

Ersatz Earthquake Theory May Work; U. S. Won't Try It

By SANDOR S. KLEIN
United Press Staff Correspondent
WASHINGTON, —U.S. plan to "shake" Japan's key industrial centers into ruin with man-induced earthquakes was seriously considered—but never tried—by military and scientific authorities here in the dark days immediately following Pearl Harbor, it was learned here.

The plan called for explosion of millions of pounds of dynamite to be dumped into the sea near the island empire at certain "trigger points" in the earth's crust. It was never adopted. But it was not wholly rejected. Rather, the idea was put aside while the more

prosaic methods of warfare were employed.

Top-ranking scientists advised that in theory the plan might be feasible. But, they pointed out, it would take tremendous amounts of explosives, many ships, many men, and involve risks since the operations would have to be carried out in waters very close to Japan. And with it all, the outcome was uncertain. It was for these reasons, back in those days when ships, men and time were at a premium, that the plan was pigeon-holed.

Has 'Trigger' Theory

One of the most energetic sponsors of the "quake weapon" idea was Leo Ranney, internationally-known American engineer long interested in the study of earthquakes. He found that stresses and strains are gradually built up in the 35-mile crust of the earth as some areas sink and others rise. When stresses built up to a critical point, he learned, a "trigger" would set a quake in motion. He developed a theory that it would be possible to provide a man-made trigger big enough to induce an earthquake.

In studying Japanese earthquake history, Ranney learned that Japan rests atop an earth wrinkle, the bottom of which lies 150 miles east of Japan under water six miles deep. A shallower wrinkle lies west of Japan in the Japan sea. When the earth's crust is broken, it breaks up into blocks. Tokyo, he found, was on one block. The stresses there were relieved by the destructive 1923 earthquake. Osaka and Nagoya, Ranney discovered, were on another block where stresses have been building up for many years. After the United States entered the war, Ranney studied the feasibility of shaking up Osaka and



THIS IS A HOME—A Russian family calls this German dugout "home" while their devastated village is being rebuilt in the wake of the advancing red army. To alleviate the suffering of millions of families left homeless, Russian War Relief is shipping clothing, food, seeds and medical supplies at the rate of more than \$1,000,000 worth each month. A clothing drive is just starting in Eugene.

Nagoya by setting off a powerful trigger under the Osaka block. He reached the conclusion it could be done.

Discusses Idea

He came to Washington, where he discussed this idea with well-known scientists and war authorities.

Load a dozen submarines with steel drums containing all told about 12,000,000 pounds of high explosives and with about a dozen additional drums containing time bombs. The drums would be enclosed in a net and sunk to the bottom just off Osaka harbor to await detonation by the time bombs. The depth of the water in this area, Ranney figured, was two miles—enough to provide an excellent target for the explosive charge.

Ranney estimated that at that depth, if the charge covered 4,000 square feet—or an area of 40 feet to 100 feet—the downward pressure resulting from the explosion would be in the neighborhood of 1,358,000,000,000 pounds. He was convinced this would be enough to do the trick.

In the 14th century in France complete nudity was known on the stage.

Japanese Fail In Attempts To Kill Off Seals

By DOUGLAS LARSEN
NEA Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON—One of the government's most valuable possessions, the fabulous seal skin business, worth approximately \$100,000,000 to the U. S. Treasury with its secret formula for processing, has been rescued from Jap trickery and armed attempts to take it.

Announcement of this victory comes from U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the revelation that the herd, depleted by Jap raids, has been restored to 3,000,000 seals. Also revealed for the first time is the Jap attempt to steal the jealously guarded secret processing formula just before Pearl Harbor.

The Foulke Fur company of St. Louis, Mo., uses the formula in trust for the government. More than 90 per cent of all seal skins in the world used for millinery's fur coats are handled by this company. The process is one of the most carefully guarded industrial secrets that exists.

Shortly before Pearl Harbor officials of the company got a request from the Japanese government to let a party of rising sunners inspect the plant. With no apparent reason to suspect an ulterior motive, permission was granted.

More than a dozen Nips showed up to make the tour, and things looked entirely above board until one of the guides noticed they were all busily snapping pictures with tiny, but powerful, cameras. The party was halted immediately, in time so that not enough of the process was revealed to do the visitors any good. The whole incident was turned over to the state department but before any action could be taken the big shooting started at Pearl Harbor.

Baffled in attempts to steal the process the Japs then tried to get the seals themselves. Practically all the seals in the world live on two tiny barren islands in the Bering sea called the Pribilof Islands. When the Japs moved into nearby Attu the government evacuated the natives and prepared for the worst.

No invasion of the islands was attempted but Jap fishermen were known to have lurked off-shore killing as many of the valuable seals as they could. Seriously depleted years before by exploitation and other Jap sneak attacks on the herds, this valuable source of wealth was threatened with extinction.

U. S. Fish and Wildlife went to work, however, to recreate the herd. Now it is able to announce that it has been restored to 3,000,000 healthy seals with the threat of extinction passed. At the peak there were 4,000,000 seals when the U. S. government got the islands from Russia in 1867. This year, sales of the valuable fur, popular for its appearance and wearing qualities, will net the government \$10,000,000. Only the fur from 4-year-old males is used. Skins from the old bulls are too badly scarred from fights.

Not enough of the young males are killed to halt the growth of the herd.

MANY NEVER SUSPECT CAUSE OF BACKACHES

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Many sufferers relieve nagging backaches quickly, once they discover that the real cause of their trouble may be tired kidneys. The kidneys are nature's chief way of taking the excess acids and waste out of the blood. They help most people pass about a pint a day. When disorder of kidney function permits poisonous matter to remain in your blood, it may cause nagging backache, rheumatic pains, leg pains, loss of pep and energy, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes, headache and dizziness. Frequent or empty passages with burning and burning sometimes shows there is something wrong with your kidneys or bladder.

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Capt. William C. Eddy, U.S.N., in Portland. A program for a more intensive radar training in the navy. Eddy, who is commanding officer of the navy radar training center in Chicago, Ill., developed and perfected the famous Eddy test which is given to all men seeking

radar training in the navy. A program for a more intensive radar recruiting program has been outlined, Bell revealed. First point of the Boy Scout law is, "A Scout is trustworthy."

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