

Washington, D. C.
STRATEGY AGAINST JAPAN
Back in 1937-38, Adm. William Leahy, now chief of staff to the White House, devised a strategy against Japan, which, if put into effect, might have prevented Pearl Harbor and even World War II.

Today, the old Leahy strategy is being dusted off, especially on Capitol Hill, as the best means of finishing the war with Japan. It would save thousands of American lives, its proponents claim, and would serve as an example of how wars can be won—or prevented—by naval blockade.

The proposals made by Admiral Leahy constitute one of the most important and unwritten chapters in the history of what happened shortly before the war began. Leahy, then chief of naval operations and one of the best strategists the navy has seen in years, saw all too clearly what was coming both in Europe and Asia. At that time, 1937, Japan had just begun her full-scale invasion of China, and it was Leahy's idea to make an example of Nippon which would show Hitler and Mussolini—then feeling their oats—that the United States meant business and would stand four-square behind the peace machinery of the world.

Therefore, he proposed to Roosevelt a naval blockade of Japan in cooperation with the British fleet, using the peace machinery of the League of Nations and the nine-power pact which guarantees the sovereignty of China.

Leahy argued that by keeping the U. S. Navy in the Philippines and the British fleet at Singapore, we could cut off all oil, scrap iron, copper, cotton and other war materials from Japan. Without these, he argued, the Japanese war machine would be powerless and would fold up in six months. Leahy figured that the United States would lose its gunboats on the Yangtze river, but that aside from this the main U. S. fleet would not have to fire a single shot.

British Start Blockade.

President Roosevelt agreed. So did the British. And in the late summer of 1937, the British actually detailed 6 battleships, 12 cruisers and 20 destroyers to leave British home waters for Singapore. Just at that moment, however, the axis capitals apparently got wind of what was happening, and Mussolini started his unofficial submarine campaign off the coast of Spain which detained the British fleet at Gibraltar.

The Panay Incident.

At any rate, the plan to blockade Japan, following the failure of the Brussels conference in October, 1937, was dropped. But Admiral Leahy revived it again a year later, when, in December, 1938, the Japs sank the U. S. Gunboat Panay and the British Gunboat Ladybird.

Leahy recognized this for what it was, a deliberate attempt by the Jap war lords to test out how much insult the United States would take, and to make Britain and the USA lose face with the Chinese. Accordingly he rushed to the state department and all one Sunday afternoon, December 13, 1938, one day after the sinking of the Panay, he urged Cordell Hull to seize this psychological moment to put the blockade of Japan into effect.

The British were also willing to cooperate. And, Leahy pointed out, in another year, war, inevitably breaking out in Europe, would tie up the British fleet and they could not possibly help us in the Pacific. Russia, he also pointed out, had 60 submarines at Vladivostok, ready to help us cut off all scrap iron, all oil, all cotton and copper from Japan. Without these, he argued, the Japanese war machine would be paralyzed.

Pacing the floor of Hull's office with Leahy was Hugh Wilson, ambassador to Germany and one of the state department's foremost appeasers. He opposed Leahy at every turn, finally convinced cautious Cordell Hull that Leahy was too vigorous, that it was best to appease Japan.

Less than one year later, Hitler had invaded Poland, the British fleet was desperately needed to defend British home waters, and the fat was in the fire. From that point on there was no possible way the United States could blockade Japan—though many people have never understood why we went to the opposite extreme and increased our shipments of oil and scrap iron to Japan so that she laid in tremendous reserves before Pearl Harbor.

Japan Can Be Starved.

But beginning with V-E Day, the possibility of blockading Japan for the first time since 1939 was completely reversed. Since V-E Day, the British fleet is entirely free to operate in the Pacific. So are Russian submarines. So is the whole might of the U. S. Navy, now no longer needed to watch for submarines in the Caribbean or the Atlantic.

Today it is possible to throw up such a naval blockade around the main Jap islands, augmented by air patrols, that hardly a ton of raw materials could reach Jap factories.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

KAISER SETS PACE IN RECONVERSION PLANS

SAN FRANCISCO.—The Pacific coast has about the same postwar worry as the rest of the country but in more accentuated and positive form because of the vast expansion throughout the state in planes, shipyards and other war industries.

