

南洋太平洋週報

東京通信
汪精衛氏と流言蜚語

本年二月南京で突如政
府高官特別審判即刻處
罰令公布を見、其前後か
う南京政府首班汪精衛
氏の行動が何等報せり
れず、其内には誰云ふと
く汪氏の暗殺、或は負傷
手術のため、來朝等の説
が流布され、日米海軍衝
突説、日海軍全滅、或は
海軍全滅以上の悪質デマ
と、して憲兵隊警察署
の活動を見て居たが、政
府も同氏の行動を秘し

た事が其原因なる
か、三月末に、たりの
汪氏は、圧迫性脊髓
症治療手術を受くるた
め、三月は、じ、來朝某病
院に入ら、れ、た、り、と、発表
した。然、此、発表が、十年
前刺客より受けられた
る創痕加療のため、云々
と、二つに出たため、流言
拂除けの効果は半減さ
れ、噂好の、大衆は相変
ず、色々、取沙汰して、る。
昭和十八年米穀年度
昭と天候、かく、る、秋、は、雨
か、あ、り、し、か、知、う、ね、ど、も、
日、々、の、勤、め、に、田、の、草、を、
除、る。田植前平均体重
十四貫九百九十匁の人

人が、田植を、了、へ、て、計、る
と、十、四、貫、二、百、廿、五、匁、に、
なる、と、云、ふ、骨、仕、事、化、学
肥料の、缺、乏、か、う、く、る、堆
肥、其、他、天、然、肥、料、の、集、収、
戦、時、不、足、の、農、業、は、中、々、
生、優、し、い、こ、と、で、は、な、い、。
場、に、行、て、あ、る、も、の、と、の
比、較、も、つ、ひ、胸、中、に、起、る
ざ、る、を、得、ず、尤、も、大、都、市、
近、く、の、百、姓、な、り、野、菜、の、
方、で、暗、的、内、職、が、な、く、も、
な、い、が、純、農、村、で、は、そ、れ、
も、で、き、ず、公、定、價、格、で、は、
減、収、で、米、の、値、の、上、る、望、
も、な、く、只、政、府、か、う、の、産
米、奨、励、金、で、聊、か、息、を、つ
く、昨、今、米、の、収、獲、が、十、七、
年、度、に、比、し、三、百、八、十、八、

万八千七百八十八石減
の六千二百八十八万七
千四百十五石は天候の爲
と云ふだけにつうい。そ
それに今年は旧暦と太
陽暦との差が僅で冬が
暖く豊年は又見込うす
で故老の云ふ日本の戦
争には豊作がつきもの
云々もあてにならず当
局では食糧対策に腐心
して居る。

太平洋戦局概況 南方戦域

首脳部更迭以來日本側
海空軍は全く引上げた
うしく当方面聯合側海
空軍は獨舞台の觀があ
りカビエン、ラバウル
包圍は着々進行、三月
十一

日及十二日アドミラル
チ諸島中のブジョルオ
ハウエを占領、之等地
はロレンゴからそれく
五キロ弱及ハキロで此
等地より砲轟する砲臺
海空軍の砲轟で十六
日ロレンゴは陥落、こ
ゝに聯合軍はトラクヘ
一千八十キロ、ラバウル
へ五百六十キロ、ウェ
へ四百四十キロの一大
據点を獲得した。續い
て三月廿日ニューアイ
ランドの西北マチアス
のエミラウ、エロムサ
二島（トラタヘ九ニハ
口）へも米國海兵が上
同時に戦艦を基幹とす
る米國海軍機動部隊が

カビエンを砲轟、ラバ
ル同様不断の爆轟でこ
ゝも逼塞してゐるやに
見受けられ、マールヤ
リする攻勢と相俟て力
ロリン、トラク方面へ
脅威は増大した。又昨
今は日本側船舶もあま
り姿を見せず、十九日
ワク守備軍撤退の爲に
か南航し來た六千噸級
及四千噸級の二船及其
護衛の哨海艇三隻、其
日一隻は貨物船二隻、逐
艦一隻が、各々聯合側
軍のため沈められ、ウ
クは於ける空軍抵抗も
殆ど皆無である。二
ギニア、ボガジム方面
戦況も濠洲軍のラム溪

