

A Free, Responsible and Aggressive Press is Democracy's First Line of Defense

8,420 Miles In 2,158 Minutes

Some idea of the range of the B-29 Superfortress is available in connection with figures released after the epoch-making flight of Major-General Curtis E. LeMay from Guam to Washington, covering 8,420 miles in thirty-seven hours, thirty-seven minutes, including a stop at Honolulu that took two hours and thirty-nine minutes.

The General left Guam at 8:06 a. m. Friday, making the 3,780-mile flight to Honolulu in 11:43 p. m. that night. For fifteen hours and forty-three minutes, the big plane made better than four miles per minute.

After the lay-over at Honolulu, the plane took off at 2:38 a. m. Saturday for Washington, where it landed at 11:43 p. m. that night, a record, non-stop flight, covering the 4,640 miles in twenty hours, fifteen minutes. The average speed was slightly above 3.9 miles per minute.

These figures are based upon a dispatch of the United Press, which, we presume, uses the same time throughout. If this assumption is correct, the big plane traveled from Guam to Washington at an average speed of three and two-thirds miles per minute, including the lay-over at Honolulu. This is a little better than 220 miles per hour.

Power For Peace

Bernard Baruch, native of South Carolina and often referred to as an elder statesman, makes the observation that the United States must keep a big military weapon, with compulsory training for its youth, to show any insipient aggressor that "we're ready" to take them on.

The point made by Mr. Baruch is that the power of the United States, if untrained and not immediately available, will not count in the scales of future aggressors. If some new regime arises, determined to seek world domination, nothing would facilitate its greedy ambition more than the knowledge that the United States is unprepared for immediate action.

If the people of the United States intend to support the world organization, formulated at San Francisco and designed to make war unprofitable to aggressors, it will be necessary for this country to have available, at all times, for immediate use, whatever quota of its armed strength that is assigned to support international cooperation in the interest of peace.

Grumbling Will Continue

As Congress prepares to give new authority to the Secretary of Agriculture in connection with the pricing, rationing and distribution of food, it is rather difficult to determine whether the complaints of the disgruntled represent anything more than the inevitable accompaniment to such policies.

There are people in the United States, some running businesses and some running homes, who stand ready at all times to grumble, criticize and complain whenever they do not receive what they want. This, we believe, represents the background for much of the denunciation of OPA, but the situation cannot be corrected, regardless of schemes, until there is a greater amount of food available for distribution to civilians.

Huge Liners As Transports

Two giant liners, the 31,235-ton Queen Mary and her sister ship, the Queen Elizabeth, are now being used to transport American service men westward and will continue in such service until the mass movement of fighting men is ended.

The two ships have a combined carrying capacity of about 30,000 men and are so fast that, during the war, they traveled the seven seas without escort, relying upon their speed to escape enemy attacks. They are a part of a vast pool of ships that is under the direction of the combined chiefs-of-staff.

It is explained that the cost of requisition and the use of the ships, including crew's wages, is paid by the British Government, under reverse Lend-Lease. On this side of the Atlantic Lend-Lease takes care of repairs when needed and provides stores for the return journey.

Army Lost 92,000 Vehicles

The United States Army, in the European campaign, lost 92,000 vehicles, including 25,781 jeeps, 19,664 light trucks, 4,462 M-4 medium tanks, 1,458 light tanks and 3,165 half-track cars.

It is revealed that it was not necessary to use the entire vehicle reserve built up in Great Britain and on the Continent. This means that the Army had an ample supply of vehicles. In fact, it used only 350,000 of 550,000 general purpose vehicles, 52,000 of 70,000 combat vehicles, and 15,000 of 45,000 special purpose vehicles.

The reader should not get the idea that the vehicles not used were unnecessary or that the high command wasted money in constructing them. In all successful warfare, it is necessary to have ample reserves. No one knows how a battle is going to develop, or how long a war will last. Consequently, it is impossible to accurately estimate the number of anything that is needed.