The Kaiser shipyards industry, for example, has been losing about 5,000 employees a month. The last four pages of their newspaper in its last issue contained want-ads of workers seeking ride - sharing automobile seats to return home. Their yards payroll at Richmond near here has been cut from peak employment of 33,000 down to 49,000 already (and it has had 500,000 different persons employed in the past four years).

I met the emperor of this most fabulous accumulation of American industries during the war, Henry J. Kaiser, and talked with him for more than an hour. His is not only the largest but most varied of all the nation's strictly new war enterprises and contains 100 industries. Thus he also has the biggest of all the problems of reconversion and I was interested in ascertaining how he would meet it.



Henry J. Kaiser

He is a crisp, heavy-set man with a knowledge of what is needed and with unlimited ideas of how to do the job. He has both business hope and faith—a confidence that the imagination of the American people will devise methods of carrying forward our industrial postwar system and faith that it cannot fail.

What he—aggressive lone wolf industrial fighter that he is—thinks the country needs primarily is competition. The first postwar industry to which he is turning his attention is, naturally, shipping. He was growling about another business leader who made a speech a few days back advocating scrapping of the American merchant marine. We now have more ships than any nation ever had on the seas, (number is a military secret) and he thinks they should be used. This will require government subsidy in his opinion because competing European lines have subsidies. I judge that he has in mind American acquisition of the trade which Japan formerly had in the Orient. He did not mention a current rumor that he may build postwar ships for Russia, although I saw him shortly after he left Moscow.

HAS MANY PLANS

The nation also needs 2,000,000 homes, low cost homes, and he sees in this field vast opportunities for postwar activity, in his opinion.

Transportation should be entirely revised. A lower cost fare should be worked out on the railroads. Speed highways should be extended, as the nation in the future will continue to move out from the cities. He sees opportunities for building lower cost cars in the automobile industry (which he does not believe is competitive now) and great possibilities in development of health facilities for the people. He would promote health facilities in every possible way to a scope amounting to a national industry.

Here is a man with ideas and the kind of energetic imagination which conceives new ventures when old ones fail. He is now in metals, conceiving a new magnesium alloy for steel, a new kind of plaster, gypsum, planes, chemicals.

BELIEVES IN COMPETITION

He is also in coal and steel, and in each industry he attempts to maintain a competitive spirit. He keeps three offices in Washington instead of one and thus promotes greater work energy among his own employees—and, of course, more production.

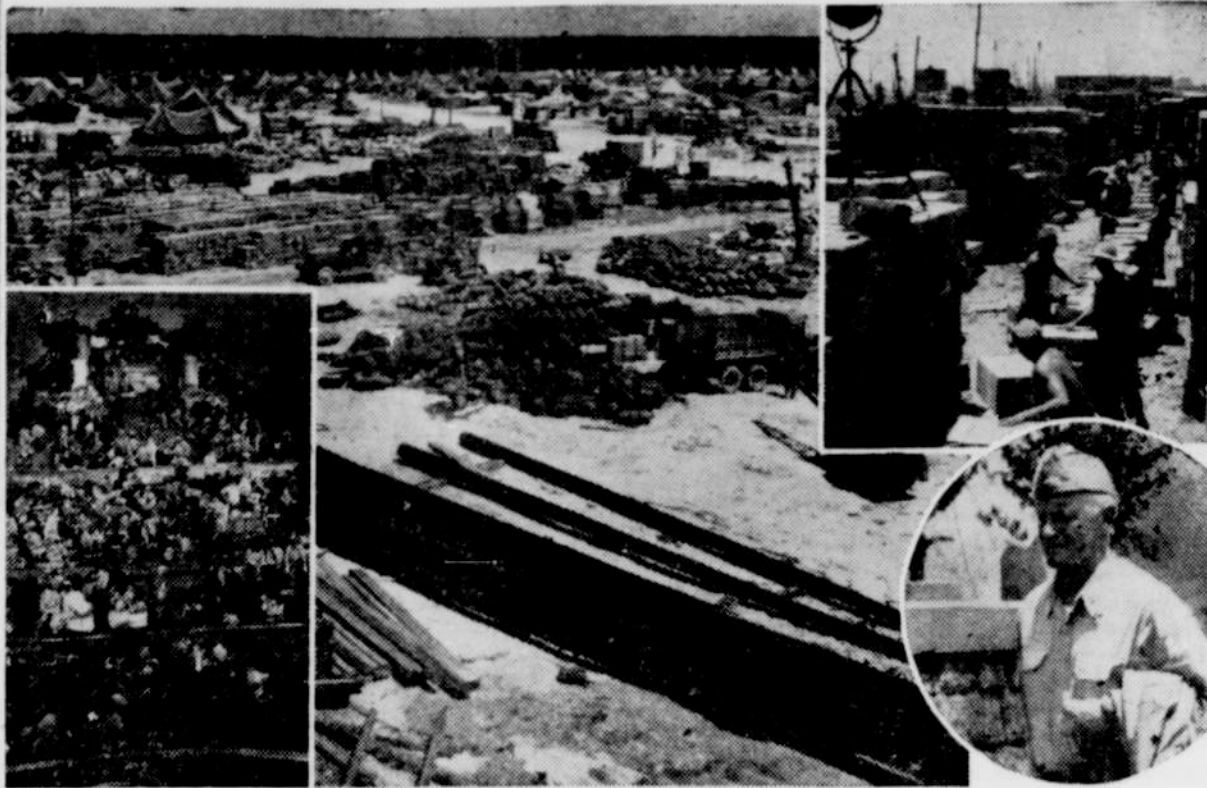
I suspect his own reconversion plan is already well under way. There is much well-advised talk about him expanding into foreign production in Latin America and elsewhere.

