November 10, 1944

Copper Commando - vol. 3, no. 6

Victory Labor-Management Production Committees of Butte, Anaconda and Great Falls

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Recommended Citation
Victory Labor-Management Production Committees of Butte, Anaconda and Great Falls, "Copper Commando - vol. 3, no. 6" (1944). http://digitalcommons.mtech.edu/copper_commando/64

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KNOW YOUR ENEMIES!

A SPECIAL ISSUE OF
Copper Commando
DEVOTED TO JAPAN
A prewar view of one section of Tokio, with the Tokio railway station in the background. This is the largest railroad depot in the Japanese Empire.

A typical street scene in Kobe. This is a prewar picture—photographers always had the greatest difficulty obtaining any but general views of Japan.

Another view of Tokio, showing the beautiful Kasumigaseki, a park avenue at the left. At this time Tokio had 2,400,000 people, subways, and elevated lines.

Japan

The scene of action in the Pacific is growing hotter and hotter. We are drawing a fine bead on the Japs for the first time since the war began. But for us to assume that Japan will crumble as soon as the Nazis quit is, our military leaders say, just plain nonsense. We have a vicious and determined enemy in Japan. The Jap is tough and not afraid to die.

This issue tells the peacetime and the wartime story of Japan, the country we've still got to lick.

This issue of Copper Commando is devoted to Japan. It is devoted to Japan not because we like the country, but because, since it is our greatest remaining enemy, it is only wise that we learn as much about it as we can.

As the war advances in the Pacific, and as we turn our eyes more and more to those Japanese islands which menace our civilization, we shall have a greater need to know the Jap.

It is only smart that we get over some of our illusions about the country. As we indicate later on, too many of us feel that it is a paper-house country which bombs can reduce to dust. It is true that many parts of Japan, being farming country, are natural targets for bombing missions. Also the fact that planes can rake the country once our positions are established, is also in our favor.

But industrial Japan, where the planes and tanks and guns are being turned out, differs not too much from our own country. The big industrial centers like Tokio and Kobe are on an industrial pattern very much like our own—in fact it was pretty much stolen from our own.

Japan is like Germany in one respect. While it does not employ the people of conquered countries at slave labor to the extent that Germany does, it has ground down its own people to such a point that nearly all producers in Japan work at slave wages for long hours.

The average Jap lives on a diet which would kill a Butte miner in practically no time. But the Japs seem to thrive on it—the only real physical handicap he has, apart from the fact that he is naturally short, is bad eyesight. This bad eyesight works in our favor because in aerial combat our fighters are generally able to outmaneuver the little Jap and to shoot straighter when needed. Certainly a diet
that consists largely of rice, fish, soy beans, and tea would not enable a miner to break much rock. In the year before the war, the average Jap is estimated to have eaten about a hundred pounds of fish a year and only four pounds of meat. Today, according to "Fortune," which has recently produced a fine issue completely devoted to Japan, the Jap’s ration ticket gives him only eleven and a half ounces of rice a day. It is noted that some of this rice is unpolished and is mixed with barley from other areas. The Japs don’t like unpolished rice, not alone for its unpleasant taste but because it gives them intestinal trouble. The number of upset stomachs in the Japanese military is increasing daily.

In peacetime, the strange Jap could get along quite well on this restricted diet; but the war has made great demands on the fighting men, who need more and better food. They are getting the best their government can provide at the expense of the people themselves. The health of the Japanese nation has declined steadily ever since Pearl Harbor.

As will be shown later, the Japs live a life of the strictest mental, physical and industrial discipline. Their children are compelled to take rigorous physical training under government direction. Youngsters of primary school age work in the fields and factories, along with their mothers and sisters. This was the custom long before Pearl Harbor and it has been vigorously continued since. Today half of the workers of Japan are women, with working hours ranging from twelve to sixteen hours a day. This industrial speed-up was created when Japan started settling itself for an all-out assault against the United States.

