

SOURCE INFORMATION

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Resting at anchor in mid channel, SANTA FE (right) and sister ship MOBILE lend force to occupation of Sasebo, Kyushu naval base.

THE OCCUPATION OF JAPAN

SANTA FE, FLAGSHIP OF AREA COMMANDER, TOURS ENEMY HOMELAND

ON 21 September the SANTA FE first sighted the rocky, jumbled coastline of Japan. Her new job of aiding the occupation of a nation still not invaded had begun. Almost forgotten in the excitement and curiosity of steaming up the channel toward Kyushu's once great naval base of Sasebo were the end of the War on 14 August, the cancelled bombardment of Wake, and the three weeks spent at Okinawa's typhoon-plagued Buckner Bay.

Although it was still overseas duty, the pleasant indolence of occupation duty was a happy change from rugged wartime routine. Sightseeing tours were organized as soon as troops were established ashore. The curious, souvenir-hungry sailors found different articles to purchase, got different impressions of the tiny, bow-legged, odiferous Nips, and had different tall tales to tell about geisha houses, department stores, or trolley rides. A complete story of how the men spent their Yen (exchange rate, 15 yen per dollar) in those few hours ashore would fill volumes.

After being moored almost four weeks in Sasebo the

SANTA FE left on 8 October for Honshu. A sudden typhoon blowing up from Okinawa forced a two-day stop at Nagasaki and gave all hands a chance to inspect the atomic bomb's awful destructive power. The first port on Honshu to be visited was Wakayama. After only a 24-hour stay, the SANTA FE departed for Yokosuka, located at Tokyo Bay's entrance. With both Tokyo and Yokohama as liberty ports and with the Emperor's palace, the Imperial Hotel, and the Ginza district near at hand, time passed quickly.

On 17 October Captain Fitz was relieved by Captain Freeman, and a few hours later orders were received to sail to Ominato for duty as Flagship of Commander Northern Japan Area. For nearly a month the "Lucky Lady" swung at anchor in Ominato Ko. Except for a four day sojourn to Otaru, Hakodate, and Aomori, the stay was uneventful. On 14 November the Flag was transferred to the QUINCY and the SANTA FE became part of the Magic Carpet operation. Next day she sailed south to Saipan to embark high-point personnel and then headed for the States.

*CITY MISSING AT LEFT IS NAGASAKI.



Nipponese gendarme directs traffic while U.S. sailors and soldiers standing idly on sidewalk watch little pedestrians file into corner's damaged department store. Location is Ginza Avenue in heart of downtown Toyko's pre-war American section.



Still wearing national, semi-military clothes, Japanese civilians stand patiently waiting to get into local movie house.

JAPANESE PEOPLE

NIPS ARE IGNORANT, POOR RACE

WHAT the history and geography texts back at school said about these oriental people and what actually greeted the SANTA FE'S sight-seeing crewmen were vastly different stories. As usual, the on-the-spot observations of curious sailors produced what was probably the truer picture. Certainly it was the most candid.

The Jap male was a short, stocky individual, usually not more than five feet in height. His expression was blankly stoical, broken only by the frequent inward sucking "hiss" that supposedly indicated modest politeness. The oft-heard description, "monkey-like" turned out to be more



Young Sasebo Japs walk through typical passage between crowded buildings. Girl's pantaloons-like pants are wartime innovation.



Funeral procession parades down street of Otaru. White boxes slung from their necks contain ashes of deceased relatives.



Group of well-fed, poorly dressed urchins willingly pose for photographer. At this age slant-eyed Japs are harmless.



"Squat Shop" or sidewalk store is the Japanese answer to insatiable demand of U. S. servicemen for any kind of souvenir.

truth than fiction. Their yellowish skin, ignorant and brutal features, and the peculiar shuffling gait of too-short legs all contributed to the amazing resemblance.

Personal hygiene and cleanliness, at least among nine out of ten Nips, were absolutely foreign ideas. Lifebuoy soap could make a fortune, for the body odor of the Jap was indescribable. Sanitation facilities of even the humble "Chic Sale" variety were practically non-existent, consequently almost anywhere was socially correct.

The Jap women were carbon copies of their men in looks, build, deportment and odor. Their dress, fashioned after the time-honored kimono, was a universal, wartime innovation closely resembling a ski-suit. The most important segment of the population was the Geisha Girl element, or at least what passed as such. The Geishas seemed quite glad the Americans landed; for, not only were they coining a mint, but a genuine attraction had grown up for the big "Mer'can".

