

## War in the Pacific

**O**n November 25, 1941 a Japanese fleet consisting of 6 aircraft carriers (carrying 414 airplanes), 2 battleships, 3 cruisers, 9 destroyers, 3 submarines and various auxiliary craft sailed from the Kurile Islands.

The Japanese attack force deliberately chose the northern route to their objective, because this route, with its prevailing bad weather and high seas, would lessen their chances of being detected. Strict radio silence and a complete blackout was enforced during the entire period of this mission. They must achieve complete surprise, if they were to succeed.

A fleet of 25 to 28 submarines (five carried midget two-man subs fastened to their decks) was ordered to precede the attack force. At 6 a.m. on December 7th, the signal was given for the sneak attack.

The Japanese planes attacked in two waves. The first wave consisted of 50 horizontal bombers, 54 dive bombers, 40 torpedo bombers, and 45 fighters.

The second wave of attack aircraft included 54 horizontal bombers, 36 fighters, and 81 dive bombers.

Most of America's entire Pacific Fleet was peacefully anchored in Pearl Harbor on that beautiful Sunday morning. Ninety four U.S. ships lay in Pearl Harbor on that fateful Sunday. Seventy of that number were combat vessels, and included eight battleships. Fortunately, America's three Pacific aircraft carriers had slipped out of Pearl Harbor shortly before the attack.

### *Unheeded Warnings*

Hostile Japanese intentions had been known, and Washington had even sent a radio message to Hawaii to put America's fleet on full alert. But static prevented the message getting through. The message was also sent by cable, but it met with various delays, and was just being delivered by a messenger boy at the very moment Japanese planes swooped down over Pearl Harbor!

Ironically, America's defensive radar station on northern Oahu had picked up signals showing that a large number of aircraft were approach-

ing Hawaii, and this message was immediately phoned to a senior officer. But he told the radar station attendant to forget it, that the planes on his radar screen were probably American planes in the area.

When the Japanese planes roared out of the sky over peaceful Pearl Harbor on Sunday they achieved *complete surprise!* Initially, the enemy planes met no opposition whatsoever. While Japanese dive bombers and fighters attacked the airfields at Wheeler, Hickam, Kaneohe, Bellows and Ewa, torpedo planes and horizontal bombers concentrated on attacking the warships anchored in Pearl Harbor.

The double file of great U.S. battleships were sitting ducks for the enemy aircraft. Again and again waves of Japanese planes attacked, spitting out fire and destruction.

After the first wave had been unleashed, a second wave swooped in to demolish the already blazing targets. The Japanese planes achieved such complete surprise that the U.S. defenders on the ships and on land had no chance to get ready for action. Many of the navy personnel were at that moment on shore leave — away from their ships.

In less than *two terrible hours*, the two waves of assault aircraft had completed their raids, delivered their deadly missiles, and disappeared over the blue toward the northwest heading back safely to their aircraft carriers.

Half of America's entire Pacific fleet had been knocked out during the attack. Seven of the eight U.S. battleships had either been sunk or badly crippled, three destroyers had been badly damaged, and three cruisers had also suffered severe damage. Of the 394 American planes at Hawaii, 188 were destroyed and 159 were damaged.

Worst of all, 2403 Americans lost their lives and 1178 were wounded in that infamous attack!

The Japanese lost 29 aircraft, 1 full-sized submarine and 5 midget subs.

### *Hitler's "Honorary Aryans"*

When Hitler heard that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor, he underwent a rare moment of euphoria. He told the Japanese Ambassador, Hiroshi Oshima, "You gave the right declaration of war! This method is the only proper one." Since the Japanese were his partners, he now felt they had proven that they deserved the title which he had already bestowed upon them — "honorary Aryans."

On Monday, December 8th, President Roosevelt informed the American people that a "*state of war*" existed between the U.S. and Japan, and spoke of the 7th of December as "a date that will live in *infamy*."

Shortly after Japan's infamous attack on Pearl Harbor on Decem-



ber 7, 1941, Prime Minister Churchill spoke before the American Congress. During that address, given on December 26, the British Prime Minister said:

He must indeed have a blind soul who cannot see that some great purpose and design is being worked out here below of which we have the honor to be faithful servants. It is not given to us to peer into the mysteries of the future. Still I avow my hope and faith, sure and inviolate, that in the days to come the British and American peoples will, for their own safety, and for the good of all, walk together in majesty, in justice and in peace.

America had been rudely awakened at Pearl Harbor. At last she was in the war. Now she had to gear up her formidable industrial might in order to help defeat the Axis powers. America was now prepared psychologically to gird for war.

Within only a few hours after smashing Pearl Harbor, Japanese bombers struck at American bases on the islands of Guam, Midway, Wake, and bombed Manila and Singapore.

Japanese Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma landed 56,000 Japanese troops on Luzon in the Philippines between December 10 and 22. The Japanese quickly seized Hong Kong then occupied Guam and Wake islands.

### *Complacent Singapore*

The defenders of Singapore expected the Japanese forces to attack that city by sea. All of Singapore's defenses were built to fight off an attack from the sea, even though the defenders had ample reason to fear a possible land attack, and ample time in which to hastily strengthen their defenses.

The Order of the Day, issued in Singapore on December 8th, the day after Pearl Harbor, said: "We have had plenty of warning and our preparations are made. We are confident. Our defenses are strong and our weapons efficient."

But few of the 88,000 defenders of Singapore (British, Australians, Indians, and locally trained Asians) were jungle-trained, and about 15,000 were noncombatants. Furthermore, the island's vaunted 15-inch guns would prove totally ineffective against a land invasion. And the Japanese had already landed in Malaya, north of Singapore, on the day after they attacked Pearl Harbor. Obviously, they were getting ready to strike at Singapore from the rear — a little child could see that!

There were other evil omens. The pride of the British Navy, H.M.S. *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse*, had been sunk shortly after Pearl Harbor. This was a stunning shock to the people of Singapore.

The British commander of Singapore, General Arthur E. Percival, acted with consummate complacency. On December 26th, Brig. Ivan Simon tried to get General Percival to shore up Singapore's northern

defenses so that, if the Japanese attacked through Malaya, they might stand a fair chance of defending themselves. Simon repeatedly pleaded with Percival to build fortifications on Singapore's undefended northern shores, but he got nowhere.

On December 26th, Simon told General Percival:

I must emphasize the urgency of doing everything to help our troops. They are tired and dispirited. They've been retreating for hundreds of miles. And please remember, sir, the Japanese are better trained and better equipped.

Then he again pleaded for General Percival to fortify the northern beaches of the island with barbed wire, pillboxes, tank traps, etc. "It has to be done *now*, sir, before the area comes under enemy fire." But Percival still refused to budge.

Simon asked him why he refused. General Percival gave this astonishing answer: "I believe that defenses of the sort you want to throw up are bad for the morale of troops and civilians."

As Simon, in stark disbelief, headed for the door, he told General Percival: "Sir, it's going to be much worse for morale if the Japanese start running all over the island."

Singapore fell to the Japanese (February 16, 1942) within two months — thanks to the sheer complacency of General Percival and his lethargic defenders.

Winston Churchill called the fall of Singapore "the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history."

When the Japanese forces advanced through the thick jungles of the Malay Peninsula (advancing on bicycles), and attacked Singapore from the rear — there was nothing with which to effectively defend the city.

Reportedly, the Japanese had used up nearly every last round of their ammunition at the very moment the defenders, under the command of General Percival, capitulated. They could have fought on and would possibly have saved the city had they had the determination and had they built creditable fortifications on the north shores of the island.

Next, the Japanese quickly overran New Britain, New Ireland and the Admiralty and Solomon islands. They also routed an Allied fleet at the Battle of the Java Sea — thus opening their way to the Dutch East Indies.

### *Fall of the Philippines*

Burma and the Philippines fell to Japanese forces early in 1942. As the Japanese advanced toward Manila, General Douglas A. MacArthur, commander of the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East, declared Manila an open city, then withdrew his army to the Bataan Peninsula. The Japanese entered Manila on January 2nd. The American and Philippine



defenders stoutly defended Bataan and strongly resisted repeated Japanese assaults.

Then, on March 11th, Roosevelt ordered General MacArthur to leave the Philippines. He escaped by torpedo boat and then flew to Australia where he set up his new command center for the Southwest Pacific Area.

Before leaving the Philippines, MacArthur put Lt. Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright in charge and ordered the defenders not to surrender. General MacArthur solemnly promised the Filipinos: "I shall return"!

America was in no position to be able to send supplies of relief to General Wainwright and his beleaguered men. Soon they were eating anything they could lay their hands on — dogs, monkeys, pack mules, iguanas, snakes — and they were also running out of ammunition. After suffering from a terrible shortage of food and medical supplies, they finally surrendered to the Japanese on April 9, 1942. But the 11,000-man garrison on Corregidor (a rocky fortress in Manila Bay) didn't capitulate until May 6th.

### *Bataan Death March*

The infamous *Bataan Death March* will long live in the annals of recorded military history as one of the most inhuman war crimes ever perpetrated.

The Japanese forced about 60,000 prisoners to march without much, if any, food or water, and if they faltered they were whipped or beaten mercilessly — or they were killed on the spot. The prisoners of war staggered under the scorching sun for 70 miles to prison camps. During that long, torturous march about 10,000 died from starvation or maltreatment.

