take place, Braden verified the driver's statement at the state motor vehicle department.

"This car has been donated to Oregon scrap heap for government use," read a sign the owner posted on the car, a light 1933 model coach.

The day's collection of salvage, in northeast and east central Salem, yielded heavily in worthwhile contributions, City Engineer J. H. Davis reported. Five city trucks, as many drivers and 11 Salem high school students "loaned" by Principal Fred D. Wolf were kept on the go all day picking up old stoves, wire, pans and other metallic scrap from parkings and delivering them to the salvage depots.

By night the service station property being used temporarily as a depot at 18th and State streets was filled to overflowing.

Progress of the drive led C. W. Paulus, county salvage chairman, to predict that the city's quota of 500 tons would be reached.

Engineer Davis put his foot down Tuesday on "donations" of old bottles, paper and tin cans.

"This stuff is of no present value and we simply can't waste time hauling it away," Davis declared.

The day's collections included an old model 17-jewel watch and a large number of loaded shotgun shells, valuable for the brass they contained and of no value to the donor as long as the present hunting season closes.

Handling of the accumulating scrap, to be sold by War Chest officials and the proceeds turned into the chest treasury, was being supervised by Secretary Braden, who announced that Joseph Schindler, old-time Salem blacksmith, had been employed to supervise the sorting.

Three more days remain in the city's residential district salvage campaign.

Ship Recruits Train on Train

PORTLAND, Ore., Sept. 29—(AP)—New York recruits for the Kaiser shipyards are going to know some of the production wizard's ropes before they ever see one of his ships.

Kaiser experts have boarded the special train that is bringing the recruits across the country. The men are being assigned to 50-man squads by crafts and being familiarized with the routine they will follow Tuesday when the train arrives at the company's Vancouver yard.

The new men also are being signed up for war bond purchases to keep up pace of Kaiser yards.

Bank Holiday Set in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept. 29—(AP)—President Vargas Tuesday night declared a bank holiday from September 30 through October 7 throughout Brazil, and suspended commercial debt payment for the same period.

A decree said the action was necessary for economic mobilization of the nation's resources, which was announced Monday and which earlier today was placed under control of an economic coordinator, Jose Alberto Lins de Barros, a former minister to Canada.

1500 Germans Claimed Slain At Stalingrad

Enemy Puts Largest Effort On Northwest; Reds Retake Lost Ground in Caucasus

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW, Wednesday, Sept. 30—(AP)—The red army, killing more than 1500 Germans, beat off all of the main nazi blows at Stalingrad Tuesday, the soviet high command announced Wednesday on the 37th day of siege.

Every nazi attack in the northwest sector was repulsed during the day, the midnight communique said, and "particularly heavy losses" were suffered by the Germans in an attempt to take a hill site at that critical corner of Stalingrad where the Germans had penetrated on Monday.

It is against the northwestern sector of the city that the Germans are making their major assault. More than 700 Germans lay on the slopes of the hill after the final nazi assault had subsided late Tuesday. A total of 29 nazi tanks also were destroyed in the sector which includes a workers' settlement.

Above the city between the Volga and on rivers the Russians still were hammering the German flank in an effort to ease the pressure on Stalingrad's garrison, which fought on from their bomb craters and burned buildings inside the city.

More than 2000 Germans were killed, and 49 nazi tanks, 19 guns and 23 mortars were destroyed in the last three days in that sector, although the Russians did not report any further gains against the German flanks they quoted German prisoners as saying that some nazi companies were reduced to as few as 16 and 26 men.

The Volga fleet still was using its guns on the Germans above the city, and was credited with dispersing or annihilating about two enemy battalions during the day.

At Mtsensk in the mid-Caucasus the Russians said their troops defending the approaches to the Grozny oil fields, some 50 miles away, had lost ground temporarily in one sector, but said that counter-blows had restored their original positions.

In another area on the same front the Russians said they destroyed 11 nazi tanks and killed 350 Germans in repulsing several enemy attacks.

Southeast of Novorossiisk near the Black sea coast the Russians reported that red marines had routed the 12th Rumanian mountain infantry division, killing 300 axis troops. Field dispatches said a total of 7000 axis troops had been killed in five days in the Novorossiisk sector.

In the Leningrad defense area far to the north the communique said several red army detachments of snipers and scouts had killed 200 Germans and destroyed four nazi tanks in a two-day fight.

The price action, specifying the maximum prices on all grades of dressed carcasses and wholesale cuts, limits the top prices which may be charged by slaughterers and wholesalers, some of whom have enjoyed unduly high individual ceilings.

Under previous controls, individual ceilings were established at the price each packer charged during the period March 16-28. Study of the individual ceilings revealed, OPA said, that a "small percentage of sellers" in several areas have had abnormally high ceiling prices, because of unusual conditions in the base period.

The ceiling prices which now may be charged for various grades and varieties follow:

Steers and heifers; choice or AA, 23 cents a pound; grade A, 21 1/2 cents; grade B, 20 cents; grade C 18 1/2 cents. Cows: grade A, 19 1/2 cents; grade B 18 1/2 cents; grade C 17 1/2 cents. Steers, heifers and cows, entire and canner grade, 16 1/2 cents.

Beef Ceiling Is 23 Cents At Wholesale

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29—(AP)—The office of price administration Tuesday put an absolute price lid of 23 cents a pound on choice beef at the wholesale level, effective October 1.

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Public Invited To Camp Adair

CAMP ADAIR, Sept. 29—(AP)—The gates of this army cantonment will be opened to the public for the first time Thursday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. for a war bond sale program.

Civilian employees, sponsoring the sale, arranged a three-hour program. Col. Gordon H. McCoy, camp commander, decided to invite the public to the show.

Palmer Hoyt, state war bond administrator, will head speakers and entertainment will be furnished by Portland radio performers.