

# BACKGROUND TO THE NEWS

## JAPAN, THE MUSCLE BOUND RUNT

Although Japan's population is only seventy-three million, she now controls the destinies of 450 million lives. That's one-fifth of the world's population.

GEOGRAPHY. Japan is particularly interesting to the U. S. Navy. Of all Japan's 45 cities of over 100,000 inhabitants, only three are beyond the range of 16-inch guns. Japan is a chain of volcanic islands 1,200 miles long, and--on an average--120 miles wide.

	<u>JAPAN</u>	<u>U. S. A.</u>
<u>NATIONAL INCOME</u>	\$22,000,000,000	\$147,000,000,000
<u>STEEL PRODUCTION (ingot tons)</u>	11,000,000	89,000,000
<u>AIRCRAFT PRODUCTION (per month)</u>	1,200	8,000

LABOR. Of Japan's ten million war workers, half are women, a quarter are boys and girls well under twenty. The rest are men. Males from twelve to sixty years old are conscripted for labor, and unmarried women from twelve to forty are registered for labor mobilization. Legislation to draft married women for labor is now under discussion. Women work in coal mines, steel mills, run trains, are shown no partiality in the assignment of muscular work.

MATERIALS. Of the world's strategic materials, Japan controls 3% of the iron ore; 95% of the raw rubber; 70% of the raw tin; 90% of the raw hemp; 97% of the palm oil; 83% of the commercial sources of copra; over 90% of the quinine; 70% of the rice; over 50% of soybeans; and she has sufficient coal, aluminum, bauxite, magnesium, and copper for a long war. Her shortages are principally leather goods, textiles, mills, turbines, factories, ships and, most critically, man power.

ARMY. The Japanese army's 4 million soldiers are backed by a considerable force of enslaved labor. The composition of a typical Japanese division of 15,000 men:

- 3 infantry regiments
- 1 field artillery regiment
- 1 cavalry regiment
- 1 engineer regiment
- 1 transport regiment
- 1 medical regiment

In one infantry regiment there are three battalions, each of which has four rifle companies and one heavy machine gun company. A company consists of three platoons made up of four squads of from twelve to fourteen men. Attached to each division are anti-tank and signal corps units. Every Japanese infantryman is equipped with a bayonet and a knife. Every officer carries a sword. While the Japanese Zero is sometimes conceded to be the most mobile aircraft in the Pacific theater, most of the Japanese materiel, weapons and equipment are considered inferior to ours.

THE JAPANESE SOLDIER'S ambition is to either win in battle or to die fighting for his Emperor, and he does not seem to care which of the two fates are his. Since childhood he has been successfully taught that death for his Emperor is The Perfect Destiny. His religion and his personality and his whole life are predicated on this fanatical Emperor-worship. The Japanese soldier is not afraid to die. On Guadalcanal there were 40,500 Japanese casualties, against 6,308 Americans.

Able to go long periods without food, rest or drink, capable of long forced marches over unfavorable terrain in hazardous climate, willing, even eager, to sacrifice his life to advance "The liberation of East Asia", the Japanese is crafty in the use of camouflage and is a foe who demands the most constant, wariest vigilance.

Japan's weakness, according to a recent study in Fortune magazine, lies in its lack of men and ships. "In this country of 73 million people there is the need to keep a minimum of 40% of the people on the farms of the inner Empire", the magazine points out, "The effort to supply food at home and the need to supply war materials to its fighters are Japan's problems of Empire".

## JAP DESTROYER SUNK AS YANKS RANGE NORTH OF NEW GUINEA

Liberators sank a Jap destroyer and damaged two other vessels off Halmahera Island northwest of New Guinea, General MacArthur announced today.

Army and Navy planes, on Sunday, attacked the Kuriles within 400 miles of the Japan mainland.