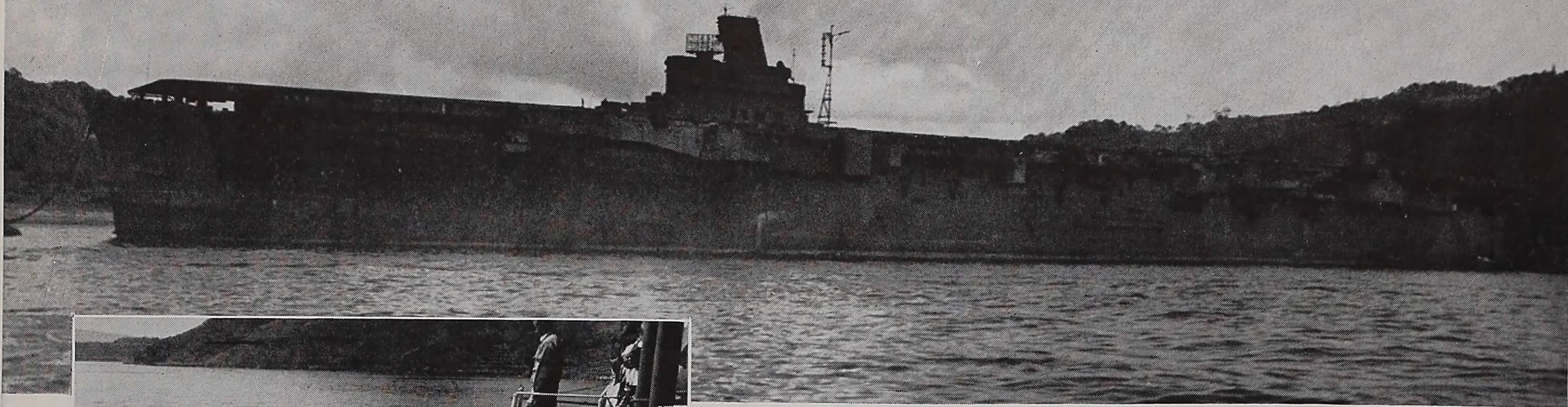


Geisha Girls before their Ominato "house" give out with "come hither" look. Left girl reportedly can sing "Shoo-Shoo Baby".

