



The War Reviewed

By W. R. FLEWMAN
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Fighting in the Far East is very spotty and sporadic. The key islands captured by the Allies are surrounded by many other islands held by the Japanese. Dozens of little wars are going on and many more will be started. As the Allies have moved their sea, air and land forces through the outer defenses of Japan and gained control of the southern seas they have left behind innumerable bits of territory and some large areas to be mopped up at their convenience. The Solomon islands and western New Guinea still are areas of conflict, with the Australians carrying the "white man's burden." So are the Gilbert, Marshall and Caroline islands, where Jaluit, Wotje, Truk and many strongly held Japanese islands have suffered only air attacks and shelling by warships. The enemy retains Wake island.

The Americans hold Iwo Jima and Okinawa island, but most of the islands south and east of Japan are in enemy hands. The bulk of the Philippine archipelago is controlled by the U.S., but fighting continues on Luzon island in two or three areas, and also in central Mindanao. Only a very small part of Borneo has been taken by the Allies. There Australian troops have landed at several points around Brunei bay and at one point 70 miles to the south. On the other side of Borneo they hold Tarakan, a small island. Leap-frog tactics may be expected for months to come, as we take more and more of the vast island of Borneo. The most we can do there is occupy the principal coast settlements. Since the beginning of the central Pacific campaign in November, 1943, the Japanese have had 192,000 men killed, and the U.S. has suffered 103,000 casualties.

Big Operations Coming

The British-Indian campaign in Burma has been the biggest single military operation in the war against Japan. What we have seen so far has been the gaining of ground for infinitely more important assaults upon Japanese militarism. Several armies are likely to be put ashore in widely separated areas this year while Allied air power destroys the industries on

which the Japanese armies rely. The largest Japanese armies are in Manchuria and these may be tackled by the Soviet Union before the year is out. It has been suggested that Russia will attack Japan in July, but the autumn is regarded as the most favorable time for military operations in Manchuria and Siberia. Only one or two secondary attacks may be made by the U.S.



before decisive large-scale assaults on Japan proper are made.

The campaign in northern Luzon is going well. In recent weeks the Americans have stopped marking time and driven northeastward down the Cagayan valley toward Aparri. A few days ago they took the provincial capital of Cauayan. The Americans drove two Japanese divisions northward toward strong Filipino guerrilla forces that await-

ed the enemy. These guerrillas have crossed a river and taken the important city of Tuguegarao in the rear of the Japanese. According to latest reports the near-surrounded Japanese have turned to fight it out with the pursuing Americans. Probably they would have a better chance of cutting their way through to the coast at Aparri, where limited help and a chance to escape by sea would be available.

New Landing at Lutong

Operations on northwestern Borneo also are progressing favorably against weak and disconnected opposition. The Australians made a new amphibious landing with ease at Lutong just inside the Sarawak frontier where they found the oil refinery in a wrecked condition. It had been badly damaged by Allied bombings. The troops released 150 Indian prisoners of war who were little more than skeletons. They had received only two handfuls of rice daily for three months. Nearly half of them suffered gangrene in feet and leg wounds caused by the Japanese striking them with spades or swords. Doctors stated that many amputations would be necessary. Today's map of northwestern Borneo locates several isolated battlefronts but not the one at Lutong. An arrow suggests a landing there.

Oil wells are located at Miri and Seria. No more progress is reported towards Beaufort but Australians hold the shore at the northern entrance to Brunei Bay. Allied planes bombed several Japanese bases in Borneo. Balikpapan and the shipyards at Kuching were raided.

U.S. bombers bombed five Japanese aircraft plants and a naval arsenal on Honshu island today. More than 450 bombers operated but the censor, without sufficient reason it would seem, forbade mention of or speculation about, the weight of bombs dropped. The Kure naval arsenal received a battering. Reconnaissance planes showed that 60 per cent. of Shizuoka, 52 per cent. of Toyohashi, 40 per cent. of Hamamatsu and half of the commercial centre of Hokkaido were destroyed in this week's air raids. Kagami-gahara, Himehi, Akashi and Tama-shima were bombed.

Military Trials of Nazis

Field Marshal Montgomery thinks Germany will have to be watched closely. He suggests that the German general staff should be exiled and broken into many little groups. He thinks SS storm troopers should be detained in camps in north Germany for 20 years. A British foreign office spokesman says the final demarcation of occupation zones in Germany has been agreed upon; he does not explain why an announcement is not made. Today the American military government of Cologne turned the city over to British occupation authorities. The Star Spangled Banner and God Save the King were played.

Judge Jackson says no objection

has been raised by any major Allied power to his proposal, as chief American war crimes prosecutor, that Goering, Ribbentrop, Hess, Von Papen and other major war criminals be tried in a single group by a military tribunal. He says a reasonably complete case can be made. The Nazi leaders would be tried for conspiracy to conduct an illegal war by illegal means. The nation's renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy would be emphasized as it made war a crime against humanity. The Hague convention against systematic terrorism, slave labor and other practices used by Nazis would be a factor. The number in the group of prisoners might be about 100. So far Russia has taken no steps toward joining the other Allies in trials of war criminals. She may prefer summary justice against long drawn-out trials with the accused indulging in heroics.

The Archbishop of Freiburg is proposing clemency for German prisoners. He says: "We can prove to the victors that a large proportion of the nation cannot be held responsible for the crimes committed before and during the war." He claims that the defeat of Germany freed large numbers of Germans from the Nazi terror. Marshal Petain denies the authenticity of a telegram he is reported to have sent to Hitler in which he said that after conferring with Laval about new British aggression on French soil—apparently bombings—"I propose you envisage the participation of France in her own defence."

Air Vice Marshal Siemon of Winnipeg has been appointed to command Canada's Pacific air force. The new Canadian cruiser Ontario, of 11,000 tons, carrying nine 6-inch guns in triple turrets and ten 4-inch guns, has completed test trials and soon will proceed to the Pacific as Canada's senior ship in the war against Japan.

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