谷よりフィニステレ山脈を越え之に向て前進するが、あり、それには呼應する。イドールより沿岸を前進の聯合軍部隊がボガジン、を去る廿九キロの地、奥にまで迫つてゐる。又一方ブーガンビルト口、キナ方面では日本軍は攻勢に出るが、一般の情勢より見て最後の一戦的を企とし、か見うられず、而して聯合軍空軍は、其餘力を以て三月十五、日、十七日にはジャワの、スラバヤ軍港にまで空襲を敢行、二百キロ餘の遠方より、も望見し得る如き大火災を起さしめた。

中央方面戦況
「パラオ初攻戦を受く」
三月廿九日、米海軍艦隊がパラオを敢行した。日本艦隊は例によつて逸早く撤退、パラオを砲撃、爆撃の脅威にゆだねた。これに本軍は、近づく、い、て来た。又、此攻戦が南太平洋軍の、トラック、ホルン、デヤ、カ、ロ、リ、ン、空襲と同時に、協同作戦として行はれた。た、事が注目し、値するもの、で、且つ、トラック、及、ホ、ラン、デ、ヤ、では、日本側は、航空機、約、二百を破壊された。

ビルマ方面戦況
空輸

及、レド、公路、による、支、米、空軍、及、中、華、民、國、軍、の、強化、に、憂慮、して、二月、日、本、側、は、思ひ、切、て、二、月、始、め、以、來、攻、勢、に、出、て、ゐ、る、が、聯合、側、兵、力、は、イ、ム、パ、ー、ル、及、其、以、南、に、強、力、な、る、英、印、軍、を、配、し、雲、南、國、境、に、は、中、米、英、軍、が、あ、り、日、軍、は、イ、ム、パ、ー、ル、方、面、で、は、國、境、突、破、と、ま、で、進、出、し、て、ゐ、る、が、他、の、方、面、で、は、戦、況、不、利、で、夕、ム、も、と、れ、ず、一、般、の、情、勢、は、日、本、側、に、と、り、中、々、樂、觀、を、ゆ、る、さ、め、も、の、が、あ、る、又、マン、ダ、レイ、の、北、約、二、百、四、十、キ、ロ、カ、サ、に、降、下、し、た、兵、力、約、三、千、車、輛、約、二、百、の、滑、走、機、輸、送、に、よ、

る後方攪乱部隊は三月三日より十日まで暗夜を以て逐次集結、滑走機を以て逐次集結、二根據地を作占活動を開始したものであるが其牽制的效果は他日戦史の書かる、時をまつ外はな(い)然相当大なるものなる事だけ疑なく又映画で日本にもお馴染のかつての子役ジャッキー・クーンが立派な青年軍人として此部隊の一員であることも戦争の人生に驚く運命の数奇として面白く感ぜられる。

「十」ヨーロッパ情勢概見
歐洲では聯合軍不断的

爆轟十千の軍事企画を攪乱、國內大軍需工場三百廿五は全壊、イタリア方面では戦線膠着、且聯合軍第二戦線に備へ莫大なる兵力軍力を割く、の余儀なきに立到り、其ため東部戦線では後退、又後退で遂に南方に於てロシア軍の先鋒カルパシアの山脈に到達、オデッサも危く、それに伴ふルーマニア、ブルガリア、國內の動揺も危機を孕み來り、各要所<にはアルマニア人、ブルガリア人に代るに獨逸人を以てせねばならぬ、殊にハシガリ、今迄十千側第二線に配してゐた

約世師のハンガリー軍が反て危険と云ひ、ハンガリー全体を十千軍が占領する迄に立至てゐる。

「チャールズ」氏日本の爲に惜む
「チャールズ」氏は三月廿六日のラジオ演説に於て世界の情勢を論じ、十千軍需工場爆轟の効果、來るべき第二戦線及伊國作戦のロシア戦線に及ぼして居る効果に言及、ついで東洋方面を論じ、日本軍部が輕々に此無用の戦を始めたに事につま、日本のため、深く惜む、の意を其言外にのべた。