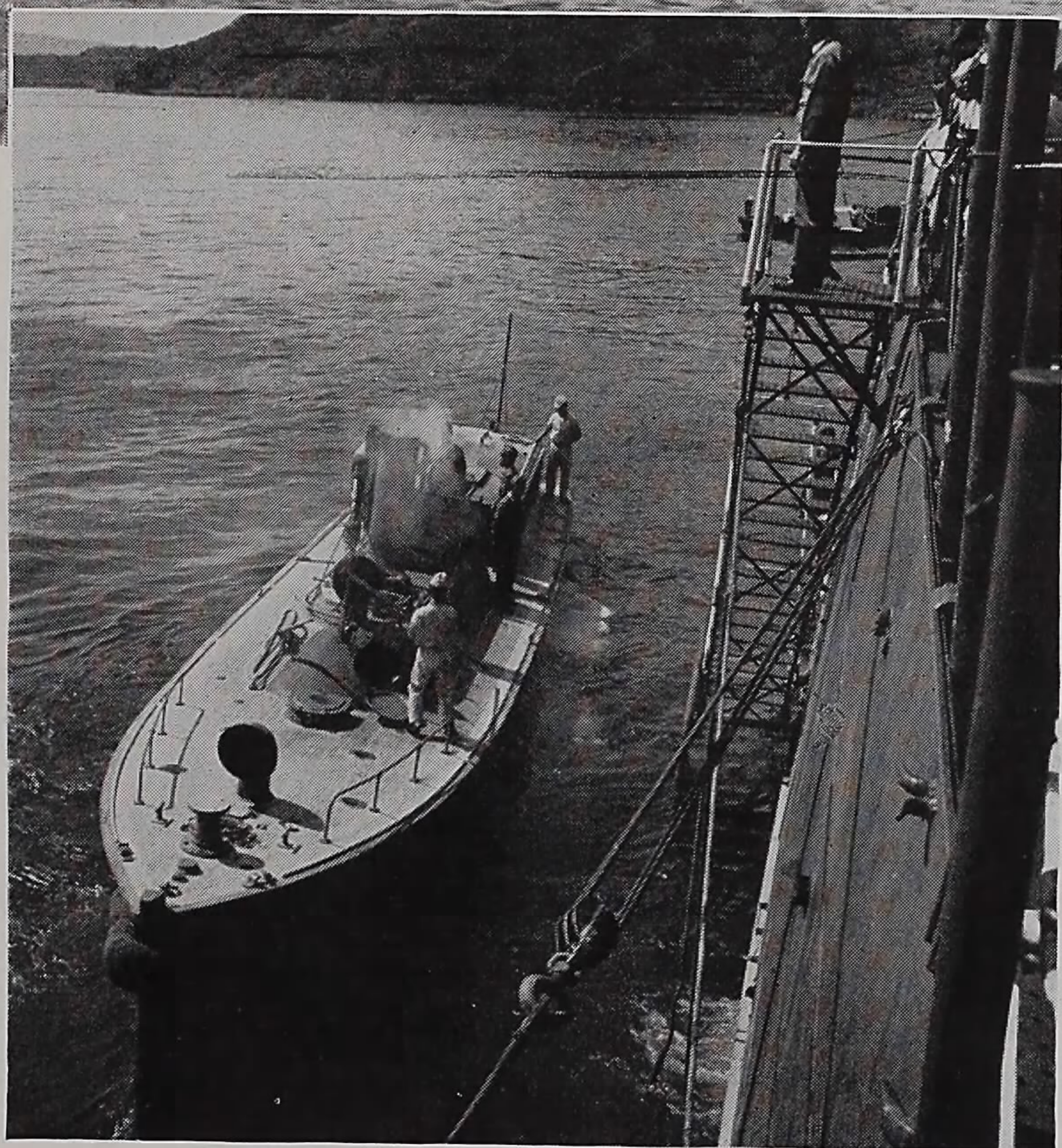


Monkey-like Jap males hold "field day" in one corner of public bath in Yokahama, while womenfolk scrub down similarly on their side of building. Soap and running water, taken for granted in U. S., are practically non-existent in foul-smelling Nippon.