Farming is the chief occupation of Japan and the principal product is rice. Because the islands of Japan are small and because the population is so dense, there is probably not a square foot of tillable soil in the whole Japanese Empire which has not been worked over and over again. The soil is not rich for the most part. It requires a great deal of fertilizer. The Japanese farmer is probably the hardest working farmer in the world. The growing of rice is an extremely difficult and tiring operation and the Japanese farmer lacks modern equipment.

The Japanese government has always maintained a strict grip on the civilian, whether he is an industrial worker in a plant or a farmer. The government operates a secret police force just as efficient, and perhaps more so, than the Gestapo of Germany. This was not simply an outgrowth of the war. The government has always made a point of having the people think only what it wants them to think. And for a long time the government has consisted of military over-lords of Japan, a handful of ruthless and brutal military men who bend the will of the people to their own choosing. This is more true today than ever.

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Copper Commando

VOL. III NOVEMBER 10, 1944 NO. 6

AN ISSUE DEVOTED TO JAPAN, THE COUNTRY WE’VE STILL GOT TO BEAT.

Material for this issue has been gathered from the War and Navy Departments, the Office of War Information, many private sources such as “Fortune,” “Labor-Management News,” etc.

Photographs of peacetime Japan are from the files of R. I. Nesmith and Associates, New York. Wartime pictures have been procured from the Signal Corps, Army Air Forces, and U. S. Navy.

The map on pages 8-9 is supplied by Rand McNally & Company. The cover was drawn especially for Copper Commando by Buck O’Donnell of the Engineering Research Department of the Anaconda Company from a U. S. Army Air Forces photograph.

All material in this issue has been reviewed by the War Department and the Navy Department.
JAPAN is a long, irregular chain of islands, about 1,200 miles long and averaging 120 miles wide. The biggest island is called Honshu (on which Tokio is located); the other three are Hokkaido to the northeast and Shokoku and Kyushu to the southwest. Over a period of years Japan has acquired many other islands, usually by conquest, but these four are the important ones.

The four islands lie in about the same longitude as the United States—the northern tip of the top island is in about the same longitude as Maine, and the southern tip of the lowest island is about even with the northern part of Florida.

At the time of Pearl Harbor, there were over seventy million people living in Japan proper, almost half the number in the United States, but greatly crowded. It is a country of mountains (none, of course, to compare with Montana's) and valleys. "Fortune," in its special issue devoted to Japan, points out that Japan's rivers produce plenty of electric power but that you can't travel on them by boat. The major cities lie in an area beginning with Tokio on the island of Honshu, and ending with Nagasaki, at the extreme end of the island of Kyushu—you can see them on the big map on pages 8-9. This is for the most part flat country, where the chief occupation is rice farming, and the country is so crowded that every inch of tillable soil is put to work. "Fortune" observes that, of all Japan's forty-five cities of more than 100,000 people, only three are beyond the reach of 16-inch naval guns, and that if Japan should lose the outpost islands she has acquired in the past forty years, she would have little chance to defend herself against a strongly-armed foe, for no part of Japan is more than seventy miles from the coast, a distance which in these days is only a few minutes' flying time for a big bomber.

It is part of the national character of the Japanese that they represent themselves as peaceful, home-loving people. For generations they gave to the outside world the impression of being thoroughly satisfied with what they had. But the Jap showed himself in his true colors when he attacked China some years ago.
WHEN the commanding officer of an army lays his plans for destroying his enemy, he learns as much about the enemy’s strength as he can. We all know how General Eisenhower mounted the great invasion of Europe, employing every ounce of power at his command. But before he did it, he took the full measure of German strength. So far as he was able to find out, he discovered exactly how many planes and guns and tanks Germany could throw against an offensive attack.

So the same is true of our final enemy, Japan. The tempo of war in the Pacific is rising; we all hope that the war with Japan will be of short duration. But we must know what Japan is and where her strength lies. It is necessary for our commanders to know the military strength of the enemy, but it is also necessary for them to know the mood of the people. They have to know what the Jap will do under given circumstances.

