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Six Million Not Too Many

Congressional critics of the high military command have protested its announced intention of maintaining an army of six million men for the war with Japan, asserting that many is not needed. But careful scrutiny of the problems involved in the conquest of Nippon, together with the numerical strength of the enemy supports the army's plan.

Japan's strength lies in her powerful army, third largest in the world. According to the most reliable estimates available, it numbers about four million men fully armed and equipped. Of these seasoned troops between 1,600,000 and 2,000,000 are actively engaged in the defense of the home islands, and the rest are distributed as follows: Manchuria and Korea, 1,200,000; Thailand and Malay, 375,000; Dutch East Indies, 200,000. In addition there are perhaps another 100,000 men isolated in the islands which have been by-passed by the Americans. To keep all of these enemy forces tied down and at the same time stage one or two major invasion campaigns will require fully six million men.

Japan's army has not been seriously depleted by the defeats so far suffered. It has been more than able to replace losses from ordinary channels, although its army's striking force has been reduced by the wide dispersment and disrupted lines of communication and supply. She has reinforced her home garrisons materially, but further shifting of troops is made difficult by heavy naval and plane losses.

In the coming invasion Japan will have the advantage of being on the defense and able to take advantage of the rough terrain to the fullest extent. The stubbornness of the Jap defense of Okinawa and Iwo Jima indicates how savagely they will oppose further landings. To back up the ten or 12 fully trained and armed divisions on the home islands are numerous independent brigades and auxiliary formations, and from six to 15 "depot" divisions engaged in training but which are available for coast defense and field duties. Also available when the time comes are special naval land forces which may number close to two million men, not to mention the people's volunteer corps, the Japanese equivalent of the German Volkstrum. While it is unlikely that Japan has sufficient equipment for all of these men, the best of them are well armed and have large quantities of artillery, rockets, mortars and other instruments of cave and mountain warfare. It is going to take an immense army to rout the Japs if they persist in fighting to the bitter end.

AAF's 38th Anniversary

American Airforces today are observing their 38th anniversary by their round-the-clock bombing of Japanese industries, cities, transportation and shipping. Great fleets of carrier planes, superfortresses and other land based planes, cooperating with Halsey's fleet have virtually destroyed Japan's once mighty navy and reduced her airforce almost to a shambles.

Aircraft attacks alone during the month of July sank or damaged at least 1546 ships and small craft in the enemy's home waters in almost ceaseless assaults with torpedoes, bombs, rockets and 50 caliber bullets, including 99 warships of which three were battleships sunk or heavily damaged and accounted for 1278 aircraft, and 19 major war factories.

July was just a pre-invasion beginning of the devastation to be wrought on Japan. The B-29's are stepping up their tempo daily and this month will see 8000-ton raids by forces of 1200 superforts. The pilots, say the commanders, look forward to the day when they will be based on Tokyo. The anniversary also witnesses the removal of the 10th airforce from the India-Burma theater to China and the successful tests of the speediest new rocket plane yet devised.

Thirty-eight years ago the AAF had its origin with one of Orville Wright's first planes. The first use of planes in warfare came when Pershing pursued Pancho Villa in Mexico, a single plane being used. In 1917, when war was declared on Germany, we had 35 pilots, 1087 enlisted men, 55 planes, only one of them armored. Now we have over 100,000 planes in service and 3,000,000 men in the airforce. Our industries have produced nearly 300,000 planes. The AAF has participated in 2,900,000 combat flights and dropped over 2 million tons of bombs—and this doesn't include the comparatively fine record of the navy.

Ban on Junkets

Public opinion will loudly applaud President Truman's announcement that the cost of congressional junkets, unless expressly authorized by resolution, will not be paid for out of the federal treasury, but must be met by the sightseeing congressmen themselves. No money for such purposes will be approved by the budget bureau.

The president's action came as a surprise and was apparently inspired by press reports that approximately 100 members of the house of representatives were planning "official" investigation trips to Europe at government expense. One self-organized group of congressmen had left Washington in an army transport plane only a few minutes before the president's ultimatum was made public.

