

Deathtrap Set For Japanese By Stilwell

By WALTER LOGAN
United Press War Correspondent
SOUTHEAST ASIA HEADQUARTERS, KANDY, Ceylon, May 27 (UP)—Lieutenant General Joseph W. Stilwell's Chinese jungle fighters have captured the Mogaung Valley stronghold of Warong and are tightening a death trap around Kamaing, 12 miles to the southwest, where the largest Japanese force left in north Burma is encircled, a SEAC communique announced today.

While one unit of Stilwell's 22nd division drove north on Kamaing from the northwest, British-led Chindits were reported closing in from the east and south for an all-out assault which promised to end only with the death or surrender of the last man of the trapped Japanese 18th division.

The fact that Stilwell's Chinese and American engineers have extended a 160-lane macadam highway to the very edge of the Japanese artillery fire was regarded as insuring continuation of the assault and eventual allied control of the area despite the torrential monsoon rains which shortly will inundate northern Burma.

Japanese forces in the Mogaung Valley have been isolated from bases to the south by a Chindit-held block across the Mandalay-Myitkya railroad and the capture of a large enemy supply dump north of Kamaing yesterday suggested that the Japanese were becoming confused and increasingly incapable of coping with Chinese thrusts and flanking tactics.

Forty-four miles southeast of Kamaing, bitter street fighting continued in Myitkya, main Japanese base in north Burma, after an enemy counter-push was thrown back last night. Fighting was confined principally to the fringes of the city, and indications were that Myitkya would not fall, despite earlier optimism, before the monsoons flood the Irrawaddy and turn the town into a sea of mud.

That the fighting was confused and the lines irregular was indicated by an announcement that British troops advanced within a mile and one-half of Myitkya yesterday from Zigyun Village, three miles to the south. Previously, Brigadier General Frank Merrill's veteran raiders had been reported penetrating deep into the city from the south.

Nip Battalion Wiped Out
In the Imphal-Kohima area, the Japanese still were paying heavily for their abortive campaign into Manipur state. One Japanese battalion was virtually annihilated and its commander killed Friday near the important road junction of Bishenpur, 25 miles south of Imphal, the SEAC communique reported.

Near Kohima, Indian troops occupied additional enemy positions in the hills south of the city, and front dispatches said a decisive battle was shaping up on 700-foot Aradura Ridge, three miles south of Kohima, where Japanese were defending positions commanding three miles of the Imphal-Kohima road.

The Chinese were reported converging on Tebchung, some 70 miles southeast of Myitkya, from the north, south and east but, contrary to earlier reports, had not yet crossed the Burma road.

WHEN STALEMATE IN RUBBLE OF CASSINO ENDED



After the tremendous bombing and bombardment in March, little remained of Cassino except masses of rubble. It was through this Germans and Allies fought close-hand, with rifle, grenade and machine-gun as the weapons, when the 5th and 8th Armies resumed their offensive in Italy. Often our men were marooned for hours, with little food

or water, owing to work of enemy snipers among relieving ration parties. Here British advanced troops in the town toss hand grenades into the lines Germans established and reinforced amongst the ruined buildings after the great bombardment to make it a Stalingrad. [By Edward Osmond, London Sphere; © King Features Syndicate.]

Oakland Police To Manufacture Wallboard From Pearlite Deposit

William Adams, 16, former bellhop and elevator boy of Oakland, will be extradited to California and face charges of armed robbery and burglary, according to information received by Captain George Ullom last evening over phone from Oakland police.

Adams was a bellhop and elevator boy in Oakland, the message stated and while about the premises of the Latham Square building and an Oakland hotel he became familiar with the goings on in the offices. With an accomplice he is alleged to have robbed a Latham Square office, also that he, with an accomplice held up a hotel clerk and got away with more than \$200 cash.

In the hotel robbery, Oakland police said that Adams, with handkerchief over face, went behind the office counter while his accomplice held the clerk at bay, and quickly opened the locked safe. Police said he knew the combination.

First message came that he was wanted in company with John Waitlow, 18, also of Oakland. Both were described as armed and dangerous. Adams was arrested at the home of a Las Vegas relative. Local authorities are awaiting arrival of Oakland officers.

