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Chennault Says War in East Can Be Won in Air

Believes Japan Army Would
Collapse if Shipping and
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UNITED STATES 14TH AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, China, Feb. 22 (delayed) (UP).—Major General Claire L. Chennault asserted today that the Allies could accomplish the same destruction in Japan as is being achieved in Germany with only one-tenth of the air force used against Hitler.

The commander of the 14th Air Force, who visited Japan before the war and studied her industrial life, has definite ideas on where to strike the death blows at the enemy.

Contrary to the popular conception of Tokio as a mass of inflammable paper houses, American airmen here point out that the Japanese capital is a modern city with brick apartment buildings and fire lanes built after the disastrous earthquake of 1923. Japan's most vulnerable targets are her industrial cities, such as Osaka and Kobe; the coal mines in occupied northern China, Manchuria's heavy industry and shipping supply lines over which Chennault's flyers are now astride.

Chennault believes that if he could knock out the enemy shipping lanes in the South China Sea and Yangtze River and railways in northern China, Japan's industrial machine and army would collapse easily.

However, bombing the "industrial guts out of Japan" is not an overnight job. Every drop of gasoline, bomb and spare part used by the 14th Air Force must be flown "over the hump" from India, where the tonnage and flying days are limited. Air bases in China must be built by coolie labor.

The Japanese also have a well placed and easily supplied circle of defensive fighter bases