Japanese invaders met stubborn resistance in Burma. They coveted that country because it possessed rich resources of oil and tin, and by occupying Burma the Japanese could close the Burma Road — the last land route open to China.

Rangoon was evacuated by the British forces on March 7th, 1942. Even though Chinese troops, commanded by Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell, tried desperately to hold Mandalay and protect the Burma Road, they were unable to succeed. Finally, General Stilwell and a handful of his men made the perilous trek through 140 miles of mountains and jungles to India.

### *Doolittle Bombs Japan*

Even though most of America's war effort was diverted to defeating the Axis powers in Europe, it was believed necessary to achieve a morale booster for the Americans early in the war against Japan.

Lt. Col. James H. Doolittle and 16 B-25 army bombers took off from the carrier *Hornet* as it wallowed in the Pacific about 650 miles east of Honshu, Japan. Destination? To bomb Japan.

Doolittle and his squadron bombed Tokyo and other cities. This daring raid shocked the Japanese who didn't think America had long enough arms to reach them; but it cheered the Americans.

Soon afterward, the Japanese decided to seize Port Moresby in southeast New Guinea. They also aimed at cutting shipping lanes to Australia and New Zealand and plotted to invade Australia if their plans went well.

But a U.S. task force under command of Rear Adm. Frank J. Fletcher, intercepted a Japanese fleet as it headed for Port Moresby in the Coral Sea. A four-day battle ensued (May 4th to 8th) in which all the fighting was done by aircraft.

The outcome of the Battle of the Coral Sea was an important Allied strategic victory. It put a serious crimp in Japan's push southeastward and forever ended her threat to Port Moresby.

### *Midway*

The Japanese next planned to capture Midway Island and the Aleutian Islands west of Alaska. Midway Island is only about 1,000 miles northwest of Hawaii. From Midway, the Japanese could threaten Hawaii, and from the Aleutian Islands they could threaten Alaska. Admiral Yamamoto hoped to seize Midway and draw away the Pacific Fleet from Hawaii in order to win a decisive victory with his large, more powerful naval force.

But America received advance knowledge of Yamamoto's planned invasion. The U.S. had scored one of her greatest triumphs by cracking Japan's secret codes — even before Pearl Harbor was bombed!

Advance intelligence of the Japanese plans to invade Midway and the Aleutian Islands enabled Adm. Chester W. Nimitz (who had succeeded Adm. Husband E. Kimmel as Command in Chief of the Pacific Fleet) to take effective counter-measures.

The Japanese sent droves of airplanes from their 100-ship fleet to attack Midway on June 4, 1942. But Admiral Nimitz had the advantage of using both naval and land-based planes to counter the Japanese attacks.

Nimitz also had two very capable Rear Admirals (Frank J. Fletcher and Raymond A. Spruance) who were able to successfully launch attack aircraft from the carriers *Enterprise*, *Hornet*, and *Yorktown*. Japan lost four aircraft carriers and a major part of its airplanes by the end of the two-day battle. The U.S. Fleet lost one aircraft carrier — the *Yorktown*.

The Battle of Midway was one of the most decisive victories in



# WORLD WAR II PACIFIC THEATER 1941

Maximum Extent of Japanese Conquest

U.S.S.R.

Neutral until  
Aug. 8, 1945

Attu  
Kiska  
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

CHINA

MANCHUKUO

CHOSEN  
(Korea)

JAPAN

Japan surrendered  
August 14, 1945

Tokyo  
Osaka  
Hiroshima  
Nagasaki

PACIFIC  
OCEAN

INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE

MIDWAY

Chungking

INDIA  
Ledo  
Burma Road  
Kunming

BURMA  
FRENCH  
CHINA

HONG KONG

FORMOSA

PHILIPPINE SEA

OKINAWA

SAIPAN

MARIANAS

WAKE

MARSHALL ISLANDS

TARAWA

GILBERT ISLANDS

EQUATOR

Manila  
PHILIPPINES

Leyte Gulf

Mindanao

MALAYA

SUMATRA  
Singapore

BORNEO

CELEBES

NEW GUINEA

Rabaul

Port Moresby

PAPUA

SOLOMON ISLANDS

GUADALCANAL

NEW  
HEBRIDES

CORAL SEA

INDIAN OCEAN

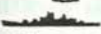
NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES

AUSTRALIA

NEW  
ZEALAND



Atomic Bombs



Sea Battles



Battles or Campaigns

0 200 400 600 800 1000  
EQUATORIAL SCALE OF MILES

naval history. It put an end to Japanese threats to Hawaii and the U.S. and gave the U.S. the upper hand in the Pacific.

Although Japan failed to seize Midway, on June 7th, its troops occupied Kiska and Attu — at the very tip of the Aleutian chain; and in July they captured Agattu. U.S. troops were finally successful in driving them from Attu in the spring of 1943 and they then withdrew from Agattu and Kiska.

### *Guadalcanal*

The Allies began their first offensive action in the Pacific on August 7, 1942, when U.S. Marines landed on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands. Fighting was bitter, and control of the island hung in the balance for months. American troops succeeded in destroying all enemy resistance on the island by February, 1943.

Many lessons were learned by the Allies during their Solomon Islands campaign. That campaign helped them perfect their technique of amphibious warfare — involving air, land and sea forces all working as a team. During that campaign, the Allies first encountered the fanatical Japanese code of *bushido* which requires a Japanese soldier to fight to the death.

Australian airfields were constantly being threatened by Japanese bases in New Guinea. In late 1942 Japan launched an overland campaign against the Allied base at Port Moresby. Enemy troops advanced to within 32 miles of the city. Then American, Australian and Dutch forces went on the offensive. Under command of General Douglas MacArthur Allied troops inched their way to Buna, Gona, Salamaua and Lae — the main Japanese positions in New Guinea. All the while Japanese planes based on nearby Rabaul menaced Allied shipping in the area. But by the end of 1944 the Allies had cleared the Japanese out of New Guinea.

### *Island Hopping*

The United States and its Allies devised a strategy of attacking key islands which lay between them and Tokyo. They knew that control of these islands was mandatory before they could successfully invade Japan proper. Accordingly, the Allies adopted the “island-hopping” strategy. Important islands would be conquered. Unimportant ones would simply be bypassed.

Admiral Nimitz chose the Gilbert Islands as the first major objective in his island-hopping campaign. After they were conquered, the Mariana Islands were next on the list. They would be important to America since long-range bombers could reach Japan from them. The chief islands in the Marianas were Saipan, Guam, Tinian and Rota.



It took 16,500 casualties for the U.S. to conquer Saipan. But the strategy worked. Conquest was completed by July 9th. In that struggle U.S. forces killed over 28,000 enemy soldiers.

The loss of Saipan was a stunning blow to Japan. Now they knew America's big B-29 Superfortress bombers would be able to strike Japan at will. The loss of Saipan caused Premier Hideki Tojo of Japan to come under such strong criticism that he resigned on July 18th.

For the first time since early 1943 Japanese carriers again went into action against the U.S. fleet. The Japanese lost 395 carrier planes in the Battle of the Philippine Sea on June 20th, near Guam. Tinian fell to Allied forces in late July.

Guam was invaded on July 21st. Again Japanese troops fought savagely and over 10,000 of them died in that bitter struggle. American casualties were also high — about 7,800.

After American army engineers built huge air bases in the Marianas the U.S. was able to send the first B-29 Superfortress against the Japanese mainland, beginning on November 24th.

### *MacArthur Returns*

Once the Marianas were occupied, Allied forces stood menacingly within 1,600 miles of Tokyo and Manila. On September 15th U.S. Marines landed on Peleliu in the Palau Islands. U.S. forces also attacked Morotai Island in the Dutch East Indies — putting the U.S. within 400 miles of the Philippines.