ONE KILLED, ONE HURT IN CRASH ON HIGHWAY

LOS ANGELES, May 27 (UP)—Stanley Jones, 50, Anaheim steelworker, was killed and James M. Story, 69, Anaheim, was injured today when their automobile ploughed into the rear of a truck and trailer loaded with pipe and casing near Bellflower.

Jones, a passenger in Story's car, died en route to the Long Beach hospital.

Cox Comments on Political Trend

Walter Cox, editor of The Mason Valley News, "The Only Newspaper in the World that Gives a Damn About Yerington," comments in his column as follows:

A survey of the Lyon county register lists shows that the republican increase is being caused by a switch in party politics about the old time voters. Most of the new registrations continue in the democratic line. This swing to the republican party by the old timers is going on in most Nevada counties and is taken as an indication that the state may again be in the republican column this fall. New registrations come mostly from temporary residents and those engaged in war work, and does not always result in a cast ballot on election day.

Home All Your Life

All of which is by way of an alibi and an apology, meaning that if you don't care for my impressions of our fair city, you can just shrug your shoulders and say "She always did have some queer ideas."

My impressions, when returning to Las Vegas, are, to begin with, just the glad feeling of "Coming Home." You can't live in a place for 30 years, grow up in it, and bring up your family in it, without having it mean home for the rest of your life. It is the place where you have spent the greatest and probably the happiest part of your life, and the place where you ultimately expect to drop anchor again. There are the oldest and best friends and the memories of a score and a half of years, good and bad years. There live in memory the friends and family who have gone on, and the hopes and strivings in which we were all once involved as a very small desert town.

Comparing my home-coming last week with that of last October, I had one definite impression that Las Vegas was not so crowded, and that the change was entirely for the better. Last summer and fall the constant moving masses on the sidewalks and in the stores, clubs and restaurants made me physically tired. Walking to town was a real chore, what with getting pushed off the sidewalk and stepped on by the sober and the drunk.

List to the Scufflers!

It seemed to me that about 90 per cent of the women wore scufflers and slacks, and days after I left I could hear, in my mind, the scuff, scuff, scuff made by thousands of feet in these damnable excuses for shoes. Now, while our streets are anything but deserted one can walk down Fremont in comparative leisure and comfort, and even meet folks one knows. The air of feverish hurry and mad hilarity has gone, and Las Vegas seems like the Las Vegas of old once more. Even though the chamber of commerce may mourn the loss of a few thousands of citizens from the payroll, I feel it will gain in the end, and by gain, I mean financially as well as morally.

I have talked to many visitors from other places who had the same feeling I did, and all deplored the passing of that friend-

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Realistic Portrait of Vegas As Seen by Former Resident

By FLORENCE S. BOYER
Since I am visiting in the Old Home Town I had rather thought to take a vacation from this weekly letter. After all, how can one write about the doings of Carson City when one is 450 miles away. Then someone who is kind enough to claim to be a regular reader of these weekly ramblings from the state capital suggested that at least I could write my impressions of Las Vegas.

Better women than I am, to say nothing of better men, Gunga Din, have essayed writing their impressions of this last frontier, this remaining oasis of the primitive and unconventional in a world which is rapidly succumbing to the trite and conventional. Even while admitting they are better writers, I'll also confide that in my humble, but critical opinion, not one has really caught the real flavor of Las Vegas. That is a feat which probably remains to some clever writer in the future. Most of those who have hitherto tried it have spent a few days on Fremont street, at the Keno parlors, and an evening or two at the resort hotels, and have then proceeded to tell the world what Las Vegas is and what makes it tick.

Most of the local writers are too close to our home town to be able to portray it in a fair but unbiased light. There is apt to creep into our word portrait all the things we have hoped our city would be, as well as those things it really is. Perhaps this is closer to the real picture than that drawn by the stranger, for after all any city or town is made up, to a great extent, of the spirit and morale of its citizens.