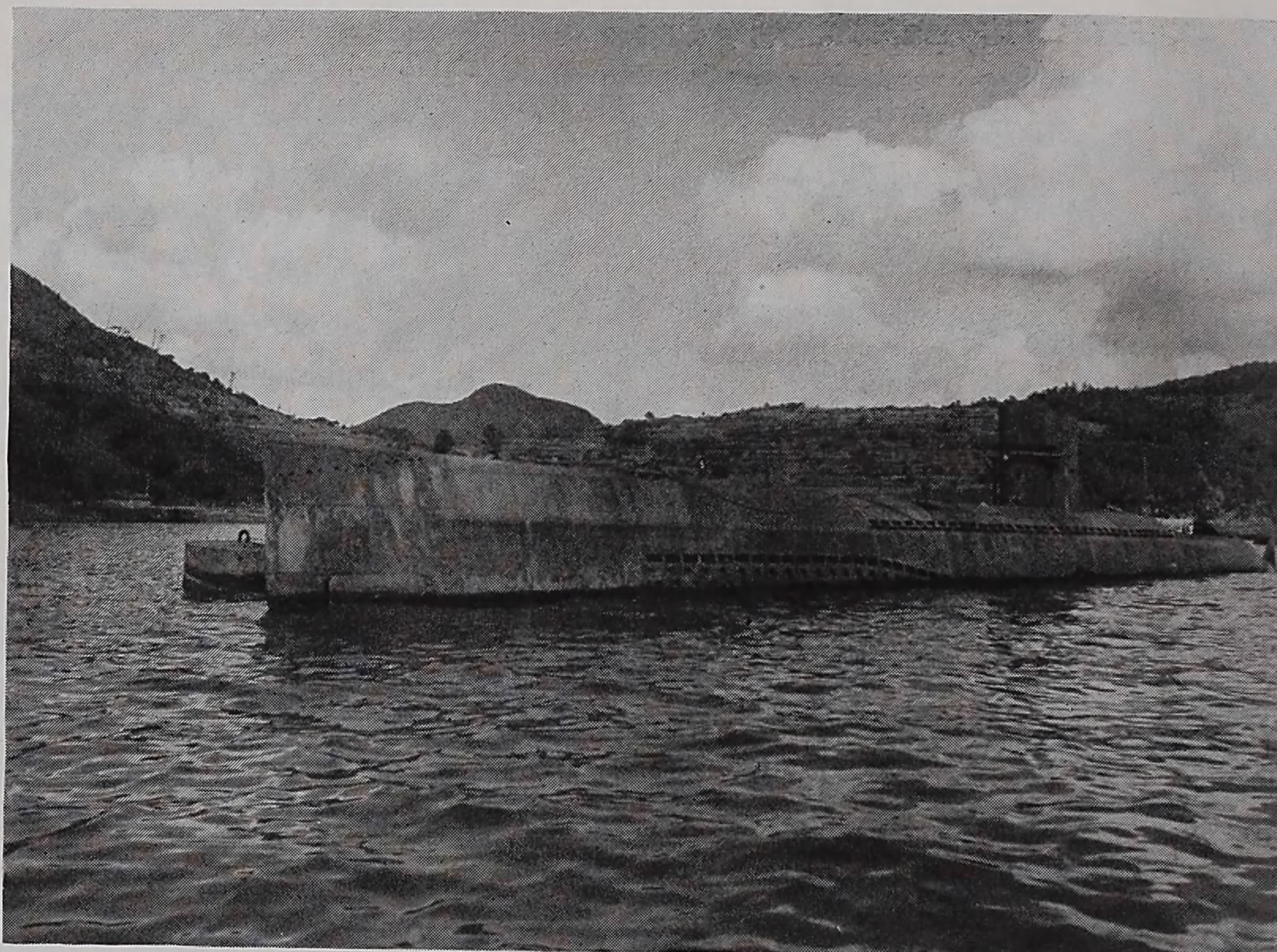
NIP NAVY REMNANTS



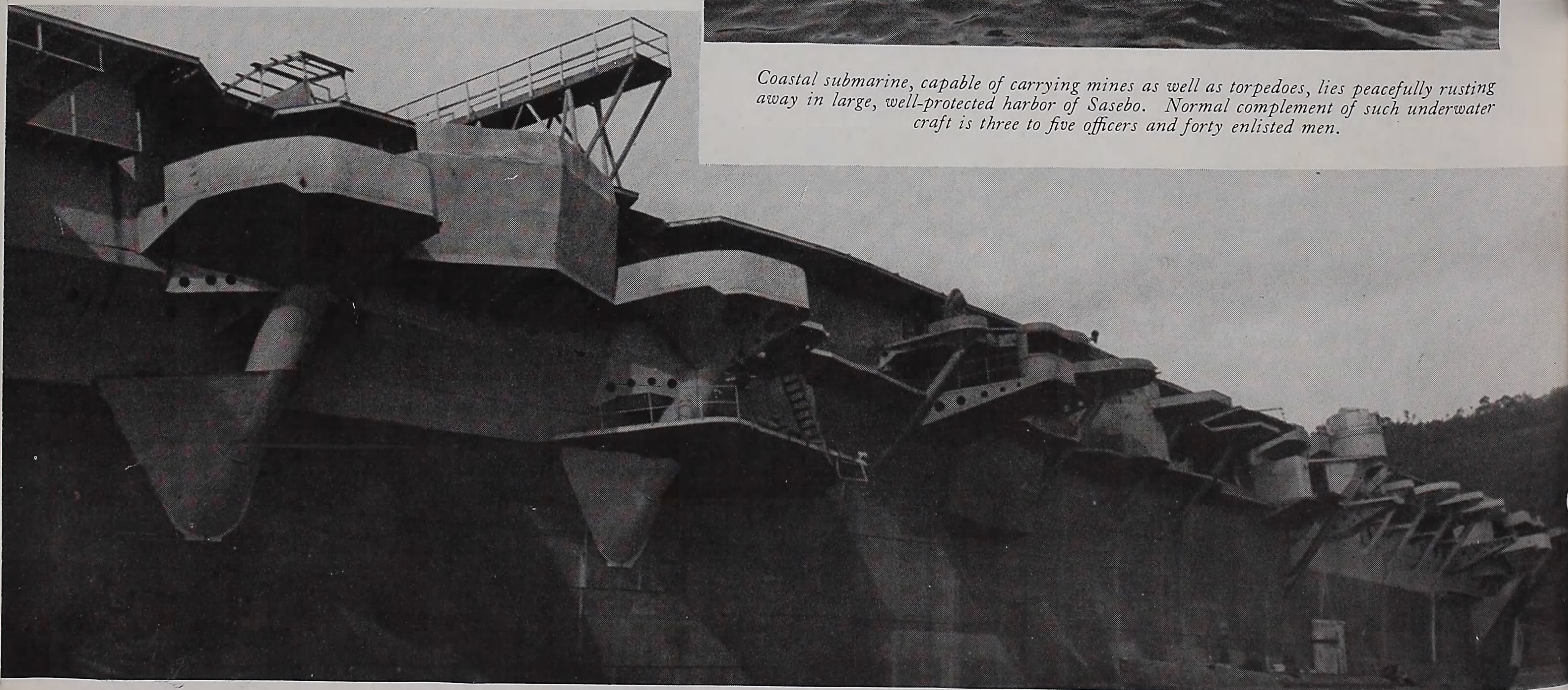
HAYATAKA class aircraft carrier found moored at Sasebo Naval Base displaces 28,000 tons and has speed in excess of 28 knots. Ship's length is 745 feet, its beam is 88 feet; anti-aircraft battery includes 80 guns of various sizes.



