

Major Battle For Hanoi In Indo-China

HANOI, Indo-China, Jan. 17 — (AP) — A major battle for Hanoi along a 75-mile front neared its climax Tuesday.

Vietminh rebel forces, estimated at 35 to 40 battalions, in an unprecedented move deployed today as a field army for daylight battle in open country. (A battalion normally is about 1,000 men, but Vietminh battalions may be smaller.)

Gen. De Latre De Tassigny, French commander-in-chief who flew from Saigon to take personal charge of the defence of this capital of Northern Indo-China, said the French were standing firm as the battle entered its third night.

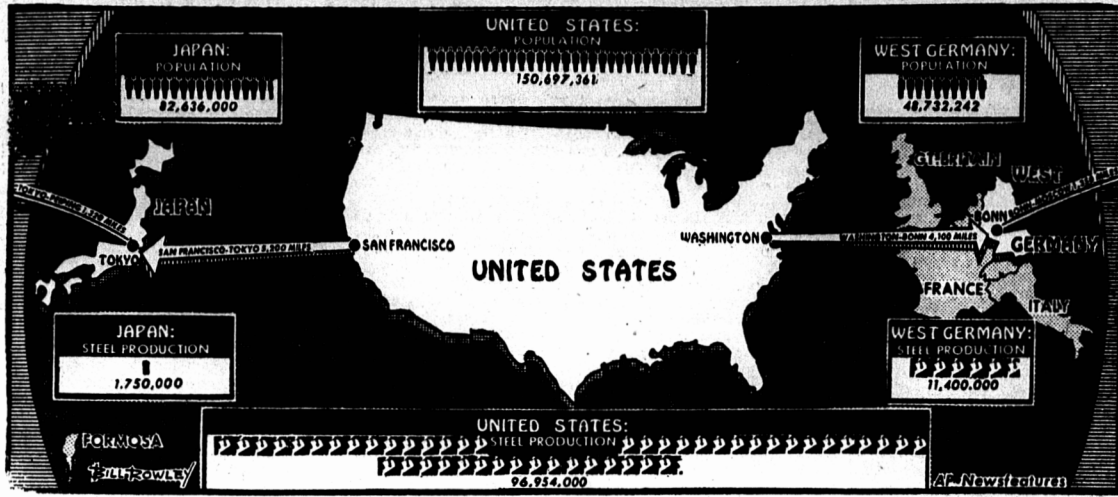
Though the French and their Vietnam allies were heavily outnumbered, they held the advantage in artillery and air support.

Vietminh forces, coming out into the open for the first time, provided "a tremendous target and surety their losses were great," De Latre said.

French Officials Alarmed

French official circles in Paris were described as "somewhat alarmed" by charges in Pravda, Moscow Communist newspaper, that France and the United States are arming Chinese Nationalists in Indo-China. Diplomats in Moscow also were seriously disturbed by the charge. (It was recalled that charges that Americans intended to use Korea

Why Allies Consider Rearming Germany, Japan



as a base for an attack on Red China preceded Communist China's intervention in that war. The Pravda article said Indo-China was a most important base for attack on China by the Americans.

(Pravda said \$600,000 had been earmarked from American aid funds for arming Chinese Nationalists. About 30,000 of them fled to Indo-China in December, 1949, when Chiang Kai-Shek's forces collapsed on the mainland. They are now disarmed and interned.)

A prophet who forecast it five years ago would probably have had his reason examined. But it has come to this:

The anti-Communist democracies seem to be moving toward the rearming of Germany and Japan as rapidly as possible.

Searching for power to hold off what President Truman calls Russia's plans for world domination, the Allies have inevitably turned to these former Axis powers which stoutly battled the rest of the world for five years.

Germany and Japan are not what they used to be. But what they are could be extremely helpful to a western world that weakened itself, converting to peace, while Russia kept mobilizing for war.

Together, Japan and West Germany (those zones of the former Reich now under Allied control) have 130,000,000 people. Their population is two-thirds that of Russia.

Together, Japan and West Germany produce an estimated 20,000,000 tons of steel a year—more than two-thirds of Russia's estimated 27,000,000 tons.

Both countries have come back remarkably from the bombed wrecks they were in 1945. Today they are producing heavy industrial materials equal to, or greater than, their pre-war outputs.

Both are becoming major industrial powers again, ranking with England and France.

The world's strain has now become so great that these powers probably can not sit on the fence, as in a way they have been doing, for much longer. Foreign affairs analysts believe they must soon go all-out, on one side or the other.