SOUTH PACIFIC NEWS BULLETIN No. 30.TOKYO NEWS:

Rumours About Wang Ching Wei. In February of this year a law was promulgated in Nanking providing for special trials for high officials and immediate execution of the sentences passed at these trials. The movements of Chief Executive Wang Ching Wei gave rise to all sorts of rumours. According to the talk that went around he had either been assassinated, or had sustained serious injury and had been sent to Japan for treatment. These rumours even brought the Military Police in Japan into action, as they were considered to have a bad influence, worse than the irresponsible whisperings about a clash between the Japanese and American main fleets, and the total annihilation of one or the other.

Probably the officials concerned have decided that their continued silence regarding Wang Ching Wei must to a large extent have been responsible for these unwelcome rumours. Towards the end of March they permitted the publication of a communique announcing that Wang Ching Wei had arrived in Japan at the beginning of March and had entered a certain hospital. He is to be operated on for an acute spinal disease. Coming in the wake of various other reports that Wang Ching Wei had come to Japan for treatment of a wound received years ago from a would-be assassin, this statement is not likely to stop talk. The masses, who love gossip, go on chattering.

The weather and the rice crop of 1943. At the time of the weeding of the rice plants, the toiling farmer does not know what autumn will bring, rain, storm or shine. He loses weight as the result of his hard labour.

Because of the shortage of hands in war time, the collection of natural manure to make good the serious deficiency of chemical fertiliser makes the job of the farmer harder than ever. He cannot help comparing his life with that of the workers in the war factories in the neighbourhood, and cannot escape from a feeling of envy.

As a matter of fact there is some possibility of making extra profit from the black market in vegetables grown in villages near the cities, but only a small part of the farming population gets any benefit from this. The official price standard for rice prevents a rise in the price even if the crop is smaller, and the only consolation for the farmers is the government premium on rice produced.

The figure for the 1943 rice crop is 62,887,045 koku, showing a decrease of 3,888,788 compared with the previous year. This is a great blow to the farmers who are helpless to remedy this result, for which the government blames the weather. Moreover the prospects of a rich harvest this year seem extremely slender, on account of the short winter, caused by a lesser discrepancy between the solar and the old lunar calendar for the present year. Elderly people used to say that for Japan good crops go together with wartime, but the truth of this saying is belied by the facts. The authorities are hard pressed to find means of alleviating the food problem.

WAR SITUATION IN THE PACIFIC.

South Pacific Area. The way things are going one almost gets the impression that the Japanese navy and airforce have entirely withdrawn from this area, since the replacement of the leaders of the army and navy staffs in Tokyo. It seems that the Allied navy and air force can do as they like in this theatre of war.

The chain of Allied bases surrounding Rabaul and Kavieng has been further strengthened. On March 11 and 12 Butjo Luo and

Hauwei in the Admiralties, less than 5 and 8 kms from Lorengau respectively, were occupied by Allied troops. Shell fire from these islands, together with air and naval bombardment covered the Allied landing on Manus on March 15, which led to the capture of Lorengau aerodrome on the next day. Thus the Allies have another important base, situated 1,080 kms. from Truk, 560 from Rabaul, and only 440 from Wewak.

A few days later, on March 20, U.S. Marines occupied Enirau and Elonusao islands in the St. Matthias group. These islands are north-west of New Ireland and only 928 kms from Truk. Simultaneously with this operation an Allied naval force, including battleships, shelled Kavieng. Constant bombing attacks seem to have reduced this base to the same impotence as Rabaul.

The acquisition of these new Allied positions not only tightens the ring around New Britain and New Ireland, but also increases the threat to Truk and the Carolines, already menaced from the Marshalls.