His enthusiastic spirit is symbolic of the feeling among other business men with whom I talk throughout this area. In this respect it is somewhat different from the East where the trend runs to pessimism or doubt although labor is going home in droves.

Everyone out here figures the Jap war to take another year (my guess is somewhat less than that) and sees San Francisco and the Pacific coast as gateways to the newly opened island empires of the Pacific and the Orient. We may expect a doubling of our trade westward, and perhaps more.

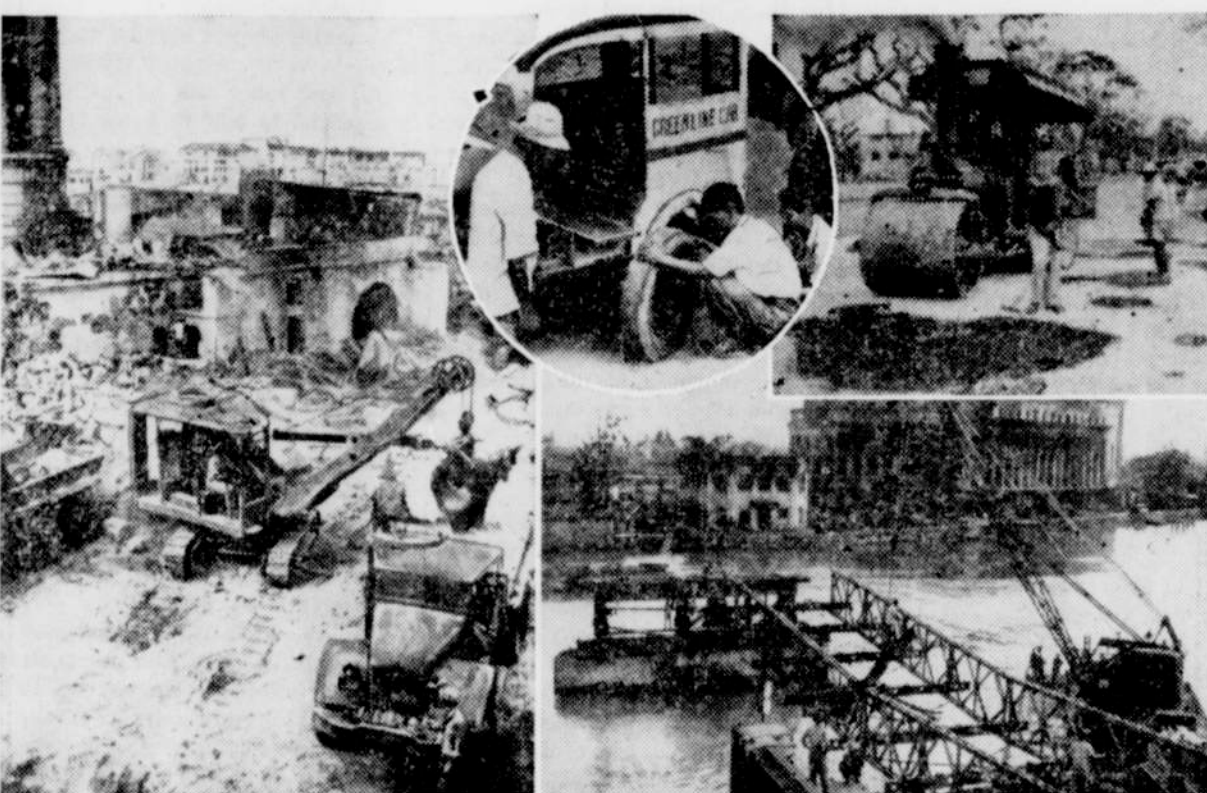
There is much remaining of the forty-niner gold strike ambition among these business people and I would not be surprised if they meet their postwar problem which is heavier than any other section, as well as any another.