If the Kremlin moves in and lines them up, the result as Truman warned in his message to Congress last week, would be truly catastrophic. If rearmed by the west, U. S. military men believe, they might defend themselves—in part—against Communist aggression.

But Allied hopes to write the former enemies into over-all defense plans against Communism will not be realized easily.

For one thing, the Russians object. They have been reported creating an army of east Germans, incorporating the peoples east of Berlin into their mobilized sphere with a dictator's ruthlessness. But they thunder against Allied proposals to rearm the west Germans, and there have even been thinly-veiled threats that they would fight over the issue. They were similarly irate when Gen. Douglas MacArthur, supreme Commander of the Allied powers in Tokyo, told the Japanese that they might have to "mount force to repel force."

Another objection comes from the west Germans and Japanese themselves. Polls made among the formerly militaristic Teutons reveals a disturbing unwillingness to shoulder arms again.

And the Japanese are almost unanimously opposed to setting up a new army and navy unless a peace treaty recognizes their independence again.

The Allies spent millions of lives to get these Axis peoples to lay down their arms. Evidently the job was better done than most people realized. For it is a tremendous task to get them to pick up their guns again.

Parkdale Prepares For Hall Re-opening

The interior of Parkdale Hall closely resembles a bee hive of activity the past few days as carpenters, electricians and stage crew hurriedly complete their work previous to rehearsals soon to start in preparation for their five night show opening Feb. 28, in commemoration of their newly enlarged and renovated hall. Besides the extensive alterations and additions mentioned in an earlier write-up, stage facilities have also been vastly improved with extra lighting added and a clear view of the stage may now be enjoyed from any angle of the spacious building.

Another improvement which will in the future greatly facilitate conducting and accompanying musical numbers, has been the placing of the piano in a specially built pit in front of the stage and out of view of the audience, yet in close conjunction with the participants.

This hall with a seating capacity of some three hundred persons and in such close proximity to Charlottetown will be eagerly sought after, not only by country folk but city groups as well, as the excellent facilities provided now make the present building suitable for such a wide variety of uses.

YORK EVENING AUXILIARY

The regular meeting of the York Evening Auxiliary met at the home of Mrs. Ira Lewis on January 9. The meeting opened with the Worship service led by Miss Evelyn Underhew, assisted by Mrs. Alan Swan. —the theme being: "God — Working together with us."

Hymns sung were: "Standing at the Portal," and "Jesus, Thou divine Companion." Several short poems were read by Mrs. Allan Swan. This period closed with prayer by leader.

The Study period consisted of reading several portions from the Study Book on "Japanese Children in Church work" by Mrs. Allan Swan, Mrs. Raymond Vessey and Miss Evelyn Underhew.

The business period opened with the president, Mrs. Earl Ling, presiding. Roll call was answered by nineteen members and two visitors. Minutes of December meeting were read and approved.

Lunch committee for next meeting, Mrs. William Crockett and Mrs. Harold Watts. Group four to take charge of next meeting.

Mrs. Minto Foster was appointed Friendship Secretary for 1951. The Temperance Secretary gave her report. The Stewardship secretary being absent, there was no report. Friendship Secretary reported sixteen sick calls made by members since last meeting.

It was moved and seconded that all presented bills be paid. Mrs. Minto Foster and Mrs. Frank Vessey are to remember member in hospital. Place of next meeting was undecided. Roll for next meeting to be answered with a verse on temperance.

Offering for the evening amounted to \$1.40. Meeting adjourned with benediction by the President. Lunch was served by the hostess and committee in charge.

end of the missionary's letter, which Leslie was trying to read to him, Red Spear, it may be odd guerillas out of a drawer in his desk, and thumped it with his podgy fist.

"Report from the Consulate at Chungking, Dale," he said, querulously. "Tan Fu's in a blazing mess. And the country seems to be rising all along the river. It may be the Red Spears, it may be odd guerillas on the loose. Anyway, we may find the river route out any day."

"And what," asked Leslie coldly, "do you propose to do about it?"

"I'm proposing," said Samuel Greer, testily, "to ask to accept my personal apologies for having transferred you from Tan Fu, and ask you to go back and get Gerald Havelock and his wife away. Obviously an outpost job like that was too much for the young man. Will you go?"

Leslie Lale grinned sardonically. "You'll stop me going with one thing—a gun," he said. "And I make one condition. You must get a steamer to take me this very evening."