City and State Sound

This, I think, will hold true for Nevada as a whole. People are only beginning to discover the state, and to a man, the thing they like about us is the Nevada spirit. That should be our chief asset and never should we allow any short sighted person to persuade us to take any steps that will weaken or destroy that spirit. The moment Las Vegas and Reno try to be miniature copies of Los Angeles and San Francisco, they will have lost completely the attribute which is now drawing hundreds of people each year.

The new subdivisions in Las Vegas which seemed raw and unfinished six months ago, have settled into the landscape and with their lawns, trees and shrubbery begin to look as though they belonged. I could see no sign of many vacancies as far as rentals go, although there were some house advertised for sale. The prices asked, however, did not indicate any real estate slump.

They're Good As Ever

In the clubs and at the resort hotels the crowds seemed as large as ever, and the food and entertainment as good as ever. I noticed the drinks were a bit diluted, but that is true everywhere, and probably all to the good, for I haven't seen a drunk since I have been in town.

So there are my impressions and it is probably a good thing that I will be safely back in Carson City before this appears in print. I can even imagine the editor prefacing this with one of those evasive paragraphs to the effect that "the writer's opinions are her own and in no way reflect the opinion or policy of The Age."

I had the pleasure, while here, of helping a very gallant gentleman celebrate his 79th birthday, and while I know it isn't considered good journalism to ever bring one's family into one's writing, I can't help but express the hope that if I live to be 79 years old, I can greet that birthday with the same kindness, generosity, tolerance and all around zest for life possessed by this gentleman to whom I have referred.

Price Is Seen In 4 Burglaries

Eugene La Rue Price, arrested yesterday afternoon in Boulder City, was definitely identified as the man involved in burglary of four Las Vegas homes, within the last several days and police last night said that 80 per cent of the burglaries of the recent epidemic will be solved through his arrest.

Price, redheaded, left strands of his hair on the screens of two homes in which he is alleged to have entered, police said hair on the screens matched that of his head. In two other cases description of persons who observed activity of the burglar tallied with his. When Price was arrested yesterday he wore a wrist watch which had been stolen from the prowled apartment of L. D. Cardwell, 602 South Tenth street. Cardwell identified the Hamilton watch, on which he had scratched markings.

Price is wanted in Los Angeles for armed robberies and burglaries, according to the police and is a parolee from San Quentin prison, where he is under sentence of from five years to life. Local police were of the opinion California officers would extradite him.

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BMI IDLERS

By AL WEINBERG
Reassuring news regarding the stabilization of production as well as the security of employment has effected changes in the plans of many workers at BMI, world's largest magnesium plant. Definite assurances from Washington that there would be no further curtailment of magnesium production and orders for an increase in the output of chlorine and by-products eased the minds of many who had planned to seek opportunities elsewhere.

Curiosity regarding the future of the vast project prompted management to request a statement of policy from WPB at Washington. Employees have been advised of the answering telegram signed by Philip Wilson, director of the magnesium and aluminum division of the war production board at the national capital. The message announced that the operations of the project would continue at full blast under the present ratio.

Subsequent information indicates that the post-war program for the huge factory, 93 per cent of which is government owned, is unusually bright. No military secret is revealed when the public is advised that there is now, under rush orders, a second liquefaction plant under construction and designs for a third similar unit are on the drafting tables.

All of which leads up to the statements made at various group sessions by General Manager Frank O. Case, who, in answering questions regarding the permanency of employment, said: "The nation appreciates, as we do, the efforts of those who have done such splendid work in maintaining the record of accomplishment in the production of magnesium as a war-time need when it was most needed. However, the war is not yet over and the requirements of the armed services to complete the job necessitates an overall operations staff of no less than 3,150 people. We have slightly more than that number on our personnel rolls now and we can use them all. There will be no further terminations so far as management is concerned."

Word has been received that the manpower recruitment area for the local plant has been widened to include Arizona and southern California. New faces may therefore soon be seen among the war workers at Henderson, because replacements will be required to fill the gaps made by selective service invitations for some of the younger men.