We ourselves ought to be interested in Japan and know more about it than we do. When a general in the Civil War remarked that “We must take full measure of the enemy,” he meant that we must know not only his fighting strength but everything else about him that we could find out.

So let’s take a look at peacetime Japan. Let’s study the Jap and see what sort of a fellow he is and why he does the things he does.

Most of us have curious ideas about the Japs. We seem to think that they live in a country of paper houses. We rate the average Jap as a man exactly five feet high with tortoise-shell glasses and buck teeth who is always saying he is sorry about something. Up to the time of Pearl Harbor, most of us regarded Japan as a third-rate nation that couldn’t even lick China.

But Pearl Harbor changed all that. We found out something about the Jap we never knew before. We found out that their country, instead of being a weak nation with no industrial strength, was a first-rate power with vast factories producing guns and munitions, with a well-trained and hard-hitting army, and a navy able to hold its own with the best.

So we began to get over the notion that Japan was a nation of love songs and butterflies and meek little people.

In the big picture below we have a view of the famous and symbolic Fuji, also called Fujiyama. It is one of the truly great sights of Japan. In years gone by it has spewed its molten lava across the countryside wrecking homes and killing people. But the Japs still revere it.

The paper house viewpoint about Japan is widespread, but those two buildings at the top of the page should give you a fairly good indication that Tokio, for example, is a pretty modern city. They have plenty of big, well-built buildings. It isn’t a nation of doll houses.
Not too different from American apartment houses is this Tokio apartment house. The Japs have adopted many eastern ways; at least half the population prior to the war dressed American style. These apartments have modern conveniences. The middle picture shows the Tokio municipal sanitorium and another apartment house at the right. In the pictures at the bottom of the page we see Japs outside a Tokio movie house, two beggars with their curious hats and fifes, and a typical street scene is shown at the lower right in Kobe.

THE JAP AT HOME

PEACETIME Tokio, Japan's key city, was always quite a gay and colorful place—in peacetime. In physical appearance, apart from the fact that many of its buildings are modern and well built, it had a carnival atmosphere. There were gay lights, now probably well blacked out because of the hard-hitting Superfortresses; gayly-dressed women in the customary kimono clacked on wooden shoes up and down the streets.

Apart from the slant-eyed faces of the people, the sometimes strange dress, and the signs in Japanese, Tokio might usually have been taken for any cosmopolitan city in the world. It has street cars and bus routes, smart shops and department stores, moving picture theatres and restaurants. The peacetime Jap lived in a very simple way—the civilian life is more simple and rigid now than it ever was before. The average Japanese home was of very plain design. Its furniture was scant—it is customary for the Japanese to sit on the floor rather than in chairs. They dressed simply, ate rice and fish and drank their tea, and went about their daily work quietly.

The life of the average Jap was always well ordered, because he had been schooled in the belief that the Emperor was all powerful and that obedience to the wishes of the Emperor was his first law. The average Japanese is better disciplined than even the average Nazi because he has been schooled all his life to obey. In Germany, Hitler to many took the place of God, and this was as Hitler wanted it. But in Japan, the Emperor Hirohito IS God. The royal line of Japan goes back thousands of years, and to each generation of Japanese the Emperor has always been symbolic of the highest deity. That helps to explain in some measure why the Jap, when he was ordered to go to war, went at it as ruthlessly as he did.

He merely follows his superiors' orders blindly; he is so built that he does not even stop to consider whether the order is good or bad. If he is ordered to sacrifice himself for his Emperor, he does it mechanically. He does not even stop to think about it. Of course, with the gradual weakening of Japan, there has been of recent date a weakening of Jap morale—three years ago, it was unusual to hear of a Jap surrendering. Today it is not too unusual for a Jap to toss down his gun and give himself up. But we mustn't count on too much of it.

