

## PACIFIC DRAMA

No. 1091...12..8..1941  
Title: General Died At Dawn.  
Track: Persons In Hiding.

1091  
Lines: Stagg.  
Voice: Do.

Indo-China, blackmailed out of French control with the connivance of Vichy, is practically in Japanese hands. Along with other cities of this rich land Saigon finds its leisurely civilization jostled aside by the yellow sub-men of the would-be, all-conquering Japan. A Statue of Liberty stands at Hanoi, but the French forces that safeguarded liberty, here marching past Governor-General, Admiral Decoux, have in effect abdicated, in favour of the greatest enemy of freedom outside of Germany.

Government House was still guarded by French marines as Arthur Menken took rapid stock of the situation.

General Sumita (left), with the typical grin that will have to be knocked off the face of Japan, presented Government House with his country's demands - a Jap plane overhead ... Now the yellow men swagger unopposed through the country that was the brightest jewel of the French Eastern Empire.

The border-dispute between Thailand and Indo-China gave Japan the chance to impose herself on both countries as mediator. General Sumita ruled that Thailand should recover some territory from Indo-China, and powerless to oppose, the French knew they had been virtually served with notice to quit. Having bluffed for ten years the Japs believe they can get away with it indefinitely.

On the Thailand frontier the dispute left some scars of war. But now that Japan reveals herself as an enemy Thailand mans her frontier, declares she will fight to the last man and, if she must retreat, will leave only the scorched earth behind.

Indo-China herself is the rich prize which has dropped into Japanese hands without a single shot fired. Her riches include rubber, and as Britain and America have frozen all trade with Japan an assured rubber supply of 20-thousand tons annually is a godsend to the yellow armies.

Indo-China's coal mines produce more than a million tons every year. Making his survey of the country on the eve of Japan's deal with Vichy, Arthur Menken obtained pictures which show that Indo-China will be an arsenal for the Axis partner of the Far East.

(continued)

(1 Scene without voice: GV UP RIVER) And not only an arsenal. Supplies of rice, staple food of the conqueror, will partly compensate for the dangerous falling off in Japan's own production.

Wolfram, used in high-class steel, is another mineral of which Japan can't have too much.

Millions of gallons of oil that was on its way to China will never reach there. This rich find will now fuel the planes and warships of China's enemy.

Sailing from Saigon to an unstated destination Japan's men-of-war, like her army, seem all set to spread the war to the Pacific.

Barely 900 miles from Hongkong, less than 700 from Singapore Japan in Indo-China menaces British Far Eastern strongholds, the Dutch East Indies and Australia herself.

The present threat to Singapore was foreseen long ago. Large contingents of Australians reinforced the garrison. The Commonwealth Premier, Mr. Menzies, thoroughly alive to the danger, reminds his countrymen that Singapore is now Australia's frontier. By air, sea and land Britain is prepared. If Japan strikes anew, the A B C front, America, Britain, China, will contest her. Appeasement is past. The British bombers are in the air.

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1091

May 19, 1941

3-PS-180

T:  
BG:  
EFF:  
Park  
Martyn  
exc.  
76

OFF STAGE VOICE--ARSENAL FOR THE  
AXIS

Mr. Park  
Miss Steinkamp  
England  
Cutter  
Foreign Dep't  
AP  
FILE

1. INDO-CHINA----ARSENAL FOR THE AXIS
3. But--it's a changing Indo-China, My Very first impression in this modernized city, Hanoi, is of the bitter irony symbolized by the miniature Statue of Liberty.
7. For here, so close to Manila, Singapore, and the Dutch East Indies, I find the Japanese Army "cock of the walk". The army rules.
8. French government house at Hanoi is a monument to the France of yesterday.
10. sentries--but overhead, Jap planes--and plenty of them. I wasn't supposed to photograph them.
11. The French have just about as much real power left, as the traditional Emperor--
22. His Imperial Majesty Bao Dai, Lord of Annam, regular fellow, too--dignified, but obliging. His Majesty's ancestors possessed the whole country from the amazingly beautiful palace. Then the French came. And now it's the Japs. So I took my way to their headquarters.
23. General Sumita, left, with Consul General Ogawa received me courteously. But
29. firmly he told me, "So sorry, so very sorry, but not pictures of Japanese troop activities". Yes, he said, I might make pictures of officers off duty, and of soldiers off duty in the city streets. So I picture for you the individuals; your mind's eye, however, can see the regiments;
30. French and Japanese Army & Navy and air corps officers watched everything I
35. photographed. As, for instance, the American oil company plants--well-guarded day and night by the Jap sentries conveniently prdered out of sight as I arrived. American companies have no choice of customers. They sell to Japan. Period.
36. In huge storage sheds, well-guarded--by Japs---are many millions in American
39. supplies addressed to China, and caught here...another juicy plum in Indo-China, Japan's new arsenal for the Axis.