

# Japan Surrender Unlikely Until Homeland Invaded

## Military Strategists Believe Nips Would Quit War Soon As Defeat Becomes Obvious

(Editor's Note: The air transport command of the army air force recently took 13 American war correspondents on a 24,000-mile flying visit to military bases in the Pacific. The correspondents were received in conference with all the leading military strategists, American, British and Australian, in the Pacific theater. These leaders were unhesitatingly frank in discussing the war in all its phases. Many things were said confidential, disclosed from print by military security. Some general impressions are presented here by the Associated Press representative on his return to the United States.)

By Harold Streeter

SAN FRANCISCO, May 19.—(AP)—Many of the top-ranking army, navy and air strategists, mounting the all-out offensive in the Pacific, believe:

Japan will quit the war when her military defeat becomes obvious rather than continue the fanatical resistance for which her soldiers have gained a name on long by-passed islands.

Defeat will not likely become obvious to Japan until the Japanese homeland is invaded.

The emperor is a key figure in the Pacific's war picture and if he ever gives the word for his warring subjects to cease fire every Japanese, wherever he is, immediately will lay down his weapons.

### Speculation Idle

There is no sound basis for speculating when the war will end. It could end in a relatively short time and efforts are bent toward that result but its duration is strictly up to Japan. Any effort of the enemy toward a compromise short of unconditional surrender is foredoomed.

Japan cannot long wage an effective war in China and Manchuria if the homeland falls.

The key to success or failure in the Pacific is the supply line. The Allies are winning because of brilliant successes in bridging the Pacific's staggering distances. Japan is losing, despite tough, bitter-end resistance, primarily because her supply lines are cut.

These impressions were obtained on a 26,000-mile air tour of the Pacific which took in the Marianas, the Philippines, Australia and subsidiary island supply and service bases.

### Top Men Interviewed

They are the product of conferences with such men as Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander-in-chief of all army ground forces in the Pacific; Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of Pacific naval forces; Adm. Sir Bruce Fraser, commander of the British Pacific fleet; Gen. Sir Thomas Blamey, commander of Australian ground forces; and such air leaders as Gen. George C. Kenney, commander of the far eastern airforce, Lt. Gen. Curtis LeMay, key man in the B-29 raids on Japan, and Maj. Gen. Willis Hale, commanding army air forces in the Pacific ocean areas. Navy and marine air strategists also were consulted.

One of the high ranking leaders, a keen student of Japanese thinking, discussed frankly the likelihood of the greatest revolution in history within the Japanese homeland once the Nipponese man on the street sees for himself that his war lords are not infallible.

### War Lords Idolized

This strategist pointed out that

some good, aggressive fliers in by-passed sectors. British carrier air-men just are getting into the field. But the thousands of seasoned American pilots plus thousands of

others winding up training at a huge New Guinea center will supply the main punches. At sea, the Aussies have some effective warships and the British

Pacific fleet is in action. But American naval power, sufficient to handle the job, is so gigantic as to jam all available forward bases, leaving the British too far to the

rear. Around, the proud Australians, whose performances, particularly in the supply of food have been heroic, hope to have at least a

token force in conclusive operations. They probably will. But the reliable American doughboy who has whipped jungle heat, malaria

mosquitoes, tedium and a foe who lives with his dead like rats, will bring the knockout blows once assembly bases are fully manned and the all-important supply lines have heaped high the stockpiles.

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been necessarily hard or dangerous. There was the time when they got an emergency call from a forward unit that a new type of German butterfly bomb had been found. It turned out to be a German gas mask canister.

Another time a colonel reported he saw two bombs drop without exploding. It took diplomacy for the boys to break the news to him that he had merely seen a P-47 jettison a couple of gas tanks.

V-E day was just another day to these boys. Of course it means they know that eventually they will get this job done, but already they are studying up on Japanese booby traps.

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