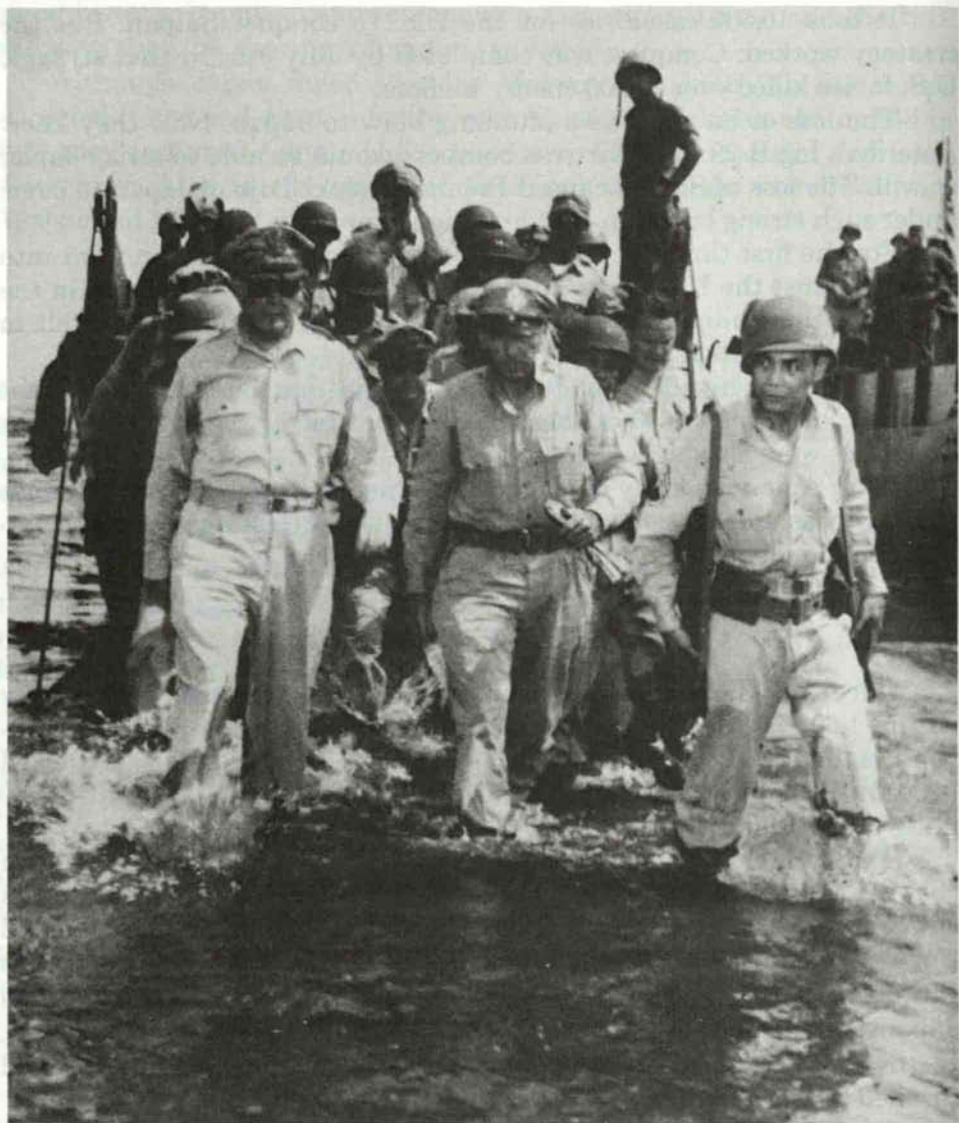
The U.S. did not expect the reconquest of the Philippines to be an easy task. On October 20th the U.S. Sixth Army won two beachheads on the central island of Leyte. The U.S. air, ground and naval forces had all worked together beautifully to effect the successful landings in the Philippines. But the comparatively small U.S. force faced a 270,000-man Japanese army, and its air force, based in the Philippines. Nevertheless, to the great joy of the Filipinos, General Douglas A. MacArthur had fulfilled his solemn pledge — he had returned.

### *The Battle of Leyte Gulf*

The Japanese, becoming desperate, decided to take a big gamble. Mustering all of their remaining naval strength, they attempted to drive the Allies from Leyte. The ensuing Battle for Leyte Gulf was the biggest naval engagement in the history of the world.

The Battle for Leyte Gulf actually consisted of four separate actions — conducted in four different areas: in Surigao Strait, in the Sibuyan Sea, off Samar, and off Cape Enagano.

The Japanese, by using several different naval forces, planned to lure the main U.S. naval forces away from the Leyte Gulf area. If the



General Douglas MacArthur fulfilled his promise "I shall return" by wading through the surf of Leyte Island in the Philippines on October 20, 1944. — *United Press International Photo*



U.S. navy took the bait, this would leave the newly landed Americans on Leyte stranded — “sitting ducks” for Japanese naval gunners. They would have been annihilated.

Even though Admiral “Bull” Halsey’s naval force took the Japanese bait, and was lured far to the north, exposing the beaches at Leyte, fortunately the weak U.S. naval forces still left in the area were able to frighten away the powerful Japanese force. The Japanese were nearly within gun range of the Leyte beaches, when, for some unknown reason, they turned and ran!

General Douglas MacArthur later said that Japan’s Admiral Kurita “was only 45 miles from his objective when he finally decided to give up the attempt.”

As things turned out, the Battle for Leyte Gulf was a decisive victory for the U.S. When the battle ended on October 26th, Japan had lost four carriers, three battleships, nine destroyers, and ten cruisers.

America’s naval might had also been damaged, but not so badly as Japan’s. The U.S. lost one light and two escort carriers, two destroyers and one destroyer escort.

America’s Admiral Sprague later summed up that decisive battle as follows:

The failure of the enemy main body and encircling light forces to completely wipe out all vessels of this (U.S.) Task Unit can be attributed to our successful smoke screen, our torpedo counterattack, continuous harassment of the enemy by bomb, torpedo and strafing air attacks, timely maneuvers, and the definite partiality of Almighty God.

After the Battle for Leyte Gulf, the Japanese became increasingly nervous and desperate. Their intense fear drove them to begin employing the first of the *Kamikazes* on October 25. These suicide plane attacks proved very deadly against American naval power in the Pacific.

The U.S. Eighth Army began mop-up operations on Leyte. Then on January 9, 1945, the Sixth Army landed in Lingayen Gulf, about 110 miles from Manila. The Japanese forces in the Philippines bitterly resisted the Allied advance toward Manila, but by the end of February 1945 the Allies had cleared Manila and Luzon of all organized enemy resistance.

### *Fire-Bombing Japan*

The U.S. had begun long-range B-29 bombing raids on Japan on June 14, 1944 from bases in China. The B-29’s in the Marianas joined with the China-based bombers in raiding Tokyo on November 24, 1944. In March 1945 Major General Curtis E. LeMay’s B-29’s began incendiary bombing at night from the low altitude of 7,000 feet. This low-

level bombing allowed the bombers to carry a much heavier bomb load. Sometimes as many as 800 giant Superfortresses took part in a single incendiary attack. Three of these destructive raids wiped out the heart of Tokyo and one such attack destroyed most of Yokohama.

The U.S. Army Air Force flew more than 15,000 missions against 66 major Japanese cities, and dropped over 100,000 tons of incendiary bombs. The Allies held such superiority in the air that by early July, 1945 the U.S. could publicly announce in advance the names of cities to be bombed.

America had begun to tighten her grip around Japan in preparation for the soon-expected invasion of Japanese home islands. Allied submarines increased their activity in Japan's coastal waters. Japan's shipping tonnage had been reduced to about one and one-half million tons by 1945 compared with ten million tons early in 1942. Submarine attacks accounted for over half of all of Japan's losses in merchant ships.

U.S. naval forces in 1944 had sunk the *Mamato* and the *Musashi*, the largest battleships ever built. And in April 1945 carrier planes sank the Japanese battleship *Yamato*. Japanese naval strength was so weakened that the U.S. Third Fleet, joined by the British Pacific Fleet, could move to within a few miles of Japan to shell her cities.

### *Iwo Jima and Okinawa*

On February 19, 1945 U.S. forces landed on Iwo Jima. Even though the Marines met withering fire from the Japanese, they were able to capture the island by March 16th and raise the American flag over Mt. Suribachi. America paid a heavy price in casualties — with about 6,000 Americans killed, but over 20,000 enemy troops lay dead.

The next island-hop on the road to Tokyo was Okinawa. This important island, situated in the Ryukyus chain lay only 350 miles from Kyushu, the southern-most Japanese home island. By capturing this large island, the U.S. would have a key staging area for her final attack on Japan and the Japanese-held parts of China.

Some of the bitterest fighting of the war occurred on Okinawa. The brave Japanese fought desperately to hold the island. By the end of the campaign in mid-June, their deadly *Kamikazes* had sunk 36 vessels and damaged 332 others. Effective organized fighting ended on June 21st. The Allies suffered the staggering figure of 49,000 casualties. Over 109,000 Japanese were killed. Fortunately, however, the fighting on Okinawa was the last major battle of World War II.

The world would soon be awe-struck to learn that America had unleashed an awesome new weapon on two of Japan's industrial cities, and had virtually wiped out those cities in the twinkling of an eye.

This new horror weapon was the atomic bomb.





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U.S. Marines proudly raise "Old Glory" atop Mount Suribachi, Iwo Jima, on February 27, 1945. — *Wide World Photo*

### *A Race Against Time*

How did it come about that America developed the atomic bomb ahead of Germany?

Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill speaking to 3,000 Britons on October 31, 1942 solemnly declared:

I have a feeling sometimes that *some Guiding Hand has interfered*. I have a feeling that we have a Guardian because we have a great Cause, and we shall have that Guardian so long as we serve that Cause faithfully. And what a Cause it is.

German scientists were frantically working on various super weapons — hoping to snatch victory from the jaws of certain defeat. Even before America began her ambitious Manhattan Project, German scientists were known to be working on the development of the atom bomb. In fact, Einstein had written to President Roosevelt in 1939, pleading with him to authorize America's atomic scientists to begin immediate work toward development of an atomic bomb — hoping thereby to beat the German scientists in a race against time.

### *America's Well-kept Secret*

Three quarters of a million Americans worked on the U.S. A-bomb project, and two billion dollars were spent on it. Even so, no German or Japanese enemy agents ever acquired significant intelligence of America's atom project.

President Roosevelt authorized America's scientists to begin work on the U.S. A-bomb project, although neither he nor the scientists who worked on this deadly project were 100 percent sure themselves what the outcome would be.

But the Germans were also going ahead full speed with the development of an atom bomb. Fortunately for the Allies, however, British intelligence learned of the Nazis' super secret atom bomb project.

### *World's Largest Electro-chemical Plant*

The Germans occupied Norway in the spring of 1940. For some unknown reason the Nazis decided to establish their atomic bomb project at the Norsk Hydro plant at Vermork, Norway.