Here on this page we show you some more fairly typical scenes in Japan. There at the upper right, for example, is a downtown municipal apartment building in Tokio. Those who believe that all Japanese homes are built on stilts should look again. Equally, the building in the center showing a municipal sanitorium doesn't give anyone the impression that one small bomb will knock Tokio apart. Tokio will be torn apart, but it won't be as simple a job as we all seem to kid ourselves into thinking it will be. Before Tokio is torn apart we'll see the bloodiest war of them all.

What do you suppose it was that turned the Jap from a supposedly peace-loving citizen, going quietly about his business each day, to a brutal and bloody warrior? As we've said, much of it goes back to the ingrained religion of the Japs that the Emperor is their God and when the Emperor commands, it is up to them to obey.
THE EMPEROR OF JAPAN

MOST of us are familiar with the picture of Hirohito, the Emperor of Japan. But, beyond the fact that we know he is a small fellow with glasses and a mustache, we don't know much about him. Very few Americans have been permitted to meet him. Actually even few people of the high councils of the Japanese government or in the military are permitted to see him.

Hirohito is in his early forties, and while the Japs deify him and regard him as the very spirit of Japan, actually he is quite a commonplace fellow. He is a serious-minded man who is not much interested in sports—he is supposed to play tennis and golf only passably and he is a poor fisherman.

Many of us believe that Hirohito has great power—actually he has virtually none at all. He is a puppet ruler. He is hemmed in and surrounded by statesmen from civil and military life who shape the policies of Japan without regard to anything that Hirohito thinks. The Japanese people worship the name Hirohito and the position of the Emperor. Actually, while to them the Emperor is godlike, in the Japanese cabinet and in military circles, it is only the position that Hirohito holds that is important. The man himself amounts to nothing.

If Hirohito were suddenly to go crazy or fall ill, the Japanese government would continue without any great change.

He is like a "greeter" who may represent the president or governor in welcoming visiting dignitaries, bestowing medals, sending telegrams of congratulations. He is the man who has a tremendous wardrobe of different uniforms which he wears on state occasions.

Those reporters who declare that Hirohito has tremendous power fail to realize the difference between the man and the job he holds. We talk loosely about knocking Hirohito off the throne, but it won't make any difference whether we knock him off the throne or not. What we must destroy is the machinery behind him.

On this page are views of typical Japs. These are the people who lower their eyes when the Emperor passes, not because they respect him as an individual, but because they worship the exalted position which he holds.

NOVEMBER 10, 1944.
HOKKAIDO (YEZO) AND CHISHIMA (KURIL IS.)

Scale

100 Statute Miles to one inch

Rand McNally
Popular Map of Japan

Scale 1:4,372,000
1 Inch = 60 Statute Miles
1 Centimeter = 43.7 Kilometers

Statute Miles

Kilometers

Copyright by Rand McNally & Company, Chicago. Made in U.S.A.
Off to smash the Japs! Here is a typical U. S. troop convoy headed for the fighting front.

Army nurses watch troops board a ship at a California port. All these men have now seen action.

A depth charge from a Navy PBY explodes with a shattering roar. Those charges are "ash cans."

A U. S. Navy baby carrier arrives with a load of P-38's. This carrier is a new type.

A typical island scene in the Pacific where the Seabees use bulldozers to build highways.

Camouflaged Infantrymen pass a ruined Saipan Jap sugar refinery, blasted by bombs and gun fire.

Copper wire is uncoiled for communications near Munda by Signal Corpsmen following a landing.

The Yanks mop up on Bougainville. It takes a flame thrower to rout some Japs from positions.

These planes are off to help evacuate wounded American fighters from fighting fronts.

Deep in the Pacific jungles, this wounded soldier is being given water by one of his comrades.

Native carriers pause on the way back from the fighting with their cargo: an American soldier.

U. S. Army orderlies load wounded Chinese soldiers into a plane while an Army nurse looks on.

A Jap zero plane destroyed by one of our bombing crews when they strafed the Japs recently.