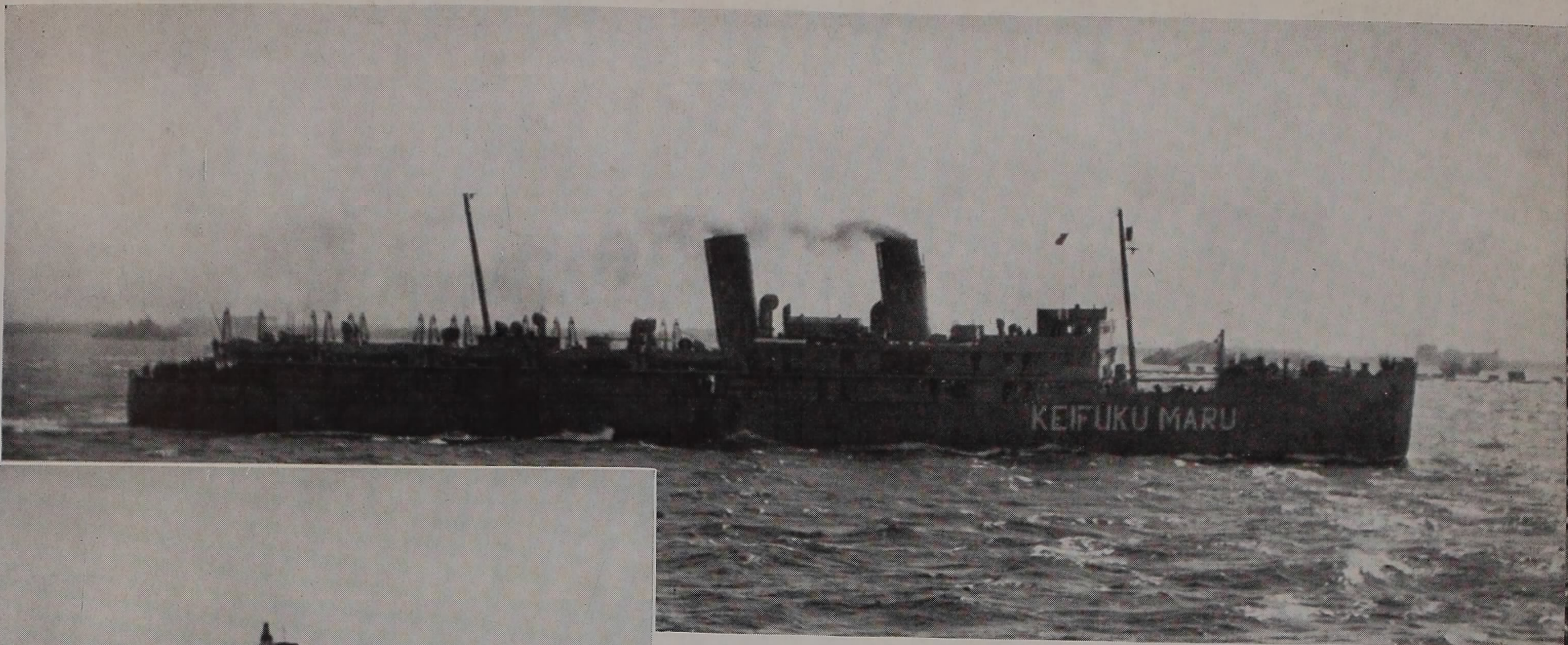
Antiquated, coal-burning Jap admiral's barge makes SANTA FE's starboard gangway with surrender delegation for island of Kyushu ordered aboard at Sasebo for conference.



