

Washington Outlook

By the Washington Staff of the Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Aug. 12 (AP)—Keep an eye on the fighting beyond recently captured Hengyang in central China for a sign of what course Japanese strategy will choose from now on.

From here it looks as though the Japanese capture of this important rail junction—in a sudden burst of energy after a stalemate siege of six weeks—may be the first fruit of a more vigorous military policy by the new Koiso cabinet in Tokyo. But it's still too early to see clearly the rest of their design.

From Hengyang the Japs can drive south 170 miles to take the rest of the Canton railway and split the coast off from free China, but there is much doubt that this vulnerable line would do them much military good.

They also can drive southwestward toward Kweilin and the corridor to Chungking and Kunming, where the Japs say American air bases are situated.

They may do neither—they may be in such a defensive frame of mind that they will dig in around Hengyang and stay there. But ex-Premier Tojo was thrown out because he dithered, and the Japs know they are working against the time when American air strength in China will be overwhelming, and against the day when they no longer will control the China sea and their lines of communication to the south.

The apparent urgency of their necessity to consolidate in China is a confession that their original concept—that they could spread out and control southeast Asia because its huge size precluded reconquest—has collapsed. This urgency will be heightened by the Pearl Harbor conference, which unquestionably mapped a strategic breakthrough from the Pacific into the China sea—not at some distant date, but soon.

Russian advances—the spectacular forward sweeps of the red army, sometimes so fast they look like something done with mirrors, may slow down.

Those who know say the reason will be simple. Up to now, the red army has been largely moving over Soviet territory. Russian partisans have been advance intelligence units, and Russian civilians have been on hand to repair bridges and railways and keep the army's lengthening supply lines open right up to the front.

Now the Russians are moving beyond their own borders. Some cooperation can be expected from Polish partisans, but in general the conditions which have contributed to rapid advances will be changed.

War outlook—Anyone confused by Prime Minister Winston

FISHERMEN WARNED

PORTLAND, Ore.—(AP)—Pacific coast fishermen may catch more in their nets than is good for them, warns Capt. F. A. Zeisler, of the Coast Guard, issuing instructions for careful return to the sea of "unrecognized objects," which might be various types of bombs or explosives.



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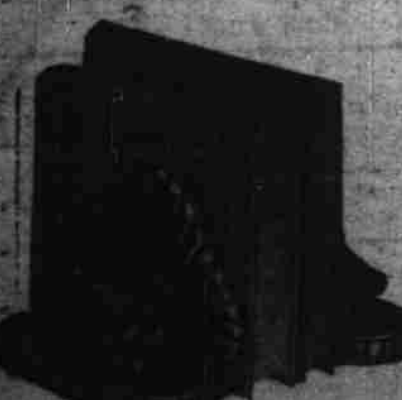
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Churchill's cheerful forecasts of early victory—as against the cautions of American leaders about over optimism—might remember

that "Winnie" has a home front morale problem that doesn't exist here. The British have been at war

nearly five years—two years longer than the Americans. They have suffered Dunkirk, the blitz and now, worst of all, the unpredict-

able blasts of the buzz bomb. War-weariness in Britain is understandable, and so is the prime minister's need to give his people

heartening news and assurance of better times soon. Plane production—Word is there'll probably be no more con-

tracts awarded by the army and navy for plane construction in Canada. US makers can meet future needs, it's held, and contracts

placed with American companies will help cushion the effect of curtailed warplane production as the war nears an end.

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