

# Raid Has Japanese Fighting Their Hats

By DeWitt Mackenzie  
(Wide World War Analyst)

The world-wide mystery has developed out of the bombing of Japan by warplanes which the Nipponese identify as American, but haven't the foggiest notion where the machines came from, is the best possible illustration of why military information frequently has to be withheld from the general public.

You wouldn't believe it possible that a fleet of warplanes could bomb several of the principal cities of Japan in broad daylight without it becoming known almost immediately what bases the machines came from. Yet on this fourth day since the historic assault, the little men of Nippon still were squinting at the skies in all directions, and beating their foreheads before the images of the Great Buddha, in an effort to solve this nerve-torturing puzzle which has kept them sounding air-raid warnings right up to today.

London newspapers have thought the planes might have come from the Aleutian islands, laid their eggs over the Mikado's preserves, and then flown to China. An Italian paper guessed the machines came from bases in Soviet Russia, secretly ceded to the United States.

### Veteran Makes Guess

So it has gone, but nobody has known just what has happened except the people responsible for the raid. And it doesn't take great perspicacity to see how valuable all this mystery is to the raiders. It gave them a chance to reach their bases safely, and if those bases happened to be aircraft carriers, as the Japs seem to think, it has given the ships an opportunity to get out of danger.

From the military standpoint this raid is likely to have the effect of tying up warplanes and warships for home protection at a crucial moment when the Japs need this equipment for their various offensives.

What with this sensation, and General MacArthur's surprise raid on the Philippines the other day, it probably isn't strange that many of my readers have gone air-minded. All sorts of inquiries are rolling in, and not a few relate to the possibility of using Alaska as a base for bombing Japan.

**Mystery Valuable**  
One World War veteran in Duluth writes "It has been pretty well known by everybody here" that bombers were being flown northward over the city all through the winter, and he says it wasn't difficult to guess that they were headed for Alaskan bases. He therefore figured that Alaska must be getting ready for some hot work against Japan.

Well, of course I have no personal knowledge about war planes over Duluth, but I see no reason to challenge the analysis of my correspondent if his facts are correct. He certainly is right in believing that Alaska is a base of growing importance. We have war planes and other equipment there, and while it isn't permitted to discuss this in detail it is logical to assume that our striking power in Alaska will be increased rapidly.

We are safe in saying that when the time comes for a grand offensive against Japan, Alaska will play a big role. And that isn't telling the Japs anything they don't know already and undoubtedly are worried about, especially since Saturday's mystery raid.

### Normandie Suit Favored in House

Washington, April 21 (U.P.)—Members of the house naval affairs committee who investigated the burning of the former French luxury liner Normandie were in "hearty accord" today with the navy's recommendation that damage proceedings be instituted against the Robins Dry Dock and Repair Co., Inc. The company was converting the ship into a troop transport—the U. S. S. Lafayette—when she burned and capsized at her New York pier Feb. 9. There have been two other

public its report last night. It discounted the possibility of sabotage and charged that "gross carelessness and utter violation of rules of common sense" by the company's employees was the "direct and sole cause" of the fire.

### Voters Evenly Split

Scio—Democrats and republicans are about evenly divided in voters' registration at Scio this year, which closed with April 14. Proportion of registration was less this year than two years ago, although many first-voters in Linn county were recorded.

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- Curity Gauze Bandages, 2x10 Yd. 15c
- Red Cross Gauze, 1 yd. 15c
- J and J Cotton, 2 Oz. 15c
- Sentinel First Aid Kits 20c

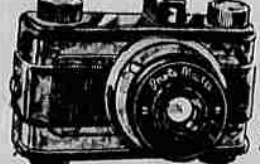
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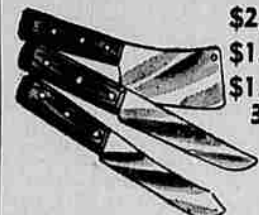
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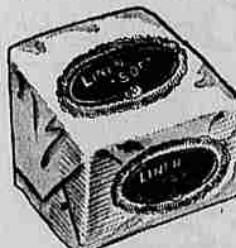


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- 50c Alka Seltzer 49c
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