

U.S. Air Arms Ready To Oppose Any Attack Across Arctic Region

Editor's note: The writer of this dispatch is director of foreign service for the United Press. He has just returned from a flying trip to Tokyo.

By WENDEL BURCH

Any one-two aerial punch thrown across the Arctic region against Tokyo and Alaska will be met by battle-tested, field-hardened U.S. air arms confident they can shatter the blows. Attack from the North against either area alone likewise would provoke instant reaction and counter-action from the other command. The closest possible liaison and state of alert is maintained between the Far East Air Forces in Tokyo and the Alaskan Air Command in Anchorage.

Slips Through Possible
It still is possible for enemy units to slip through the northern defensive air lanes, of course. Anchorage is approximately 3,500 air miles from Tokyo via the Aleutians, and no nation effectively can patrol this fog-bound, cloud covered stretch the year around. North of Tokyo and Alaska lie thousands of miles of tundra, snow covered wastes, mountains and ice, filled seas. An ever tightening defense rim of radar, weather observation posts and air patrols is closing the possible gaps, however, with new installations and new forces constantly being welded into the setup.

Provides Scientific Data
Navy flights from Alaska to floating ice bases such as "T-3," a scant 100 miles from the North Pole, are providing fresh experience and scientific data daily. The Air Force also has maintained routine flights over the pole for months.

A further indication of U.S. air dominance in the general region is the commercial air line route flown by Northwest Airlines from Seattle to Anchorage to Shemya to Tokyo. The Communists, of course, have no such regular service anywhere in this vast region.

From Japan Lt. Gen. O. P. Weyland, commanding general

of Far East Air Forces, directs the actively fighting air component in the Korean struggle.

Strong Force Built
In Alaska Maj. Gen. William D. Old, in command since December, 1950, has built up an imposing force.

No exact figures as to numbers of planes in either area can be released, but Weyland told this correspondent in an exclusive interview that his forces outnumbered those of the North Koreans and Chinese, whom he estimated to have 1,500 to 1,700 planes—half of them fighters.

Best authoritative estimates are that the United States has adequate and balanced forces in the area for defense, counter-attack, observation bombing and

striking air power. In addition to combat craft it has substantial numbers of transports of all kinds, helicopters and hospital planes.

Middle Attack Possible

Theoretically it would be possible for the Russians to slip an attacking air fleet somewhere "down the middle" between the Anchorage and Tokyo hubs, but such a maneuver seems impracticable. The attackers would face extremely long over-water flights, and would have to turn right or left into well-protected approaches. It is not generally believed, either, that the Russians have long-range craft in sufficient number to spare for such an all-out effort in this region.



RETURNING to Paris from farewell European tour, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower says Massachusetts Republican primary victory "is a sort of overpowering thing."

Harney County Earth Fissure Under Study

Bend, Ore. (U.P.)—A huge earth fissure in Oregon's Harney county was being studied Tuesday as the possible result of a major earthquake.

A fissure or crack 12 feet wide in places and more than a mile long has been reported on the Clarence Miller ranch in remote Catlow valley. The crack passed through a well being drilled by Miller.

Bureau of Land Management field workers said the crack is apparently very deep and that objects thrown into it disappear into darkness.

The fissure is in the region southwest of the Steen mountains, one of America's most spectacular fault block mountains.

Tuesday, May 6, 1952

MEDFORD (OREGON) MAIL TRIBUNE—FIVE

Hedy Lamarr Winner In Penitentiary Poll

Oklahoma City (U.P.)—The Oklahoma State penitentiary newspaper "The Eye Opener" conducted a presidential preference poll among inmates.

Editor Argyle McElroy reported that the winner was Hedy Lamarr.

WEATHER

By United Press
North California—Few showers Eureka and Mt. Shasta north Tuesday; fair otherwise through Wednesday but with patches coastal fog night and mornings.

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News of 4-H CLUBS

Sams Valley Loggers Club
The members of Sams Valley 4-H Loggers club planted 150 Ponderosa pine seedlings on O and C land Sunday afternoon. The trees were given to the club by the county extension service. Eleven members participated in the planting. Six of the members are new to the organization. They first met at the home of their leader, Ben Day. After the planting the group returned to the Day property and studied and discussed the growth of trees and different ways of determining ages of trees.
Susan Day, reporter.

The Grange
Griffin Creek Grange will meet Thursday, May 8, at 8 p.m. The men are in charge of lecture hour and refreshments, in observance of Mothers' Day.
Monday for Monday, noon Saturday 2:30 p.m. for following day; 10 a.m. for Sunday

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