While America's atomic project was being set up in 1942 the Intelligence Section of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare produced some electrifying information. The largest electro-chemical plant of its kind in the world, the Norsk Hydro, was ordered by the Germans



to be used to increase the production of deuterium oxide (heavy water) from 3,000 to 10,000 pounds a year.

This was bad news for the Allies. It meant only one thing: The *Germans* were definitely working on development of an atomic bomb! Allied physicists had already discovered that heavy water was an ideal moderator to use in the preparation of the radio-active material, uranium 235.

From the time that the Allies learned of this German atom bomb project at Norsk Hydro, they set about the task of utterly destroying its stocks of heavy water. The task of sabotaging the German atom bomb project was given highest priority by Churchill's War Cabinet.

Eventually, the Allies, working closely with Norwegian patriots, blew up the vital Norsk Hydro plant. The Germans guarding the plant had been very careless. To the horror of the Germans, 1000 pounds of the priceless deuterium oxide gushed from tanks onto the floor and out into the factory's sewers.

Shortly after German General von Falkenhorst raced to the damaged plant to survey the damage. "This is the best damned coup I have ever seen," roared von Falkenhorst. Then he barked out his orders: an entire division of the *Wehrmacht*, a force of 12,000 soldiers, was ordered to guard this vital plant in the future!

The Germans succeeded in repairing the damage to the plant and resumed production of the precious deuterium oxide, the vitally needed heavy water. Acting on secret intelligence, Allied bombers immediately attacked the plant and once again the factory's power station was knocked out of action.

By this time the exasperated Germans decided it was high time to move all of Norsk Hydro's heavy-water equipment and stocks to an underground site in the Third Reich — out of reach of Allied bombers.

But again the Allies learned of the proposed move. Working through Norwegian patriots they sank the ferryboat *Hydro* which carried the heavy water equipment with the remaining stocks across Lake Tunnsjo. The Norwegian patriots did their job well, waiting until the ferryboat *Hydro* with its precious cargo was in the deepest part of Lake Tunnsjo before blowing her up.

When Germany's precious deuterium oxide was sent to the bottom of Lake Tunnsjo with it went Hitler's last hope of developing an atom bomb in time to use it against the Allies before they closed in on the Third Reich.

Through this destruction, patriotic Norwegian commandos and British bomber crews scored one of the greatest sabotage triumphs of World War II! Except for their work, the Allies might have lost the war!

### *America's Ultimate Weapon*

One of the strangest ironies of history is that brilliant scientists (including Albert A. Einstein, a German Jew) fled Hitler's Nazi Germany, came to the U.S. and were very influential in helping develop America's Ultimate Weapon.

The Führer's pathological mistake of suppressing the intellectuals and his cruel persecution of the Jews assisted towards Germany losing the war. Because of his insane racial policy, many of Germany's most brilliant scientists were driven into exile.

Among those driven out of Europe's Axis-controlled lands were a clutch of the world's top physicists: Albert Einstein (German), Enrico Fermi (Italian), Edward Teller, Leo Szilard and Eugen Wigner (all three Hungarians).

It was those leading physicists who went to President Roosevelt with a dire warning that Germans had forbidden all exports of uranium ore from Czechoslovakia. At that time the U.S. State Department had not the slightest inkling that uranium was a vitally strategic ore.

Albert Einstein wrote to President Roosevelt in August 1941, but his letter was not delivered until October. Apparently, the Secretary of War didn't even hear the strange words "uranium" and "fission" until the autumn of 1941.

### *A Strange Decision*

It seems strange that President Roosevelt, acting with uncanny vision, made the fateful decision to form a small committee and put substantial sums of money into the proposed project (later called "Manhattan") which these refugees were urging on him, and that he made that decision on the very day before the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor!

Little did the President, or anyone else, know that this secret project would develop the world's most fearsome weapon — a weapon which would shorten the war in the Pacific, probably actually save many thousands of lives; and, at the same time, would give America a few years of undisputed supreme military striking capacity — a supremacy which would be badly needed in the turbulent years immediately following World War II.

Harry S. Truman made this significant comment regarding how America came to develop and use the first A-bombs. He said:

It was my fate to make the decision to use the first atomic bomb to bring about the end of a terrible war.



When President Roosevelt authorized the vast undertaking to develop an atomic bomb, he had but one purpose — to hasten the winning of a war that had been forced on us. We were in a frenzied race with Nazi Germany to be the first to produce an atomic weapon. At that time the Germans were believed to be ahead of us. We knew that if Hitler were the first to succeed, we and our allies would find ourselves in a hopeless position.

Realizing the gravity of the situation, President Roosevelt wasted no time and spared no effort and resources to make certain that we prevailed against the ruthless men in the Pacific as well as in Europe.

The leader of the Manhattan Project was Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, known by the name of “Oppy.” He and America’s atomic scientists had to undergo many privations, avoiding normal contacts with their friends and relatives.

The men who worked on the A-bomb project at Los Alamos didn’t even know for sure that they would succeed in developing a super weapon. They had great difficulty in justifying the huge expenses needed to do their work.

America’s atomic team worked for eighteen months on the theoretical construction of the bomb, and then spent another two years at Los Alamos actually making it. Until the very end they didn’t know for sure that it would *go off*. And even if it did, they weren’t absolutely sure that the explosion could be kept under control.

Some even thought the explosion might set off an uncontrollable nuclear chain reaction that could blast them and much of the world into oblivion. They felt reasonably certain that this wouldn’t happen. Nevertheless there was still the slight, haunting doubt that they might be wrong.

### *The First Mushroom Cloud*

Once they had actually constructed the first atomic explosive device, the place for its detonation was chosen — Alamogordo, New Mexico — about two hundred miles due south of Los Alamos.

On July 13, 1945, in an old ranch house, they assembled the first A-bomb. A couple of days later it had been mounted on a 100-foot tower. After locking the central core of the A-bomb in place, they were ready for the final test.

Apprehensive, the scientists retreated to observation shelters of reinforced concrete which had been constructed about five miles away. As an extra precaution, trucks stood by ready for an emergency retreat if it proved necessary.

With pounding hearts, they stretched themselves face down on the ground, their feet toward the blast tower and covered their eyes — as the nerve-wracking countdown began. During the countdown, Dr. Op-

penheimer was observed holding onto one of the posts in the blast shelter in order to steady his trembling body.

In the early morning of July 16, 1945, precisely at 5:29 and 45 seconds, there was a blinding flash — brighter than a thousand suns! Then there was a loud thunder-like clap, and at the zero point a burning inferno of fire was sucked up into a rising pillar of smoke which ascended higher and higher and billowed into a gigantic, awesome-looking mushroom cloud which was slowly dissipated by the high winds.

The ferocity of the explosion stunned and terrified the scientists. Oppenheimer thought immediately of two passages from the Hindu epic, *Bhagavad-Gita*:

*"I am become Death, the shatterer of worlds."*

And the second one:

*"If the radiance of a thousand suns were to burst into the sky, that would be the splendor of the Mighty One."*

### *A Man of Destiny*

How did President Truman come to be chosen to make the awful decision whether or not to use the A-bomb?

Harry Truman (1884-1972) the 33rd President of the U.S. (1945-1953) was born in Lamar, Missouri, and was reared on a farm near Independence. He graduated from school in 1901, but his family was too poor to send him to college. Since he was horribly nearsighted, he was prevented from getting an appointment to either Annapolis or West Point. Mr. Truman worked as a bank clerk in Kansas City, Missouri from 1901-1906, and then decided to return to the family farm.

During the First World War, he served with the National Guard artillery unit in France during the Meuse-Argonne and Saint-Mihiel campaigns. He attained the rank of captain.

After the First World War, Truman spent a brief period as part-owner of a men's clothing store in Kansas City (1919-1921). But the haberdashery was not much of a success, and Truman decided to enter local politics as a Democrat. Mr. Truman held several local judicial and administrative posts. He studied nights at the Kansas City school of law from 1923-1925, and was elected U.S. Senator from Missouri in 1934, and was re-elected in 1940.

Whatever Mr. Truman did, he always did with gusto. As chairman of the "Truman Committee" he vigorously investigated and exposed the startling inefficiency and bungling on U.S. war contracts, saving the Government vast sums of money.

In 1944, Harry S. Truman was chosen as Franklin D. Roosevelt's running mate. His election to the Vice-Presidency was destined to



change both his life and the world although as Vice-President he was kept in the dark concerning important matters of national interest.

At the time, neither he nor anyone else could remotely imagine the weighty decisions which would later devolve upon his shoulders.

### *Truman Learns of the A-bomb*

President Harry S. Truman only learned of America's super weapon the day after Roosevelt died. On that fateful date James F. Byrnes, Secretary of State, informed Truman of the coming experiment.

Twelve days later the Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, told the new President that he had an urgent matter to mention to him:

I want you to know about an immense project that is under way — a project looking to the development of a new explosive of almost unbelievable destructive power.

Stimson then said that was all he was free to tell him at the time. This left President Truman a deeply puzzled man. On the day that Truman became the 33rd President of the U.S., he told Tony Vaccaro (of the Associated Press) "Few men in history equaled the one into whose shoes I'm stepping, and I silently prayed to God that I could measure up to the task."