Backing the Attack on Okinawa Island



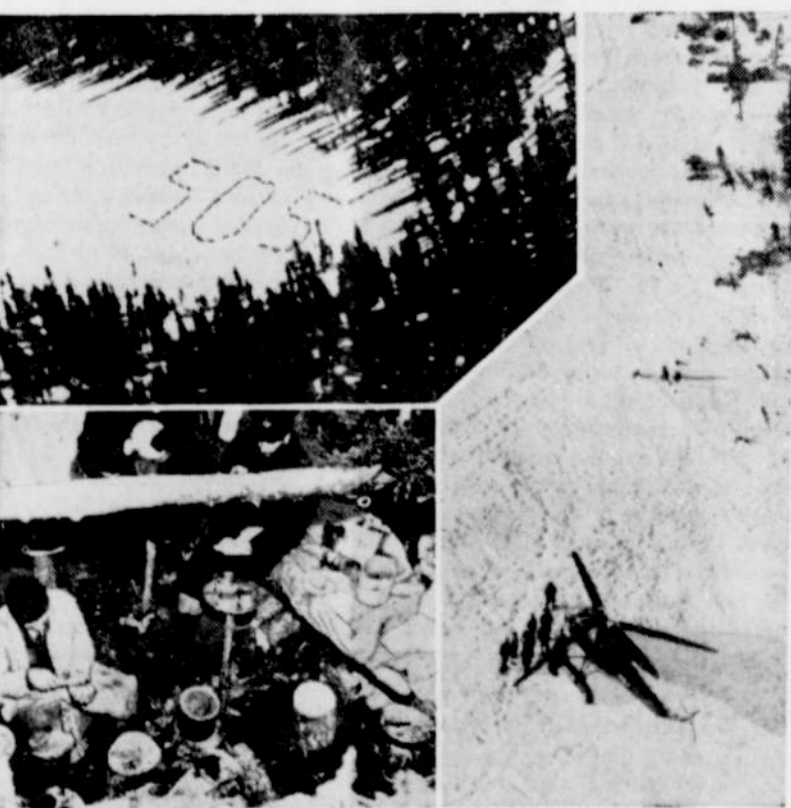
The problem of unloading vital supplies for the American invaders who have been fighting their way inland, yard by yard, on the 70-mile-long Okinawa island, has been a big one. Picture at lower left shows an LST approaching shore with supplies. Center: Supplies are landed. Upper right: Necessities of life and war, row after row, line the dusty beach on this far Pacific isle. Circle: Fleet Commander Chester W. Nimitz.

Out of the Ashes of War Arises a New Manila



Manila begins to rebuild. Left, the once-beautiful and modern queen city of the Orient, devastated by the Japs, starts the task of rebuilding with the help of the U. S. engineers. Upper center: This taxi is not much to look at, but it indicates Manila's reconversion. Upper right: A road repair gang is at work on Manila's Taft avenue, erasing some of the scars. Lower right: Bailey bridge.

Marooned Airmen Rescued by Helicopter



Eleven marooned RCAF airmen who were rescued by a U. S. coast guard helicopter in the first rescue of its kind, set up this SOS sign in the snow (upper left), made of green spruce boughs. Lower left: Cave in the snow in which the airmen lived for two weeks in the Labrador wilds. Snow is 10 feet deep. Right: Air view of the actual rescue.