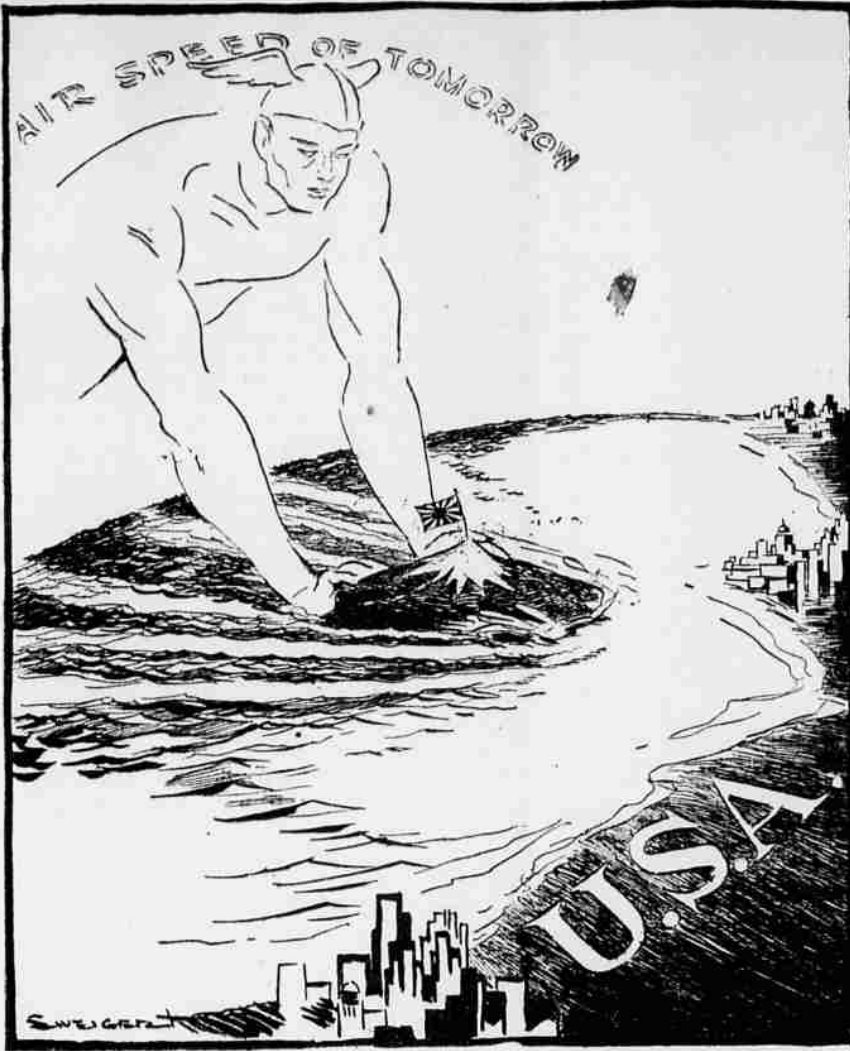
Not only are these trips an unjustified expense, but they are usually so sketchy in their scope as to make the observations of the participating congressmen of little value. In fact, they are generally harmful in leading the lawmakers to form half-baked opinions and to draw erroneous conclusions. The information gained on such trips is designed to qualify the junketeers as experts, and serves as verbal ammunition for wild speeches on the floors of congress. They well illustrate the truth of the adage, "A little learning is a dangerous thing."

Hamstringing the Charter

Opponents of the United Nations charter, while not possessed of the political courage to oppose it openly, have revealed how they intend to keep it from operating as an independent world peace organization. This is seen in the proposal to enact legislation defining and limiting the authority of the American delegate to the security council, who is to be appointed by President Truman. The president has announced he will name Edward R. Stettinius, former secretary of state.

It is perhaps wise for congress to provide how the American delegate shall be named, but to attempt to define his authority constitutes an unwarranted restriction upon the treaty making powers of the president, for which he is constitutionally responsible to the senate. To further limit the authority of the delegate would be to tie his hands, inasmuch as the charter itself confers upon any one of the Big Five the veto power over the use of troops to suppress war—authority which would ultimately be exercised by the congress in the case of the United States.