Shortly after his inauguration, Truman told some reporters:

Boys, if you ever *pray, pray for me*. . . . But when they told me yesterday what had happened, I felt like the moon, the stars and all the planets had fallen on me. I've got the most terribly responsible job a man ever had.

On the day before America atom-bombed Hiroshima, President Truman told a group of officers aboard the U.S.S. *Augusta* that it didn't matter all that much if the Russians had been difficult at the recent Potsdam Conference. Why didn't it matter? America now possessed a secret new weapon so powerful that we would not need the Russians to help us deliver the final *coup de grace* to Japan.

Speaking of this new weapon, President Truman told those officers:

It is so powerful that one weapon is equal to twenty thousand tons of TNT. It is the biggest gamble in history. Two billion dollars have been spent on it. We will have the final answer on its effectiveness within a very short time.

### *"A Miracle of Deliverance"*

While Truman, Churchill and Stalin were meeting at Potsdam, near war-ravaged Berlin, during the last half of July 1945, Truman received

word that America's first atomic test explosion at Alamogordo, New Mexico had been successful. The U.S. President immediately joined Britain and China in the Potsdam Declaration — giving Japan her final surrender ultimatum. Japan rejected the ultimatum, and from that moment forward, her fate was sealed.

While attending the Potsdam Conference, Truman mentioned this new weapon to Stalin and Churchill. Churchill agreed that it should be used in the war against Japan in the Pacific.

Winston S. Churchill later said that "there was never a moment's discussion as to *whether* the atomic bomb should be used or not." In fact, Mr. Churchill looked upon the Allied possession of the A-bomb as "a miracle of deliverance." He said:

We seemed suddenly to have become possessed of a *a merciful abridgement* of the slaughter in the East and of a far happier prospect in Europe. . . . To avert a vast indefinite butchery, to bring the war to an end, to give peace to the world, to lay healing hands upon its tortured people by a manifestation of overwhelming power at the cost of a few explosions, seemed after all our toils and perils, *a miracle of deliverance*.

Why did President Truman decide to use America's atomic bombs against Japan? Would it not have been better for him to have invited the Japanese to see a test demonstration of this super weapon — then ask them to sue for peace, to surrender unconditionally?

Some time before the first atomic explosion over Alamogordo, America had hand-picked and trained a number of airmen with specially equipped planes to unleash her first atomic weapons upon Japan — once they were ready.

America had successfully tested the first of her three atom bombs. She still had two. What would she do with them?

### *Why Truman Said "Yes"*

But why did President Truman decide to use America's atomic bombs against Japan — instead of using more conventional methods of warfare to wind up the war in the Pacific?

President Truman had sought the best military advice he could get. He was advised that if America and her Allies conquered Japan without using the atom bomb, it might cost her two million casualties. Furthermore, the Japanese would probably suffer even heavier casualties. And much of their land would be devastated in the process. To use the A-bomb to bring the war in the Pacific to a swift, sharp conclusion appeared to him to be a merciful thing. President Truman therefore decided to use the new superweapon. And he stoutly defended his decision to the day of his death.





Truman, Churchill and Stalin met at Potsdam Germany to discuss post-World War II Europe. Also, they discussed the matter of Russia entering the war in the Pacific against Japan. — *American Stock Photo*

Another reason Truman decided to use the A-bomb was to end the war with Japan before Russia had time to enter the conflict in the Pacific and occupy large portions of Japanese territories. By now, Truman had come to believe that wherever Joe Stalin planted the Russian boot, it would remain, unless it was removed by a superior force.

### *What If . . .*

The cruiser *Indianapolis* was assigned the task of racing from San Francisco to Tinian (not far from Japan) with the vital, cup-shaped innards of the bomb in a lead cylinder. Only three days after the *Indianapolis* reached the island of Tinian, where it safely delivered its precious U-235 on July 26th, it was torpedoed and sunk by the Japanese! However, three separate planes had also delivered three smaller chunks of U-235 to Tinian.)

It was most fortunate for Hiroshima that over 90,000 of that city's peak wartime population of 380,000 Japanese citizens had been ordered to leave the ill-fated city in five mass evacuations — just prior to atomic destruction raining down!

Americans had picked four Japanese cities as possible targets on which to drop the first two atom bombs. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were only two of them. Which ones would be hit depended on the weather pattern over Japan at the time of the intended bombing.

As Col. Paul W. Tibbets, Jr. and his crew flew their atomic-laden B-29 *Enola Gay* toward its destination on that fateful morning of August 6th, they were tense, wondering what kind of destruction they were about to unleash on the unsuspecting city.

### *A Ten-mile Hole*

As the *Enola Gay* flew toward Hiroshima, a solid cloud bank covered southern Japan as far as the eye could see. But only minutes later, amazingly, a gaping ten-mile hole had opened up in the otherwise solid cloud layer, affording a clear view of the entire city — as though fate had fore-ordained that this was the first city to die.

The crew aboard *Enola Gay* were ready, goggles in place, bracing themselves for the awful moment when, in one terrifying second, the city beneath them would vanish.

Just before that first awful explosion occurred, the people of the doomed city noticed three parachutes blossoming from one of the three American planes. The three parachutes had been dropped from the blast-and-radiation-measuring plane, and carried instruments to broadcast such measurements.

When people saw the three parachutes blossom over their city, some





America's first A-bomb carrying B-29 (the "Enola Gay") sits on Tinian in the Marianas Islands — waiting to receive orders to drop "Fat Boy" on Hiroshima. — U.S. Air Force Photo

cheered, thinking enemy planes were in difficulty. The three parachutes glided silently toward the city for about 45 seconds — then suddenly without warning, there was no sky left over Hiroshima!

### *A Blinding Flashbulb*

The survivors of Hiroshima described that first instant of blinding atomic explosion as pure, awful light, blinding, terribly intense, but awesome in its beauty and variety.

One eye-witness said the initial flash of the bomb turned from white to pink, then to blue as it rose and blossomed over the city.

Others saw a half-dozen different colors or so. Some said the brightness of the gold and white light reminded them of a huge photographic flashbulb exploding over Hiroshima.

But thousands who were destined by fate to be near ground zero, saw or heard nothing at all! Instantly, they were incinerated where they stood by the radiant heat that quickly turned central Hiroshima into a gigantic oven.

Multitudes of others who survived for a second or two, were soon shredded by millions of splinters of flying window glass that flew before the awful blast waves. Still others were crushed beneath walls, beams, bricks or other heavy objects which were toppled by the blast.

Many of the people of Hiroshima were on their way to work when the bomb exploded. About 70,000 casualties resulted.

The big bang and its initial flash gave birth to a whole succession of after calamities. First, scorching, searing heat. Though it only lasted for an instant it was so intense that it melted roof tiles, charred the exposed sides of telephone poles for almost two miles from ground zero. The intense heat even fused quartz crystals of giant granite blocks.

Humans who were near ground zero were instantly annihilated. Nothing of them remained except the *outlines of their shadows* which were burned in grisly patterns into the asphalt pavements or stone walls.

Human skin was seared at a distance of two and a half miles from the point of blast. Many women had the darker portions of their *kimonos* burned out, while the lighter shades remained unscorched. This left the skin underneath etched with the flower patterns of their clothing.

But more destruction was yet to come. After the initial flash, and the searing heat, came the *blast* which swept ominously out from the fireball with the force of a 500-mile-an-hour wind. This mighty blast flattened buildings, trees, and most everything in its path.

Then a few minutes after the explosion, a *strange rain* of big, black raindrops (a half inch or so in size) began to fall onto the city.

After the strange rain, came a wind — a ferocious fire wind — which



blew back toward the center of Hiroshima. This wind increased as the air over Hiroshima grew hotter because of the spreading fires.

### *A Huge Cloud of Dust*

Looking down on Hiroshima from *Enola Gay*, the American airmen saw a huge cloud of dust boiling up from the city, and long swirling shafts of dust rushing toward the city center. A column of white smoke, mushroomed over the city — standing upright for a distance of about four miles!

The scene below was one of indescribably terrifying reality. There was utter chaos. Hiroshima, as a viable city, had instantly ceased to exist.

The death, destruction — and the suffering of those who were not vaporized or incinerated — was indescribable. People did not know what had struck. Many of those who jumped into the river to quench the fires and burning on their skin and clothing were drowned by huge waves whipped up by the terrible wind which roared through the city.

But even after this terrible destruction, Japanese government officials still refused to surrender!

The United States, therefore, decided to go ahead and drop a second bomb, this time on *Nagasaki*, on August 9th — just three days after the Hiroshima holocaust.

After the first bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, the White House released an official communiqué which mentioned the bombing:

It was to spare the Japanese people from *utter destruction* that the ultimatum of July 26th was issued at Potsdam. Their leaders promptly rejected that ultimatum. If they do not now accept our terms, they may expect a rain of ruin from the air the like of which has never been seen.