Coastal submarine, capable of carrying mines as well as torpedoes, lies peacefully rusting away in large, well-protected harbor of Sasebo. Normal complement of such underwater craft is three to five officers and forty enlisted men.



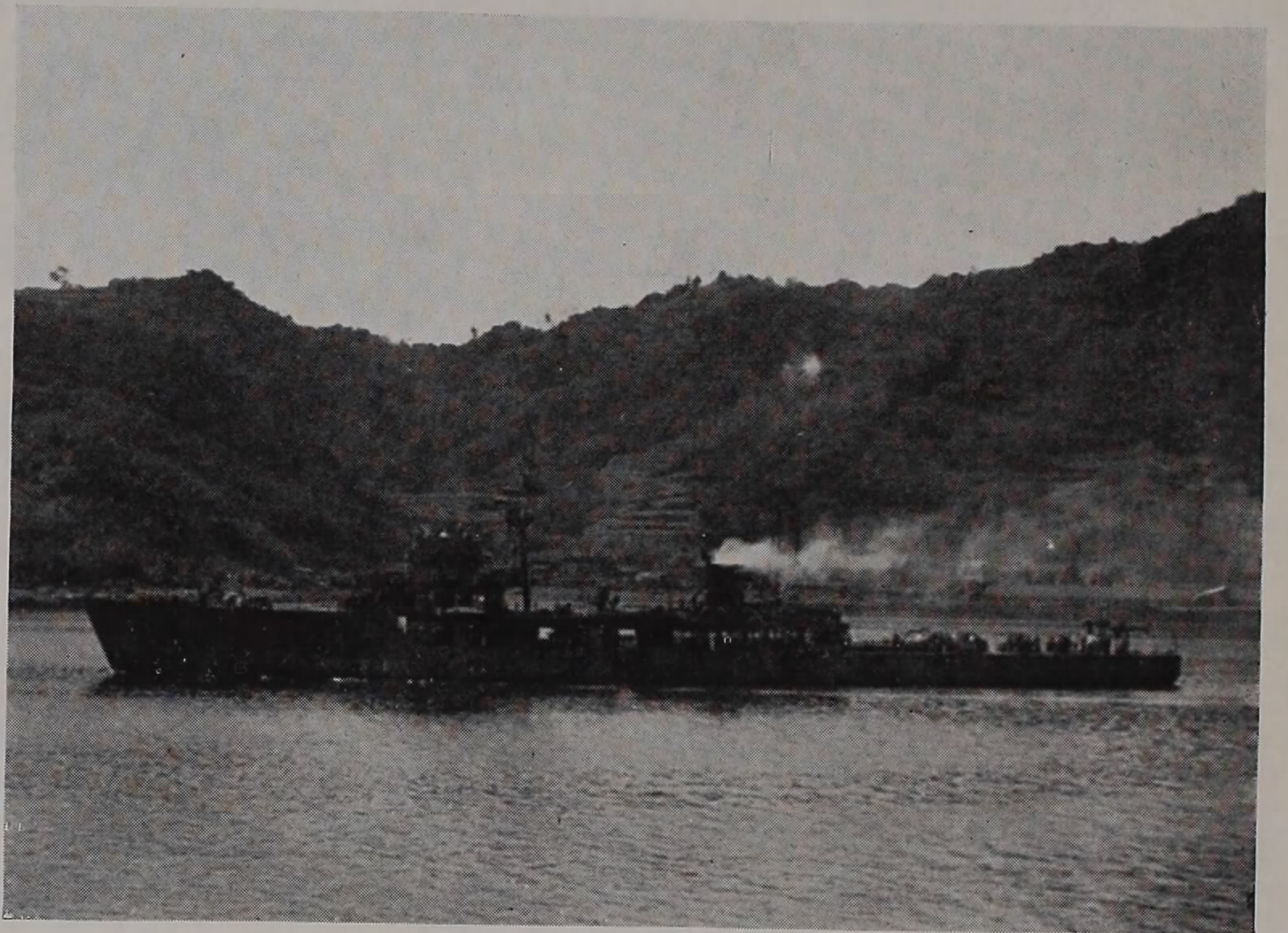
Nip carrier still under construction at Sasebo resembles the OTAKA class CVE's which were converted from hulls of NYK ocean liners. Midget submarine is tied up alongside beneath amidship's gun sponsons. Surrender orders decreed all guns be removed or made useless.