And he was out of the office, and driving to his hotel at the greatest peril to traffic, almost before Samuel Greer realized what had happened. And Mr. Greer, having had his own way, was not the man to waste time wondering how he had got it. Which was another reason for his success...

To be continued

Outpost In China

By Val Gleigud

Continued

"Thanks," said Leslie. "I've only to strap my last bag." And with the faintest inclination of his head he disappeared into his bedroom.

Sheila watched the door close before turning to her husband. "You know, Gerry," she said, "you're an awful fool."

Gerald said nothing, and his silence exasperated her. "Well," she went on, "what are you going to do?"

"I suppose I shall have see the blighter," said Gerald uncertainly. "And that's the best notion you can think of! And you let Leslie go! The moment anything happens you find you're utterly dependent on him. How can you expect to tackle a brigand when you can't even get hot water out of your houseboys?"

Gerald flung his cigarette on the floor and ground it out under his heel. "Look here, Sheila," he said, "I know we've been inclined to squabble lately, but you've never been quite like this before. You seemed to be having a very intimate farewell scene when I walked in."

Sheila recoiled. "So that was why you wanted him to stay on so much! I suppose he's been slow in the uptake, eh?"

Sheila walked to the door of her own room before replying. "I know that I'm only your wife," she said, one hand on the handle, "but you might remember your manners. There was a time when you were proud of them."

Gerald sprang up. "Do you expect—Oh what's the good of talking? It doesn't matter anyway. Thank Heaven Dale's going to-day anyway!"

"Oh yes, he's going," agreed Sheila, and opened the door. "But perhaps he will have to come back." And the door closed behind her, leaving Gerald staring wretchedly after her.

CHAPTER XII

DALE IN SHANGHAI

For these three, then, the months that ensued were the most miserable, the most profoundly meaningless, of their lives.

Down in Shanghai Leslie Dale, to his bewilderment, and surprise, and against his better judgement, found himself still in the service of Harwood and Greer. His anger had largely evaporated during the long journey down river. And consideration and common sense told him that at his age it was unwise to start looking for a new employer after a blazing row with his former one—not that that would have mattered for himself. But he was looking forward to earn and work for two.

He swallowed his pride accordingly, and that wisdom of the ser-

ent which was part of Mr. Samuel Greer's makeup, and had contributed more than a little to that worthy's success, helped him to take the dose without much discomfort.

Leslie received a daily allowance of the best butter. He was treated with consideration and courtesy. His advice was sought by small and large. He was assured that Gerald Havelock had only been a means to the end of getting such an invaluable servant of the Company back to head office. After all, there were others, bigger and better stations, than Tan Fu, Leslie needed greater scope for his outstanding abilities—and so forth and so on. Let him take a few months' leave and think things over. Why not a trip to Singapore at the firm's expense?

For a little Leslie toyed with the idea of accepting that last suggestion. But then he realized that he couldn't dream of going. He couldn't bother with shooting or golf or riding. He found the Club intolerable. He couldn't even write to Sheila, so that he had no outlet of any kind for his longings, and his fears. And he admitted to himself with humiliation, the fears were in the ascendant. He worried desperately because Gerald's reports became more and more irregular as the weeks went by.

The activities of the Japanese had thrown the whole country into confusion. Bandit activities in every direction were on the increase. And Leslie thought he knew enough of his old friend, General Wu, to be certain that that worthy would not be behind-hand in exploiting circumstances so blatantly favourable for his pet hobby.

It was nearly three months before accurate news came from Tan Fu, and when it came it was such as to send Leslie storming into Samuel Greer's office, interrupting an important conference without hesitation or apology.

THE MISSIONARY WRITES

"Things look pretty bad," Patrick James had written from his mission house. "I hear that there has been a lot of real trouble round Chungking. Every boat that comes up gets fired on. And my people are in a regular stew. I believe your friend Wu is in it up to his thick neck. I can't say for certain, but there's a lot of talk to the effect that Gerald Havelock has been buying him off on the quiet, paying danegeld. If that's true it accounts for a lot. Every bandit for miles will want a sip at the honey-pot. I wish you were here, my dear Leslie, and even more, I wish that Janet wasn't. I've tried to make her quit, but she flatly refuses. Says she's too old. But I believe it's because she won't leave Sheila Havelock alone. Which doesn't altogether surprise me."

But why Patrick James had not been surprised he did not say.

To Leslie's amazement he found Mr. Greer as disturbed as he was himself. He didn't wait to hear the

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To be continued

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To be continued

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