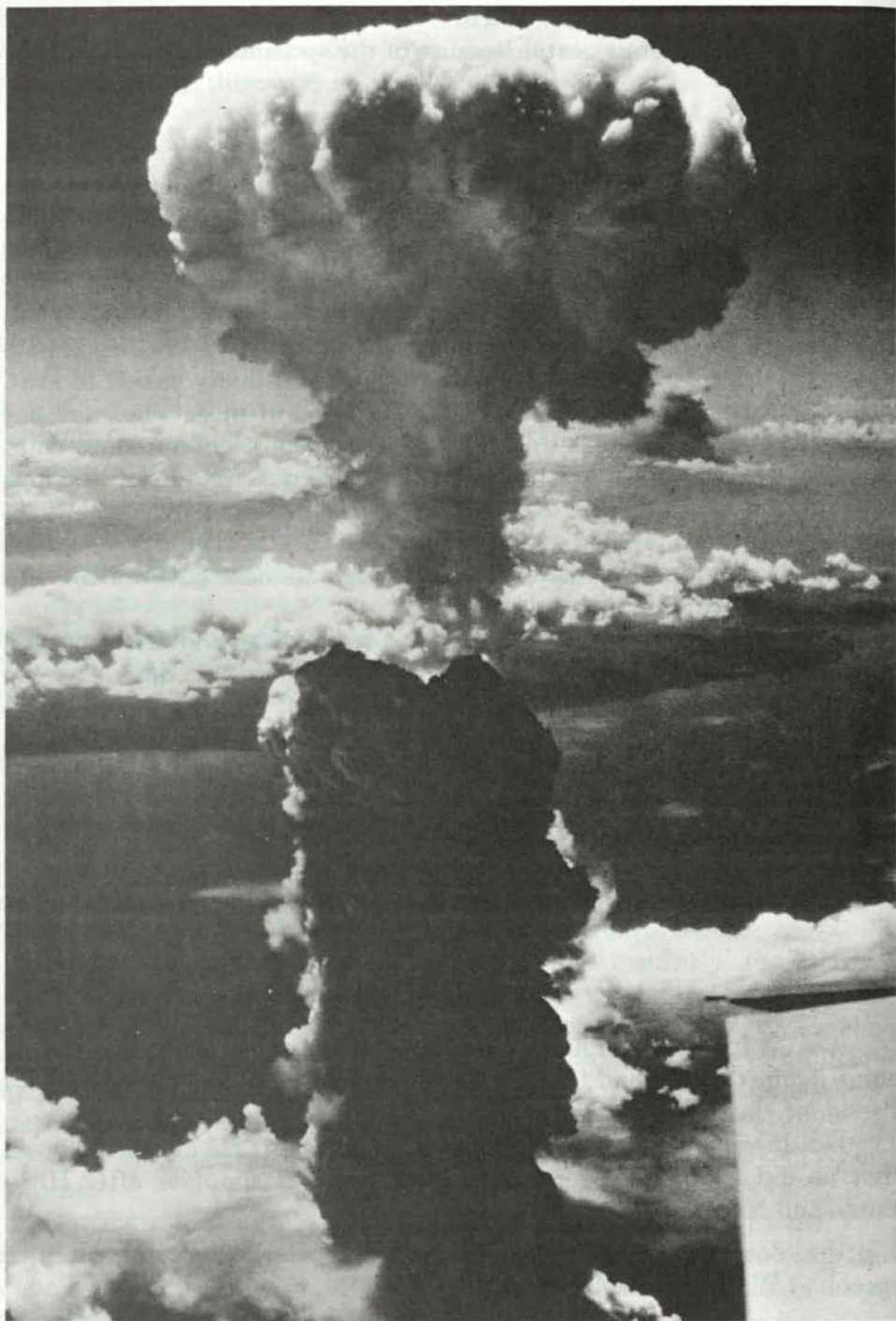
### *Truman's Awful Decision*

The awful responsibility of deciding whether or not to use the A-bomb against Japan had fallen squarely on the shoulders of one man — President Harry S. Truman.

Did President Truman make the right decision? He always believed that he did. Truman never looked back over his shoulder after Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

President Harry S. Truman made this remarkable comment in a speech at Washington on April 3, 1941:

I do not think that anyone can study the history of this nation of ours without becoming convinced that *Divine Providence* has played a great part in it. I have the feeling that *God* has created us and brought us to *our present position of power and strength for some great purpose*.



When America's second atomic blow fell on Japan, devastating much of the city of Nagasaki, the Japanese war lords decided to surrender immediately. — *American Stock Photo*



It is not given to us now to know fully what that *purpose* is. But I think we may be sure of one thing. . . . It is given to us to defend the spiritual values — the moral code — against the vast forces of evil that seek to destroy them. This is a hard task. It is not one that we have asked for. At times we would like to lay it down. But we need not be afraid if we have faith.

### *The Ultra Secret*

Far more significant than Allied development of the A-bomb was their super secret source of intelligence concerning enemy plans during World War II — made possible through successfully breaking the German and Japanese secret codes.

A fascinating account of how this was done is given by F. W. Winterbotham in his book, *The Ultra Secret*.

During World War II, the highest form of intelligence was obtained from “breaking” of the supposedly “unbreakable” German machine cyphers, was ‘processed’ and distributed with complete security to President Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and all the principal Chiefs of Staff and commanders in the field throughout the war.

Just what was “Ultra”? How did it originate? How did Ultra help toward Britain, America and the Allies winning the Second World War?

General Dwight D. Eisenhower fully realized the immense value of Ultra in its contributions to Allied Intelligence during the Second World War. His appreciation for this “most secret source” of important Allied Intelligence is revealed in one of his letters, addressed to General Stewart Menzies, Chief of the British Secret Service:

July 1945

Dear General Menzies,

I had hoped to be able to pay a visit to Bletchley Park in order to thank you, Sir Edward Travis, and other members of the staff personally for the magnificent services which have been rendered to the Allied cause.

I am very well aware of the immense amount of work and effort which has been involved in the production of the material with which you have supplied us. I fully realize also the numerous setbacks and difficulties with which you have had to contend and how you have always, by your supreme efforts, overcome them.

The Intelligence which has emanated from you before and during this campaign has been of priceless value to me. It has simplified my task as a commander enormously. It has saved thousands of British and American lives and, in no small way, contributed to the speed with which the enemy was routed and eventually forced to surrender. I should be very grateful, therefore, if you would express to each and every one of those engaged in this work from me personally my heartfelt admiration and sincere thanks for their very decisive contribution to the Allied war effort.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) Dwight D. Eisenhower

The Germans, even before the beginning of World War II, began designing and building a *secret code machine* (later called "Enigma") by which they would be able to communicate secret information rapidly from top leaders in Hitler's Third Reich to German field commanders.

How did the Allies find out about this machine?

F. W. Winterbotham says:

It was Denniston (a British intelligence officer) himself who went to Poland and triumphantly, but in the utmost secrecy, brought back the complete, new, electrically operated Enigma cypher machine which we now knew was being produced in thousands and was destined to carry all the secret signal traffic of the great war machine.

... Polish officers now living in Britain have stated that the Poles constructed a number of Enigma machines from information extracted from the factory in Germany coupled with the help of their own cryptographers, and that it was presumably one of these which they supplied to us ....

But, even with the machine, British intelligence officers still had the difficult task of understanding and deciphering "Enigma" 's cryptic messages.

Early in the war, the British had the good fortune to capture a number of Enigma machines complete with operational keys. Says Winterbotham:

About the beginning of April 1940 Ultra signals began to increase. However in the earlier days of the war the Bronze Goddess (Britain's "Enigma" machine at Bletchley) was still somewhat immature and intermittent in operation, and, I believe, it was our good fortune in obtaining an Enigma machine complete with operational keys from a shot down German aircraft off Norway. Later the same useful material was captured from a German Tank Signals unit which had got too far ahead in the Battle of France, and again in May of 1941 the Navy's capture of a German U boat, complete with its Enigma and chart of operating keys intact, not only gave us direct access to much of the naval military and air Enigma traffic but was also invaluable in helping the brains of Bletchley to bring the Bronze Goddess to maturity. They kept up a small but steady flow of Ultra until early in 1942, by which time a bevy of newly sophisticated Goddesses, now established in their new brick temple (at Bletchley, located about 46 miles northeast of London) and attended by some thousands of secret people, probed with their dainty fingers the secrets of the Enigma machine and attained complete mastery over all the German signals.

### *How Ultra Was Used*

With a number of Enigma machines, the British were able to "break" the German machine cyphers and learn what the Axis powers



were up to. The top Nazis — especially the German commanders — freely used Enigma machines to send detailed reports of their equipment, men and dates of intended operations.

Through the use of Ultra, British intelligence officers were able to keep Prime Minister Churchill completely informed about German intentions all during World War II. Ultra intelligence officers used a little “red box” to deliver regular dispatches of ultrasecret information to the Prime Minister. F. W. Winterbotham himself often communicated with Churchill on the telephone — keeping him constantly informed of any important developments which might be of interest or value in conducting the war from Number 10 Downing Street.

### *Churchill's Agonizing Decision*

Though Ultra proved highly useful to Prime Minister Churchill during World War II, it also caused him to have to make some agonizing decisions.

After Goering's vaunted Luftwaffe had failed to knock out Britain's airdromes and her vital sector stations, he switched to heavy bombing of British cities in order to demoralize the populace and obliterate the important segments of British industry.

On November 14, 1941, Ultra learned that Goering intended to pound the city of Coventry mercilessly with his bombers. The Prime Minister and the R.A.F. were notified. There were only four or five hours before the attack would begin. All of the services — the ambulance, police, fire, and the wardens — were alerted and waiting. Even the decoy fires were lit, and the British started jamming all navigational aids which the German pilots might use.