Among the war's nursing heroes are Chinese women who serve as nurses to their own men.

This is Seagraves Hospital Unit in China. Better hospital facilities are now built for the wounded.
THIS war is going into its second and, we hope, final stage. The military situation in Europe is more than hopeful. We should be able to look forward to a mopping up of the Nazis in the reasonably near future although it's not sure.

To too many people, that means the end of the war. To too many people, it means that Japan, cut off from her sole remaining ally, will buckle to her knees and give up. People foolish enough to bet on such things are wagering their money on the end of the war in the Pacific.

Wars aren't won by betters. Nor are they won by wishful thinkers who, in their zeal to get back to what they call the normal way of living, can pipe-dream themselves into believing that Japan is a complete push-over. For its size and for its materiel, Japan is without doubt the toughest fighting nation in the world. The leading military experts say that we will lick Japan without question. But let us take note of the fact that the outstanding military authorities won't say when. It depends on the number of men

Pearl Harbor produced some bum guessers in this country. There were many who rose in their wrath on December 7 three years ago and declared that we would smash Japan to bits in no time. There were many who said that Japan had no navy and no fighting force, that it had had many years to demobilize China and had done nothing. According to these people, we would mop up Japan in no time.

Then, with stunning suddenness, we saw possession after possession of this country and of the British empire toppled over, wrested from us in many cases without even a struggle. It was then that we started to awake to the fact that Japan had a first-class fighting machine.

Let's look at the score today, as some of our guns turn away from the Atlantic and start drawing a bead on the Japanese Islands, as the battle wagons of the Atlantic steam their way across the Pacific, as the plane output which has poured into Continental Europe begins to be diverted to the Pacific Theatre.

The weakest link in our Pacific chain is in China. We have suffered no smashing defeats there, but we have lost so much of what we have gained, through the inability of the United Nations to supply adequate materiel to our operations there. We have lost air field after air field in China; we have been cut off from supply bases and routes. Everything we get into China to build a foothold for ourselves must be flown in at staggering cost. The picture in China today is much worse than it was a year ago. Yet the best military minds agree that, in order for us to bring Japan to terms, we must fight it out from bases in China. There appears to be some hope that, with the final collapse of Germany, the Russians will grant air bases to us. But this has not happened yet and there is no immediate sign that it will.
ANYONE attempting to understand the war in the Pacific should get out a map and see the tremendous distances that must be covered. Then they will begin to understand the common sense that was used in capturing islands from the Japs for bases. It seems clear that the offensive war in the Pacific will be carried for the most part by the Navy with the Air Forces working in combination with the Navy.

Actually Japan’s army is rated today as strong, if not stronger than it was at the time of Pearl Harbor.

Two years have passed since we sent a small force of medium bombers over Tokio. Since that time we have made vast land, sea, and air gains in the Pacific, looking forward to the day when we will again be bombing Tokio. It seems certain that future bombings will be greatly increased, and that some day Tokio will get the same sort of blastings that Berlin has had.

But even when the date for large-scale bombing of Tokio is reached, we may still have a long war ahead of us. Too many people suppose that when we send great armadas of planes against Tokio, the city will burn and crumble away. It won’t happen.

We have every right to be cheered by the progress of the war, but we have no right to feel that it is anywhere near finished. Under Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson sums it up this way: “We know that the Japanese will defend with fanatical zeal against our assaults. That fanaticism, that willingness to die fighting, is attested to by the small number of Japanese prisoners we have taken. During the first two years of war our American forces captured more than 170,000 Italians and more than 110,000 Germans. Although we have killed thousands of Japanese, in two years of war we have captured less than 400. I know of no single fact which so clearly indicates the size of our job ahead in the Pacific.”
WHEN the first B-29 Superfortress unloaded its cylinders of death high over Bangkok early in June this year, our Army Air Forces won a three million dollar gamble.