It is obvious that this is the first of a series of attempts to make the charter inoperative by smothering it in red tape.



Battleship Mississippi Hit by Jap Suicide Plane

Washington, Aug. 1 (AP)—Even mattresses were used to help stem leaks punched in the battleship Mississippi January 9 by a bounced-about Japanese suicide plane that took the lives of 22 men. The navy told today of the action in Lingayen gulf in the Philippines. It added that the 28-year-old battleship was "fully operable" after the attack and that in later overhaul at Pearl Harbor "her fire power was increased 300 percent."

This increased power, it added, "probably will save the lives of hundreds in the future." There were 18 injured, in addition to the dead, in the January 9 action.

It was early afternoon when the suicide plane, a carrier-based dive bomber, began its plunge toward the Mississippi. The navy story continued: "Coming in forward, the plane leveled off near the ship, grazed the port side of the navigation bridge, bounced off a gun mount and went over the side."

"Its bomb, estimated to be a 250-pounder, was dislodged when the plane hit the bridge, veered off to port and detonated in the water when about 15 feet from the hull. Fires started by the suicide plane were out in 20 minutes. The ship, known far and wide as "Old Miss," did not drop out of the firing line. She continued to carry out assignments until March, when she went to Pearl Harbor for general overhaul and permanent repair of battle damage."

Her new power is counted upon in carrying out the mission chosen for "Old Miss." This is to follow the lead of the first USS Mississippi, flagship of Commodore Perry's fleet which forced open the doors of Japan 92 years ago.

John Jacob Astor, one of America's richest men, was born in Germany, arrived in New York with a few dollars in his pocket, and found work in a fur store at \$2 a week.

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The War Today

By DeWitt Mackenzie

An interpretative analysis of war developments by a famous Associated Press war correspondent.

And why did Winston Churchill beg his majesty King George to excuse him from accepting England's most honored knighthood—the Order of the Garter?

Well, of course that may be a somewhat delicate question which Mr. Churchill himself would have to answer. But I'll bet a shiny new sixpence that the real reason is one he wouldn't be likely to give. This is that the unadorned name of Winston Churchill already is so famous that no title could add to its lustre. A knighthood would be gilding the lily.

Statesman, author, orator, war leader—plain Winston Churchill ranks among the great of British history. This distinguished place he has won by reason of his genius and through his own efforts.

That in itself is enough to make "Sir Winston" seem strangely out of place as designation for a man whose name is a household word throughout the civilized world. But there's another reason why a knighthood would be no promotion for him. He is the grandson of the Duke of Marlborough, and that's mighty blue blood—none more so.

Duke May be Particular

One suspects too that Churchill wouldn't feel like accepting anything less than a dukedom—the highest rank in the peerage. And the chances are that he wouldn't want it at this juncture because, coming on top of the defeat of his conservative party by the laborites in the election, it might appear to be in the nature of a consolation prize. Furthermore, while Churchill has not made any official announcement, he reportedly intends to remain in the fore of the political battle as leader of "His Majesty's loyal opposition" in the house of commons, and he couldn't have a seat in commons and at the same time hold a peerage, for that would make him a member of the house of lords.

It isn't so many years ago that a noble lord could be prime minister or leader of the opposition party, but that no longer holds good. There is no law to prevent it, but tradition holds that the premier and the chief of the opposition must lead their forces on the actual battle-field, which is the house of commons.

If, as the London Daily Mail says, Churchill is "determined to continue his fight against socialism," we shall be treated to some good old-fashioned pyrotechnics in the commons debates. I've seen Churchill in action many times in commons and believe there's no other man in Britain who has the debating ability and political acumen which he possesses to keep the government on its toes.

Balance Needed
By and large, England probably will feel fortunate if Churchill does decide to carry on, for the labor party will need a balance wheel as it starts out on its

experiment in nationalization. I even hazard the guess that socialist Prime Minister Attlee will welcome the fiery Churchillian criticism as helping to maintain the necessary balance.