One agonizing decision had to be made. Would the Prime Minister order that the people of Coventry be evacuated before the merciless bombing attack began? If the city were evacuated, this would be a sure tip-off to the Germans that the British had pre-knowledge of the raid, and had therefore taken counter-measures. And if the press, the general populace, and the Germans learned the British had fore-knowledge of the heavy bomber attack, then the German High Command would surely realize that their code had been broken. Ultra would cease to have any value or meaning to the Allies. It was decided only to alert all the services, the fire, the ambulance, the police, the wardens, and to get everything ready to light the decoy fires.

In the ensuing attack the heart of Coventry was smashed. Many thousands were killed and injured, and over 50,000 houses were damaged or totally destroyed! But the Ultra secret remained intact!

### *Ultra Success*

What part did Ultra play in winning the war? Consider:

Britain was alone (after the fall of France in the spring of 1940) against the vast victorious German war machine. At that time it became a question of *survival* rather than victory. During the Battle of Britain it was Ultra that helped the British Fighter Command to outwit Goering's massive attempts to destroy the RAF.

During the long withdrawal of the British Middle East forces from El Agheila back to Egypt, pressed all the way by the relentless Rommel, it is doubtful whether, without Ultra, Wavell or Auchinleck could have so cleverly boxed him to a standstill.

In *Crete* Ultra denied surprise to the German parachute invasion. Although the island was lost, the knowledge gained by Ultra undoubtedly saved most of the British forces from capture.

Before Alamein, one cannot help wondering what would have happened if Rommel had achieved surprise for his vicious attack around Montgomery's left flank. At best it would have totally disrupted the preparation for Alamein. With our exact knowledge from Ultra of just what Rommel was going to do, his attack was met and beaten off. *Alamein became the turning point from bare survival to aggressive victories.*

In *North-West Africa* we and our new allies, the Americans, were ensured by Ultra of both surprise and almost total lack of resistance for the seaborne operation, and the final battles in *Tunisia* were fought with full knowledge from Ultra of Rommel's and von Arnim's counter-attacks and the details of the positions held by the enemy.

It was just before our landings in Algeria that the *negative role* of Ultra first proved so valuable; by this I mean the objectives of our own preparations being so evidently unknown to the enemy, judging from the guessing games that went on in signals between their various commanders and Berlin. It was this negative role which told us that we should achieve surprise. The enemy never quite knew where the Allied landings in *North Africa*, *Sicily* and *Italy* would take place. It is true that our plans for these operations had been based on the information from Ultra as to where there would be least opposition, but if for the moment one reverses the roles of Ultra there would have been little chance of our amphibious invasions in the Mediterranean or in Normandy achieving the successes they did. It is, I think, true to say that on these counts Ultra was the vital factor.

Now we can begin to understand what Churchill meant by "my most secret source," and can appreciate why Eisenhower felt so grateful to the "back-room boys at Bletchley" for their most valuable intelligence information.

There were many other campaigns in which, according to F. W. Winterbotham, Ultra played a vital role:



In *Sicily*, Patton, who was made aware by Ultra of the precise position of the German panzer units and the direction in which they were moving after the Allied landings, slipped round their flank and got to Messina almost before the Germans could get across to Italy.

It was Alexander who, knowing the precise distribution of German troops at Cassino, planned the surprise attack over the mountains and it was France's General Juin who so brilliantly carried it out.

Winterbotham adds:

Over the years of reading the signals of Hitler, Rundstedt, Rommel, Kesselring and other German commanders in Europe, most of us who were closely connected with *this miracle source*, as Winston Churchill called it, obtained a fairly complete insight into the way their minds worked, of the attitudes of the various generals towards Hitler, and of the reasons behind their various appreciations, which they sent to the OKW, as to when and where we were going to operate. These latter gave us the priceless opportunities to mis-guide them about our operations with our deceptive plans.

Perhaps the best example of this was Rundstedt's appreciation in 1943 that the Allied invasion of France would come across the Pas de Calais. This document alone led to a complete chain of events, dictating much of our planning for Overlord and the setting up of Patton's phantom army in Kent to fit in with Rundstedt's views, a deception which kept a complete German army around Calais and four panzer divisions away from our landing beaches.

Ultra told us, too, that as soon as things started to go wrong with enemy operations Hitler invariably took remote control, which was an extra bonus, since most of his signals went on the air.

Although neither Hitler nor his top generals ever gave any indication on Ultra they had caught on to the fact that their cyphers were unsafe, they must have wondered why their carefully laid plans never came off.

### *Ultra and Operation Overlord*

What major military operation profited most from the mass of accurate information received over Ultra?

It was in Operation Overlord (the invasion of Hitler's Fortress Europe) that Ultra reached its peak.

Planning the assault was dependent on the precise location, strength and equipment of the Germans in Normandy. This would have been mere guesswork despite the bits of information which the French could send us. Once ashore, endless valuable time and lives might have been lost in raids and probing attacks to find out where and how strong were the enemy. The British Second Army might have battered themselves against the enemy tanks concentrated around Caen, but instead Dempsey knew just where and how many they were. The precise knowledge of the massive reinforcement of German armour at Caen enabled Montgomery to reshape the main plans to allow Bradley to break out to

Avranches. Dempsey was able to select his points of attack to cause the utmost disruption and to pin down the panzers; "for Rommel, it was like fighting with one hand tied behind his back," says Winterbotham.

### *Ultra's "Ultimate Triumph"*

What, according to F. W. Winterbotham, was Ultra's ultimate triumph during World War II?

The ultimate triumph of Ultra was, to my mind, the trapping of the German armies in Normandy at Falaise. Our full pre-knowledge of the German plans as laid down by Hitler, coupled with our knowledge of the strength of all the German units involved, brought out the best in imaginative action by Eisenhower and the American generals. To Patton it gave the opportunity to employ his technique of high mobility. It was the beginning of the end of the war in the west.

After Falaise, Ultra shortened the war by giving all the Allied commanders details of the weak points and dwindling resources of the enemy so that they could go forward into Germany as quickly as natural hazards would let them. This was highly important in view of the advancing Russian armies. Without Ultra we might have had to meet the Russians on the Rhine instead of the Elbe, and they would have stayed put.

How fortunate that the Western Allies had an accurate source of secret information provided them by Ultra during this crucial part of the war.

### *The Japanese Enigma*

According to Winterbotham the Japanese also used the German-designed Enigma machines, though they must have introduced their own variations on it.

Says Winterbotham:

Not being a cryptographer, I was never closely connected with Japanese cyphers but I believe I am correct in saying that as far back as 1930 the Japanese purchased the early uncomplicated version of the Enigma machine and adapted it to their own use, primarily for diplomatic traffic. This cypher was broken by the Americans in 1940 and shared with the British. Just when the Japanese navy, army and air force began to use the more highly sophisticated Enigma as developed by the Germans I do not know, but I assume that the Bletchley system (the Ultra system) was brought in and shared with the USA in order to give complete coverage in the Pacific, since shortly after Pearl Harbour I was asked to supply Washington with my tried security regulations. . . .

Many persistent reports affirm that America definitely had secret intelligence of Japan's plans to attack Pearl Harbor, but both the radio and telegraph warnings sent to warn Hawaii reportedly failed to get through in time.



In his eye-opening book, F. W. Winterbotham tells about America's fortunate intelligence bonanza in the Pacific — especially just before the all-important Battle of Midway:

Admiral Nimitz had to fight two decisive actions in the first three months after his appointment. The first was when intercepted signals gave him the Japanese plan for the capture of Port Moresby in New Guinea, which was designed to give them a base for further attacks on Australia itself. The Japanese plan aimed to outflank New Guinea by going far to the east to the Coral Sea before closing on Port Moresby. The plan was received on 17 April 1942 and passed to Admiral Nimitz. It gave him time to move his ships to meet the threat and, in fact, fight the Battle of the Coral Sea in early May. The Battle of the Coral Sea was not a decisive victory but it did stop the Japanese moving southwards, and the threat to Port Moresby was averted. The battle also showed the Americans the future pattern that battles in the Pacific would take; fought by *aircraft* from carriers and not by ship to ship.

### *Turning Point in the Pacific*

But the real turning point in the Pacific war came at *Midway*. How did America, with inferior naval forces, manage to win a significant victory over Japanese naval forces — and send them reeling back toward Japan?

Later in May, intercepted signals showed that a great Japanese fleet would move to try and capture Midway Island, known as the sentry for Hawaii itself. The instructions in the signal were "to provoke action with the main American fleet and to destroy it piecemeal" and finally it disclosed that an attack on the Aleutian islands would be made which was intended to draw off the Americans to the north and leave the way open to Midway. The Japanese fleet included a powerful carrier-borne striking force under Admiral Chinchichi Nagumo. Admiral Nimitz knew that he was going to have to fight a considerably superior enemy.

The Japanese fleet moved out towards Midway on the twenty-seventh of May, just three weeks after Nimitz had received the information of the Japanese intentions. As a result, he was able to avoid the trap of allowing his ships to be drawn off to the north. *The battle for Midway was to be the turning point in the Pacific war.* It was fought almost entirely by aircraft; in fact the American dive bombers won for Nimitz a victory which, by destroying Nagumo's entire carrier force, destroyed the offensive power of the Japanese fleet.