Army and Navy Chiefs in V-E Broadcast



Among the high ranking army and navy officials who spoke on the world-wide victory broadcast celebrating V-E Day were, left to right: Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the U. S. army; Adm. William G. Leahy, chief of staff to the President, and Adm. Ernest J. King, chief of naval operations.

New Air Hero



Marine pilot, 2nd Lt. William W. Eldridge Jr. of Hixon, Tenn., grins as he returns to his Okinawa airfield after blasting four Jap planes in as many minutes, when Jap suicide bombers attacked a U.S. ship.

Proudest Mom



Mrs. Ida Eisenhower, 83, mother of Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, shown as she looked with pride at photo of her famous son, conqueror of German military might.

FOR SALE

400 acre ranch in Snohomish County. Excellent buildings. Modern Home, 50 acres cleared, 60 acres good bottom, \$12,000. 50 acres Dairy farm completely modern. Black soil, near Oak Harbor \$12,000. 60 acre Dairy Farm completely modern Skagit Valley, \$16,800. Many other fine farms reasonably priced. For details write, or call Norm Wallace Agency, Burlington, Wash.

160 ACRES, \$2500—3 miles from Colalla, Idaho, between Sandpoint and Coeur d'Alene. 2 miles from school, 30 acres once in cultivation. Good timber, Excellent springs. No buildings. R. Badgley, 1201 10th St., La Grande, Ore.

FOR SALE: Profitable going concern Creamery, ice plant, refrigerator lockers. Will pay for self in five years. Owner retiring. Inquire C. H. Knoher, Goldendale, Wash.

SWEET POTATO PLANTS—Nancy Hall, Porto Rico. Bitter string, well rooted plants, good count. 500 \$1.60, 1000, \$3.00; 2500, \$7.50. J. C. Dellinger, Gleason, Tennessee.

170 Acres, 80 best bottom, clear. On Morgan lake. Stock and equip. If wanted. Priced to sell. I am retiring. F. Drauch, Graham, Wn.

HEREFORD Bred sows, Boars, gilts weaner pigs. Unrelated \$20 to \$25. W. M. Davey, Medical Lake, Washington.

FOR SALE — Beautiful mountain stock ranch. Edith Frideaux, Council, Idaho.

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Cow Testers

As a result of war necessity women gradually are taking over the job of "cow testers" in the United States. Cow testers test milk for butterfat content, and if the milk of a certain cow is not up to standard, she is disposed of for food.

Packers' Earnings

While net earnings of the packing industry, based on sales, amounted to 1 per cent for the seven-year period, 1937-43, 11 other major industries reported comparable earnings ranging from 4 to 7.9 per cent.

Weather Chart

It is possible that in time a farmer may be given a chart showing the probability of weather hazards in his locality, for virtually every day of the year, says the department of agriculture.

Unplugging Cord

When disconnecting an electric cord always grasp it by the plug—not by the cord itself. This will prevent pulling the small wires out of place and lengthen the life of the cord.

Ambitious Student

The first student to enter North Carolina State university, 30 days after it opened in 1795, was Hinton James, who walked 200 miles from Wilmington to matriculate.

Varied Climate

North Carolina has the most varied climate in eastern America, with a range of 20 degrees in average temperatures between the mountain tops and the seacoast.

Cleaning Fireplace

To clean fireplace bricks, cover with a paste of powdered pumice and household ammonia. Let dry for an hour, then scrub with warm, soapy water.

Potatoes in Jackets

Research workers say potatoes boiled in their jackets lose only half as much ascorbic acid as baked potatoes and only a third as much thiamine.

Thrifty Gardeners

Thrifty gardeners thin their rows at the time when the greens, lettuce, carrots and other first vegetables make good table dishes.

Spoil Quickly

Fats saved over from cooking spoil more quickly than new fat. So keep them extra cold and use as soon as possible.

Cake Raisins

Raisins will be less likely to sink in the cake if they are heated and rolled in flour before they are added to the batter.

Grease Remover

Soak greasy tinned pots and pans in hot soda water. The soda removes the grease quickly.

Veneer Production

Washington, Florida and North Carolina lead the nation in veneer production.

Changed Names

Until 1810 Buffalo, N. Y., was known as New Amsterdam.