The future will tell whether Churchill will be able to go "all out" in politics and at the same time give the world the historical work for which it is waiting. He always has been possessed of tremendous energy and has found time not only for politics and writing but for such lighter pursuits as landscape painting. He is said to be in good shape now as he approaches the end of his seventy-first year.

One is reminded of an exchange he had with Field Marshal Montgomery in North Africa during the campaign against Rommel. Monty boasted: "I don't smoke, I don't drink and I am 100 percent fit." To this Winnie retorted: "I smoke, I drink and I am 200 percent fit."

So we likely shall see Churchill do both his political work and writing—and maybe in the end get his dukedom and that Knighthood of the Garter besides.

Elliott Brands Story As Lie

Washington, Aug. 1 (AP)—Brig. Gen. Elliott Roosevelt says anyone who claims the late president "promoted or assisted" his son's business affairs is lying.

And, young Roosevelt said last night, he is leaving the air force simply because he does not wish to be an armchair general.

He made the decision a month before published reports about his business transactions which led to a congressional investigation, Roosevelt said, adding of the reports:

"I conducted my own business affairs. The responsibility was and still is mine and mine alone."

Asserting he had nothing to conceal, the general said he was cooperating with a treasury investigation of his affairs and had asked the department to "make public all the facts, without reservation, at the earliest possible moment."

"I am entitled to a full public statement of those facts for the sake of my family," Roosevelt said. His statement was made public by his attorney, Randolph Paul, former general counsel of the treasury.

The treasury began its investigation on orders of the house ways and means and senate finance committees.

It stemmed from a story early in June by columnist Westbrook Pagler that young Roosevelt had borrowed \$200,000 in 1939 from John Hartford, president of the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea company, that the debt was settled three years later for \$4000 by Jesse Jones, then secretary of commerce, and that Hartford listed his loss as a bad debt on his 1942 income tax return.

Pagler wrote that "President Roosevelt knew of the loan and approved it."

General Roosevelt, who reverts to inactive status August

Living Costs Reach Highest

Washington, Aug. 1 (AP)—Living costs in June were the highest since 1921, the labor department said today.

The department's bureau of labor statistics gave no comparative figures for 1945 and 1921, but said a survey showed prices of living essentials went up 30.8 percent from August, 1939. June prices, the BLS added, were 3.9 percent higher than those of June, 1944.

The bureau's cost of living index for June 15, 1945, stood at 129 percent of the 1935-39 average. Food prices had risen 41.1 percent above the 1935-39 average. Clothing 45.4 percent, rent 8.3, fuel and electricity 10, and house furnishings 45.8.

Consumers, the survey showed, now pay higher prices for fresh fruits and vegetables, eggs, clothing, and house furnishings than they have paid since the start of the war.

Between mid-May and mid-June, the BLS said, retail prices paid by wage-earners and the lower-salaried workers in large cities rose seven-tenths of one percent.

Production of synthetic rubber this year is scheduled at more than 1,000,000 long tons.

15, said he filed his retirement request May 11, three days after V-E day.

"I wanted to take part in the fighting against Japan," he added. "Above all else, I still want to do so, but the army has no assignment for a reconnaissance officer of my qualifications."

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Not Following Truman's Plans

Washington, Aug. 1 (AP)—Democratic Leader Barkley (Ky.) reminded senators today that congress' batting average on President Truman's home legislative recommendations is not high.

In what has been termed a honeymoon period between the legislative and executive branches, Barkley found that congress approved important foreign affairs measures such as the international monetary agreements, reciprocal trade revisions and the United Nations charter.

But in the first 100 days of the new presidential regime it didn't do much about putting into effect some of the domestic suggestions Mr. Truman made.

Barkley listed these, along with unacted upon proposals made by the late President Roosevelt, in a program he planned to tell the senate must be considered when members return in October from a vacation starting tomorrow.

Although Barkley said he began working on the idea a week ago, his list was regarded as something of an answer to the move by senate left wingers to rally support behind what they call "progressive" reconversion legislation.

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