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'Race of Giants' Takes Over Japan With Ease of Well-Oiled Machine

**Awed People, Now Friendlier,
Make Little Trouble; Occupation
Force May Be Home in a Year**



*How do you say it? GI with
rickshaw man*

The little hills around the Japanese naval base of Katsuura shook to the roar of explosions. Plumes of dark smoke floated over the pines. In half a day, American sailors blew 34 Jap suicide boats out of the gently swelling water. At base headquarters, they rounded up an impressive collection of machine guns, rifles, pistols, and mortars. Huge caches of ammunition and beach mines were found nearby in sandy caves.

In this fashion, United States forces last week turned one Jap stronghold after another into harmless villages. All over the enemy home islands, Army teams gathered in Jap weapons at designated stations. Mercy units fanned out in search of remote prison camps. The Americans unlimbered bulldozers, cranes, and trucks to clear off camp sites. The occupation of the enemy homeland at last had swung into high gear. The identity and location of nearly all American divisions to be used in the occupation of Japan and Korea had been revealed.

And on Monday General MacArthur revealed that the occupation forces would be only half the size originally scheduled: "Within six months, the occupational force—unless unseen factors arise—will probably number not more than 200,000 men. This size probably is within the framework of our projected regular establishment and will permit the complete demobilization of our citizen Pacific forces, which fought so long and so nobly through to victory."

“Race of Giants”

Welcome for Giants: Curious and awed, increasingly friendly Japanese flocked to watch what they called the “race of giants” at work. The children began to hail them with a garbled version of “hello.” Merchants scraped together stocks of silk prints, brocades, and lacquerware in anticipation of a land-office business. But most of the troops were too busy to visit the fire-seared shops or to go sight-seeing through the shattered cities and the poverty-stricken countryside.

For the most part, the Japanese made no trouble. But other difficulties beset Army and Navy officers. They had to transport large numbers of troops over partly damaged rail lines to ports and key cities on the main home islands. Soldiers slated to occupy the chill, gloomy island of Hokkaido had to be reequipped with winter clothing within the next few weeks. (Snow begins to fall in Hokkaido in late October and covers it with 10 to 20 inches for five months.)

Some enemy cities were too disease-ridden and filthy for immediate occupation. Navy doctors revealed that dysentery, typhoid fever, typhus, diphtheria, and tuberculosis ran unchecked in two towns. In another area, 40 per cent of the Japanese men examined suffered from trachoma.

Despite these problems, the occupation moved ahead smoothly. If the Japs continued to cooperate, said Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger, Eighth Army commander, the occupation force might be home in a year.