Commander Joe Stewart, of BMI post, American Legion, issued a statement yesterday calling upon all former service men employed at the plant to put their shoulders to the production wheel. "By example," said Commander Joe, "we who know what war means, must follow through with our fellow workers to maintain the record-breaking pace that will bring victory sooner. The big push is about to start. We are sorry we cannot be with our fighting men at the world fronts, but we can see that their drive is made easier by providing the things they need to carry on the fight. The worst that can happen to us will be to raise a sweat. They'll bleed. Come on, BMI, let's go!"

That's the spirit of America fighting at home!

Those in the know report that a small rolling mill is nearing completion at BMI and that expert work will soon be a reality at the plant.

This will eliminate the necessity of sending slabs and magnesium cheques to distant points to be later returned in sheets for local experimentation.

Which brings to mind the yarn about the chap who dropped into the barber shop at Henderson for a shave. Vigorously, the barber brushed and lathered until a rich whipped cream had developed. Then the barber calmly sat down and proceeded to read last Sunday's Las Vegas Age. After some minutes the lathered one, from behind a smothering towel, in muffled voice called out: "Hey, barber, aren't you gonna shave me?" "Nah," replied the barber. "You'll have to go to Boulder City for a shave; we only lather here."

That's war!

"Purple Heart Circuit" Brings Artists' Response

By DENNIS DALTON
United Press Staff Correspondent
CLEVELAND, May 27 (UP)—People in show business are taking the newly-formed "Purple Heart Circuit" to their hearts.

The idea of routing shows around to service hospitals throughout the country is going over with a bang because theatrical folks enjoy it.

Take the case of Ben Rochelle and Jane Beebe, a satirical dance team now appearing at Cleveland's Alpine Village, who will be among the first units scheduled to make a tour.

Eager to Repeat

"Eventually, it's going to be a big thing," says Rochelle. "Once a person has helped to entertain a bunch of wounded soldiers or sailors—made them laugh and sing—he has had an experience that goes right to his heart. And he wants to go on doing more and more shows."

Rochelle tells about the time he and other entertainers played the naval hospital at Long Beach, California. He thinks it illustrates the point better than anything else.

"Some of the sailors in the audience had been badly wounded," he relates. "No use describing all the details, but a lot of them were pretty low. You had to play to them very carefully, going easy on the hilarity, but still making it light and funny."

"The results were positively amazing—the most responsive audience in the world—and as the show went on you could almost feel their spirits rising."

Rochelle says the shows at Crite General Hospital on the outskirts of Cleveland received the same welcome reception from the 200 servicemen-patients.

"The thing just gets hold of you, and we feel we are very fortunate to be included in one of the first big tours," he adds.

The dancer explains that Ed Wynn, the veteran comedian, really pioneered the budding hospital circuit, which is patterned after the shows that now play service camps and overseas posts.

Wynn suggested it to USO camp shows, which sent him out with eight other performers on a four-week experimental tour more than a month ago.

The comedian took along his famed bicycle-piano prop as the troupe toured 16 army hospitals in the south, playing to some 25,000 wounded soldiers. Wynn returned even more enthusiastic than he was before he left.

Another top-flight comedian, Eddie Cantor, has taken the idea up now and is giving even more impetus. Variety, the "bible" of show people, also is promoting the program, giving it the "Purple Heart" name.

"As such show buzz will take its place alongside the surgeon and the scapel in administering therapeutic treatment and in giving a new lease on life to the thousands of GI wounded back from the far-flung fronts," Variety says.

Chinese Score Further Gains

CHUNGKING, May 27 (UP)—Conterattacking Chinese troops have scored new gains west of Loyang in Honan province, particularly in the area east of recaptured Lushin, which had been the deepest point of the enemy advance toward the Shensi province border, a Chinese communique announced tonight.

In southern Hupeh province where the invaders Thursday launched large-scale plundering operations, heavy fighting was continuing around Tsungyang, east of the Hankow-Canton railroad.

A Chinese air communique said aircraft of the 14th U. S. air force's Chinese-American combined wing today bombed and strafed Japanese barracks at Sinyang, on the Peiping-Hankow railroad, and destroyed two truck and eight railway cars south of the city.

Chinese bombers blasted factors at Maotsintu, on the Yellow river.

In operations over central China, the Chinese-American wing hit junks in the Yangtze river near Shihshou and destroyed two trucks near Ichang.

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