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The Sixty-Four Dollar Question

ARE YOU GONNA HELP LICK THE JAPS?



Happenings of Long Ago

80 YEARS AGO July 18, 1865

"Poison being freely used at the cemetery. Better keep your dogs away from it."

"A man may be President and still be disappointed in his hopes, just like other individuals."

"Miss Mimie Stanley is taking in the sights at Dayton Plains and vicinity. She will be absent about a month."

"Indiana doesn't believe in hiding her light. She is willing to furnish Presidential candidates for at least two of the political parties."

"What a high old time! The professional member will have 3,000 years from now, when according to scientists there will be 220 women."

"There will be a grand picnic and bowery dance given for the benefit of St. Paul's German Lutheran church, of Royal Oak, August 16, in Brinkley's grove, 1/2 mile east of Royal Oak, on Elm Mile Road. A brass band will furnish music for the occasion. Refreshments will be served."

"Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Chamberlain were very pleasantly surprised last Saturday evening when Mr. and Mrs. Marvin, of Long Island, N. Y., stepped in on them without any warning. They were acquaintances of Mr. and Mrs. C. in Lawton, Mich."

20 YEARS AGO July 17, 1925

"First copies of the Birmingham Directory were distributed to the first of next week every residence in the village will have a copy through free distribution."

"Quiet that approached that of a sleepy Sunday afternoon prevailed in the business district last Wednesday afternoon, when the majority of local merchants and business places closed at noon to give the employees a half holiday. The quiet was enhanced by the lack of traffic on Woodward avenue, since it has been closed at each end of the village."

"General contractors for the new Christ church at 'Granbrook,' Charles H. Wermuth and Sons, of Fort Wayne, Ind., arrived early this week and Monday started the excavation for the church that will not be completed for approximately eighteen months."

"Although high points in the village continued to suffer from lack of sufficient water to maintain a sanitary condition in the homes or for ordinary use, the lower sections of the village are able to get water for sprinkling and are suffering from no want for it in the homes."

5 YEARS AGO July 18, 1940

"Two weeks ago a fallen cigaret caused an automobile driver to crash; last Friday another unusual mishap occurred when a dog fell against the accelerator of a car, resulting in extensive damage to two machines."

"Eighteen modern Daniel

Local Boy Edits Paper in Germany

Mr. Justin P. Buckbridge, former Birmingham boy, is the editor of The Talon, a weekly newsmagazine of the 17th Airborne Division. The first issue of The Talon was published in June and includes a number of line and halftone illustrations supplied by the Talon staff, which is made up of Airborne soldiers, non-commissioned and commissioned officers. It has a circulation of 10,000 copies for the first issue.

Printed in Germany by some of the problems arising from the production of an English-language publication in an enemy country. Appropriately, The Talon is printed in Essen, Germany, which the 17th Airborne captured in April. The engravings are made in Düsseldorf and the paper is stored in Chalons Sur Marne, France. It is German-made enamel stock and 4000 pounds was "captured" by Buckbridge and his editorial staff as a gift from the German government. The newsmagazine is printed by German printers.

With 21 months overseas service, Mr. Buckbridge has five packages of better clothes than the boys in camp and joined the Airborne early in 1943. After fighting in France for almost a year and never realizing his ambition to visit Paris, Justin finally was sent to the great French city with two officers on editorial business on June 26; he was put up in a private room at the Grand Hotel—and his parents have not heard from him since!

John Anderson Turns In 35 For 9 Holes

The scores that were turned in for last Wednesday's Recreation Department golf tournament for boys 17 years of age and younger, were considerably lower than the previous week. Five boys scored no worse than 45 with John Anderson, who needed only 35 blows to tour the course, setting a pace.

Second best was Dave Ballentine with a 44, and Bob Saffell, Harry Price and Bill Beeson had averaged five strokes per hole on the nine hole Springdale course for respectable 45's. The tournament is a weekly event of the Recreation Department and is played each Wednesday afternoon. Any boy who is not older than 17 may enter.

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