For the A. A. F. had staked three millions on a giant superbomber designed to fly higher and farther with a greater bomb load than any warplane in the world. It had scraped bases out of the far away soil of India and China. It had trained thousands of technicians on the ground and in the air on the operations of a plane very few knew anything about. The big B-29 is the plane upon which we are depending to deal the knock-out blow to Japan from the air.

The history of the plane's production is the history of A. A. F. brains and doggedness and American production genius. Brigadier General Kenneth B. Wolfe, now chief of engineering and procurement, Air Technical Service Command, who for four years shouldered the responsibility for the development of the B-29, recently stated: "We started from scratch. We began with what was still, by military necessity, an incompletely designed, experimental airplane, more complicated than any ever before used in aerial warfare. Officially we received our first experimental XB-29 from Boeing in May, 1943. Two weeks later the first production-type plane was flown successfully. The first of the combat B-29's rolled off the line in July, 1943.

"New crews were checking out in the B-29's as they were being flight-tested. As rapidly as these tests uncovered 'bugs,' the engineers took the problems to Wright Field's laboratories and worked them out. Their expeditious handling of our design and mechanical problems continuously contributed to improve the performance and reliability of our new plane. We were rolling because we had to roll. We were accomplishing a week's research, testing and modification and training every twenty-four hours."

The B-29 will probably go down in aviation history as one of the greatest technical accomplishments. Having once tried her teeth on Japan, she can look forward to doing it again when those in command say the time has come.

On this page are various views of the pride of the Army Air Forces—the B-29 Superfortress. At the top of the page is a head-on view of this great ship. Notice the double-wheel undercarriage. Some of the difficulties we face in our Pacific war can be realized by a look at the picture just above, which shows a grader at work at a B-29 base in India. This is a taxi strip which is being constructed for Superforts at a U. S. Army Twentieth Bomber Command base somewhere in India. Thousands of cubic yards of concrete were used in building strips thick enough and strong enough.

Here at the left is a dramatic view of the tail of a B-29; you can get an idea of the size of this ship by comparing it with the one below. Before the Superfortress can pounce on Japan, however, everything must be in readiness. We have been set back badly by the loss of several of our B-29 bases in China and these are serious blows. Before these great ships can fly on their missions of destruction, they must have bases from which to take off and bases to which to return.
Here a Consolidated B-24 Liberator bomber of the U.S. AAF flies above the swinging palms of Makin Island.

In the Burma theatre, Infantrymen forded this river. Gen. Stilwell sits beside driver.

Transportation of supplies will be a difficult job. Native laborers are helping keep lines open.

We've come a long way since Pearl Harbor. With the greatest Navy, the greatest Air Force, and the greatest fighting crew in the world, we've out-distanced Japan. Here are some encouraging notes on what our country has done.

As the war swings into the Pacific phase, it is clear that, of all our advantages over Japan, war output leads the list. For instance, we produce 8,000 planes a month to 1,500 by the Japs. Pacific commanders believe Japan has lost the initiative for a strategic offensive beyond the range of land-based planes. Japan's merchant shipping has been steadily reduced at a greater rate than can be replaced. That isn't all: Japanese industry has been bombed, to some extent at least, by the Superfortresses. Island skipping has neutralized about fifty major bases on Japan's outer defenses and has brought us to within striking distance of the inner defense zone. Allied forces are in position for another strafe which would cut north-south sea arteries. The tactical ability of Jap generals has not yet been proven. The Jap officer system seems to put poor military men at the top.

In sea fighting the Japs have been out-fought, and as our Navy is released from Atlantic duty to turn its attention to the Pacific area, this situation should be sharpened. In air combat, our record is five to one.

A final fact which has hurt Japan and which will hurt her more: She has failed to realize full value from the rich sources of raw material conquered early in the war. She wanted rubber and oil and tin, but when she grabbed these reserves, she failed to turn them to her own use.