### *A Dangerous Leak*

It was this most important victory of the Pacific naval war which caused a breach of security which nearly wrecked the Ultra secret. Somehow a journalist got hold of the story and published the fact that the Japanese coded signal had been broken. There was immediate reac-

tion by Churchill! Security of this top cypher, which was one of the Enigma variations used by the Japanese Navy, was tightened to stop any recurrence.

There was another protest from London to Washington over the shooting down by the Americans of the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Navy, Admiral Yamamoto. Ultra had revealed precisely when he would arrive by air to inspect an island base. The brilliant timing by the Americans killed Yamamoto at a moment when his death had a tremendous effect on Japanese morale, but it was all carried out without an adequate cover plan. Like Admiral Doenitz in Germany, the Japanese fortunately did not believe their top cyphers had been broken, and these security lapses did no harm.

These Allied Intelligence triumphs, as recounted in *The Ultra Secret*, are only a few of the many *thousands* of advance intelligence warnings which the Allies received through Ultra. The Allies knew exactly what the Axis powers planned to do. Fortunately, the enemy failed to believe that we were onto their secret cyphers.

It is highly possible that the actual outcome of World War II may have hung on the vital secret information supplied by Ultra. It is certain, however, that this secret source of information saved many lives and shortened the war considerably.

### “A Very Narrow Shave”

Many today don't fully grasp the fact that the Allies actually came very close to losing World War II. This is clearly underlined by Winterbotham. He says:

Even when, after Alamein, the pendulum at last began to swing our way a little, the advance knowledge of the enemy's movements, strength and likely behaviour gained through Ultra still did not enable us to achieve any quick results: we just did not have the men, machines and resources. Let no one be fooled by the spate of television films and propaganda which has made the war seem like some great triumphant epic. It was, in fact, *a very narrow shave*, and the reader may like to ponder . . . whether or not we might have won had we not had Ultra.

Concludes Winterbotham:

To all those who have been brought up in the belief that the *Allied victory* over the Fascist powers was accomplished with some ease plus the will of Allah, perhaps the early chapters of this book will have provided the sobering thought that *it almost didn't happen*. Let them judge for themselves just how much *the near miracle* of Ultra helped to make our victory possible.

I believe that most of the senior commanders, both in Britain and America, would, together with Winston Churchill and President Roose-



velt, have endorsed the views expressed by General Eisenhower that "Ultra was decisive."

Ultra was of great use to the Allies. But was this secret intelligence weapon put in Allied hands by blind chance or was it the gracious gift of Providence?

Winston Churchill — who was fully cognizant of the part played by Ultra — declared on October 31st, 1942:

I have a feeling sometimes that *some Guiding Hand has interfered*. I have a feeling that we have *a Guardian* because we have a great Cause, and we shall have that Guardian so long as we serve that Cause faithfully. And what a Cause it is!

### *Supervising Japan's Surrender*

After President Truman announced the Japanese acceptance of the Allied "unconditional surrender" terms on August 14, 1945, he made General Douglas A. MacArthur Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

As Supreme Commander, MacArthur was responsible for supervising the surrender and post-war rule of Japan. He accepted the Japanese surrender aboard the battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945.

What remarks would befit the historic occasion when the Imperial Japanese delegates signed the instrument of surrender?

MacArthur, in his *Reminiscences*, wrote:

The formal ceremonies of surrender aboard the *Missouri* were fixed for September 2, 1945. I had received no instructions as to what to say or what to do. *I was on my own, standing on the quarterdeck with only God and my own conscience to guide me.*

As the time arrived to conduct the surrender ceremonies aboard the battleship *Missouri*, the dignified MacArthur walked quietly from the interior of the ship, stepped up to the microphones, and began addressing the dignitaries, servicemen, war correspondents and others who attended those historic services. A grave-faced MacArthur began his speech:

We are gathered here, representatives of the major warring powers, to conclude a solemn agreement whereby peace may be restored. The issues, involving divergent ideals and ideologies, have been determined on the battlefields of the world and hence are not for our discussion or debate. Nor is it for us here to meet, representing as we do a majority of the people of the earth, in a spirit of distrust, malice or hatred. But rather it is for us, both victors and vanquished, to rise to that higher dignity which alone befits the sacred purposes we are about to serve, committing all our people unreservedly to faithful compliance with the obligation they are here formally to assume.

*"A Better World"*

It is my earnest hope and indeed the hope of all mankind that from this solemn occasion a better world shall emerge out of the blood and carnage of the past — a world founded upon faith and understanding — a world dedicated to the dignity of man and the fulfillment of his most cherished wish — for freedom, tolerance and justice.

The terms and conditions upon which the surrender of the Japanese Imperial Forces is here to be given and accepted are contained in the instrument of surrender now before you.

As Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, I announce it my firm purpose, in the tradition of the countries I represent, to proceed in the discharge of my responsibilities with justice and tolerance, while taking all necessary dispositions to insure that the terms of surrender are fully, promptly and faithfully complied with.

*Praying for Peace*

The Supreme Commander, General Douglas MacArthur, then invited the Japanese delegates to sign the instrument of surrender. After the two Japanese delegates, Shigemitsu and Umedzu, signed, other representatives of the Allied Powers followed suit. The United States was first, followed by China, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union, Australia, Canada, France, the Netherlands and New Zealand.

After all the delegates had signed the instrument of surrender, MacArthur concluded the surrender ceremonies with a deliberate expression of hope for world peace: "Let us pray that peace be now restored to the world and that God will preserve it always. These proceedings are closed."

At that very moment, the skies parted and the sun shone brightly through the clouds. There came a steady drone overhead, and the roar became deafening as a mighty formation of U.S. airplanes came into sight and swept over the warships. 1,500 carrier planes and 400 B-29s took part in that deafening aerial pageant, as they made a final salute to the participants of World War II.

The war was over, but the huge task of *reconstruction* in Japan and Western Europe lay yet ahead.

*"I Thank a Merciful God"*

Shortly after the Japanese surrender aboard the battleship *Missouri*, MacArthur made the following historic broadcast to the American nation:

Today the guns are silent. A great tragedy has ended. A great victory has been won. The skies no longer rain death — the seas bear only commerce — men everywhere walk upright in the sunlight. The



entire world is quietly at peace. The holy mission has been completed. And in reporting this to you, the people, I speak for the thousands of silent lips forever stilled among the jungles and the beaches and in the deep waters of the Pacific which marked the way. I speak for the unnamed brave millions homeward bound to take up the challenge of that future which they did so much to salvage from the brink of disaster.

As I look back on the long, tortuous trail from those grim days of Bataan and Corregidor, when an entire world lived in fear, when democracy was on the defensive everywhere, when modern civilization trembled in the balance, *I thank a merciful God that He has given us the faith, the courage and the power from which to mold victory.* We have known the bitterness of *defeat* and the exultation of *triumph*, and from both we have learned there can be no turning back. *We must go forward to preserve in peace what we won in war.*

A new era is upon us. Even the lesson of victory itself brings with it profound concern, both for our future security and the survival of civilization. The destructiveness of war potential, through progressive advances in scientific discovery, has in fact now reached a point which revises the traditional concept of war.

### *"Our Last Chance"*

MacArthur continued:

Men since the beginning of time have sought peace. Various methods through the ages have attempted to devise an international process to prevent or settle disputes between nations. From the very start, workable methods were found insofar as individual citizens were concerned, but the mechanics of an instrumentality of larger international scope have never been successful.

Military alliances, balances of power, leagues of nations, all in turn failed, leaving the only path to be by way of the crucible of war. *We have had our last chance.* If we do not now devise some greater and more equitable system, Armageddon will be at our door. The problem basically is theological and involves a spiritual recrudescence and improvement of human character that will synchronize with our almost matchless advances in science, art, literature and all material and cultural developments of the past two thousand years. *It must be of the spirit if we are to save the flesh.*

We stand in Tokyo today reminiscent of our countryman, Commodore Perry, ninety-two years ago. His purpose was to bring to Japan an era of enlightenment and progress, by lifting the veil of isolation to the friendship, trade, and commerce of the world. But alas the knowledge thereby gained of Western science was forged into an instrument of oppression and human enslavement.

Freedom of expression, freedom of action, even freedom of thought were denied through appeal to superstition, and through the application of force. We are committed by the Potsdam Declaration of principles to see that the Japanese people are liberated from this condition of slavery. It is my purpose to implement this commitment just as rapidly as the

armed forces are demobilized and other essential steps taken to neutralize the war potential.

The energy of the Japanese race, if properly directed, will enable expansion vertically rather than horizontally. If the talents of the race are turned into constructive channels, the country can lift itself from its present deplorable state into a position of dignity.

To the Pacific basin has come the vista of a new emancipated world. Today, *freedom* is on the offensive, *democracy* is on the march. Today, in Asia as well as in Europe, unshackled peoples are tasting the full sweetness of *liberty*, the relief from fear.

In the Philippines, America has evolved a model for the new free world of Asia. In the Philippines, America has demonstrated that peoples of the East and peoples of the West may walk side by side in mutual respect and with mutual benefit. The history of our sovereignty there has now the full confidence of the East.

And so, my fellow countrymen, today I report to you that your sons and daughters have served you well and faithfully with the calm, deliberate, determined fighting spirit of the American soldier and sailor, based upon a tradition of historical truth as against the fanaticism of an enemy supported only by mythological fiction. *Their spiritual strength and power had brought us through to victory.* They are homeward bound — take care of them.