Little has been seen of Japanese shipping (in this area) recently, but on March 19 a Japanese convoy consisting of one 6,000 ton transport and one 4,000 ton transport and three escorting corvettes was sunk. These ships may possibly have been sent to effect evacuation from Wewak. During the next day a destroyer and two cargo ships were sunk by Allied planes. Aerial opposition from Wewak to Allied bombing attacks is almost negligible.

In New Guinea the Australian forces which drove down the Ramu Valley and over the Finisterre Ranges is now closing in on Bogadjin and another Allied force advancing along the coast from Saidor is now about 29 kms. from this base.

At Torokina on Bougainville the Japanese have staged a counter-attack against the Allied position. This was no more than a last desperate venture, which achieved no result.

In addition to other activities, the Allied air force bombed the naval base and port of Soerabaya on March 15 and again on March 17. On the latter occasion fires broke out which were visible 200 kms. away.

Central Pacific. Palau Attacked for First Time. In this area Allied air attacks on Kusaie, Ponape and other Japanese-occupied islands have become an almost daily occurrence. On March 29 the great Japanese naval and staging base of Palau was attacked for the first time by an American naval force, including battleships and aircraft carriers. Japanese warships had, as usual, hurriedly left the scene, leaving Palau to the shelling and bombing of the American force. This means that the war has been brought still closer to Japan and the significance of this new development is plain.

Co-ordination between the various Allied commands in the Pacific enabled this attack to be synchronised with bombing attacks on Truk, Hollandia in Dutch New Guinea, and Woleai atoll in the Carolines by planes from the South Pacific. The Japanese air force suffered heavy losses (about 200 planes) in the Hollandia and Truk strikes.

Burma War Situation.

In this area the Japanese, alarmed by the ever increasing strength of the Chinese-American airforce and of the Chinese army resulting from the transport of war materials by air and over the new Burma Road (Ledo Road), finally decided to launch an attack at the beginning of February. The Allies have stationed a strong Anglo-Indian army from Imphal to the coast, whilst there is a powerful Chinese-American-British force on the frontier of Burma and Yunnan. In the Imphal sector, the Japanese have been able to

penetrate beyond the frontier, but in the other sectors the battle is going against them, and they have not even succeeded in taking Tanu. Therefore the general situation does not look encouraging for the Japanese.

In Order to disturb the rear of the Japanese forces, an Allied detachment of 3,000 men with about 200 vehicles has established itself near Katha, 240 kms. north of Mandalay. They built two bases and started operations. These bases have been established entirely by air, troops and equipment being transported in twenty gliders flown down at night in the period from March 3 to March 10. The strategic value of this daring operation will only be fully understood when the history of this campaign is written, but there is no doubt about the significance of this move. The presence of Jackie Coogan, once a juvenile film actor enjoying great popularity in Japan, now a fully fledged soldier, as a member of the detachment lends a romantic note to this episode.

War Situation in Europe Outlined.

Nazi Army Occupied Hungary.

In Europe the Allies are continuing their raids against German war production. So far 325 large war factories in Germany have been destroyed by these raids. As the Germans are forced to continue exerting themselves on the Italian front, and at the same time obliged to reserve forces for the coming second front, one German retreat follows another on the Eastern front. In the South the spearhead of the Russian armies have reached the Carpathian mountains. Odessa is now threatened, and a critical internal situation is fast developing in Roumania, as well as in Bulgaria. In all vital positions in these countries Roumanian and Bulgarian troops must be replaced by German soldiers. As a result of these developments of the war in Eastern Europe the Hungarian army, consisting of about 30 divisions which up to now was considered as a second line reserve for the Germans, has on the contrary become a liability, and the Nazi army has carried out the total occupation of Hungary.

Churchill deploras foolishness of the military clique for the sake of Japan.

The British Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, in a radio speech on March 26, dealt with the world war situation. He described the effect of the attacks on war industry in Germany, and spoke of the effect of the projected second front together with the fighting in Italy on the fighting on the Russian fronts. Turning to the Far East, he criticised the rashness of the Japanese military government in lightheartedly starting this unnecessary war. In his words a deep feeling of regret for the Japanese people, who will have to bear the consequences of this rash action, were clearly implied.