We have not been idle in improving our arms. We have developed in recent months long range flame throwers using a secret fuel. The Locust, an airborne tank that can be carried by glider and attack by surprise behind the enemy, is a new development. We are now turning out the powerful and fast M-18 mobile gun tank destroyer, carrying a 76-mm high velocity cannon at a 55-mile-an-hour pace. This tank destroyer is called "the hottest thing in armored warfare today." It fords water up to six feet in depth.

All these things are on the credit side of our ledger. On the basis of these gains and advantages, it would look something like an easy job for us to knock out the Nips. But let's look at the next page and see where they stand.

Infantrymen pour from an LSI to land on an island in the Pacific held by the Japanese.

This is the interior of a shack vacated by Japs in the Pacific when the Yanks moved in.

American field gun pounds Jap positions on a rocky cave-infested island in the South Pacific.

American fighting men on their way to the Pacific zone of war enjoy the morning sunlight.
This is our own flak, but nothing prevents the Japs from using it against us when we attack.

We have transportation difficulties in the Pacific. It's really tough to fight in.

Civilians must be protected but their mass movements hamper our fighting forces in operations.

Our boys live and fight under the worst physical conditions. Warfare in the Pacific will be tough.

Every piece of Allied equipment must be transported many miles in order to do a fighting job.


\section*{Minus Sign}

The Japs planned this war a long time ago, and even though things are going against them, they have too many aces left in the hole for us to get complacent. We face another year and probably more of war with the Japs.

\section*{Just as most people know too little about Japan in peacetime, so too many people know too little about Japan in time of war. This is no criticism of the American people; it is more a suggestion that we take the measure of the enemy.}

Let's sum up this report of Japan by seeing just where she stands today. It's a cinch that the Japs still think they can win this war. They aren't laying down their guns. So let's find out why they think they have a better than even chance to lick us: In the first place the Japs are believed capable of increasing production of almost every kind of war equipment and military supplies. Before Allied might can be brought to bear on Japan, it must be based within striking distance of Japan's home islands. As this is written, we are still about fifteen hundred miles away.

Before a major invasion can be launched, the Japs know that the vast shipping problem must be solved by us through new construction and release of part of the shipping now in the Atlantic. The Japs know that one of our objectives is to open safe ocean routes to China. Yet the Japs know that about the only possible bases for anything smaller than the B-29 in attacking Japan are on the Asiatic mainland. At the present time the course of the war in China is all in Japan's favor and we have lost several of our B-29 bases.

The Japs know that, in spite of the long drain of the Chinese war and other casualties, Japan's army has not yet reached full strength. Japan has yet to draft an estimated 3,500,000 men.

There are these other points: Japan's industries are largely beyond the range of air attack in comparison with the round-the-clock saturation bombing of Germany. Japan has strategic supplies on the main island and large amounts of materials have been stockpiled. Japan has been producing planes faster than we can destroy them and their planes have improved in quality.

The Nips still have a powerful fleet; they can operate on interior lines of supply while our own supply lines are extended with every victory. The Jap cannot be starved out as long as supplies can be brought in from Manchuria and Korea.

So let's not kid ourselves we've got them licked.
PEACEFUL, isn't it? A year or so ago they were working beside us in the mines or at the smelters or in the shops. We watched them grow up; watched them march away with their chins up. They aren't coming back.

Jap bullets cut them all down, mowed them into the beachhead which, in a matter of seconds, became their burial ground. It doesn't much matter that we killed ten for every one we lost.

The Jap is the most ruthless killer in the world. He fights according to his own rules only. As long as one of them is free to roam with his gun, or to rattle his saber, this world isn't safe.

The war is over? Let's stop kidding ourselves. We've got probably another year to two years of it, the bloodiest war of them all. To suggest that the war is won, that we can return to peacetime plans now, is to break our faith with boys like these, who have given every single thing they had to give.

All they ever would have asked of us is that we stay on the job until every murdering Jap is wiped out. It is an easier task than theirs was.

Saturday, November 11, is Armistice Day. Let's be certain that the Armistice Day that comes with the end of this war means more than the last one has.