Freighter-transport KEIFUKU MARU enters Hakodate, Hokkaido and passes close aboard to port. Green crosses on stacks are for identification.

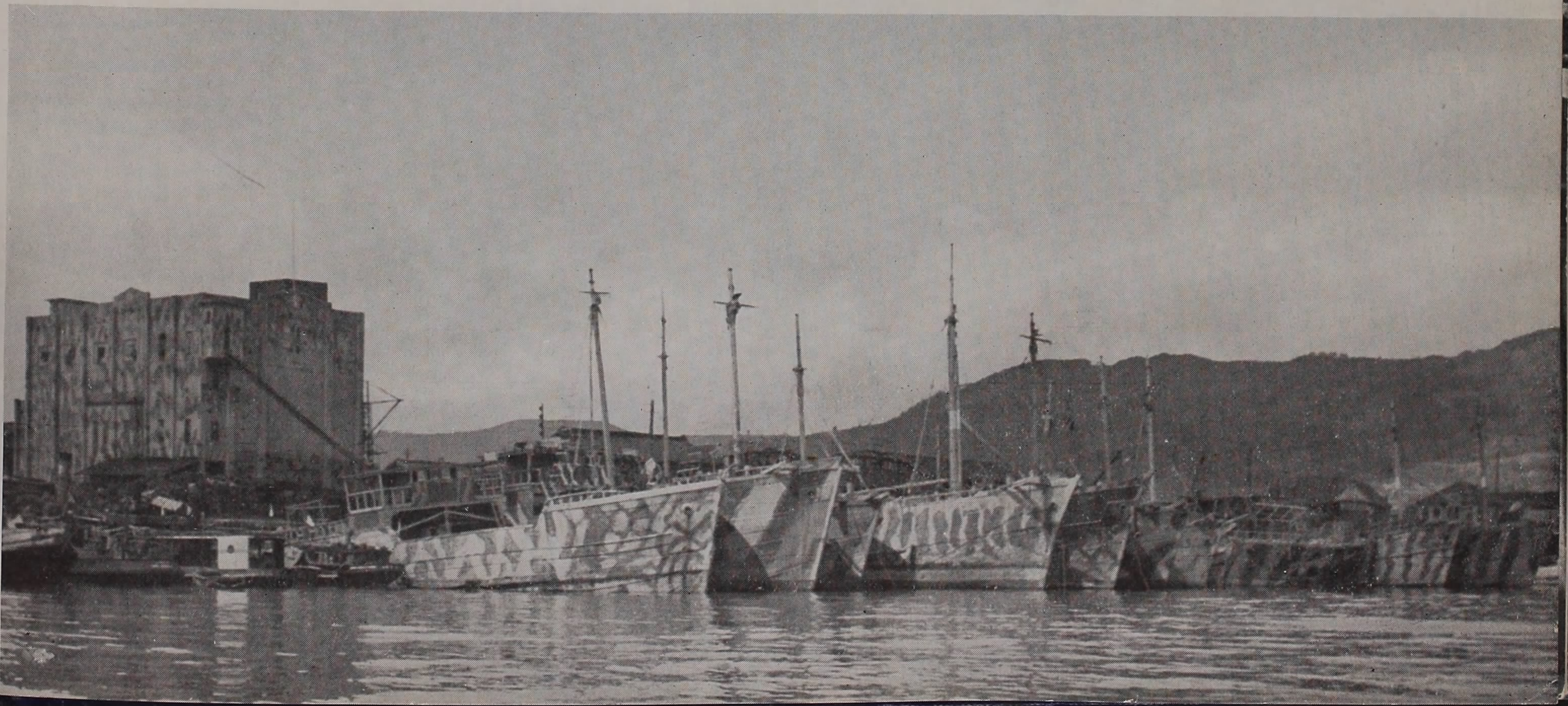


With her guns effectively spiked and powder magazines empty, old battleship NAGATO lies moored to bouy in Tokyo Bay opposite Yokosuka as last reminder of once proud, powerful Japanese Fleet.



Degunned gunboat of TAHCHIN class, now converted for minesweeping, stands out of Sasebo enroute to areas blocked by U. S. and Jap mines.

Miscellaneous fishing vessels and coastal transports are roughly camouflaged in evident attempt to escape far-reaching U. S. air-sea power.





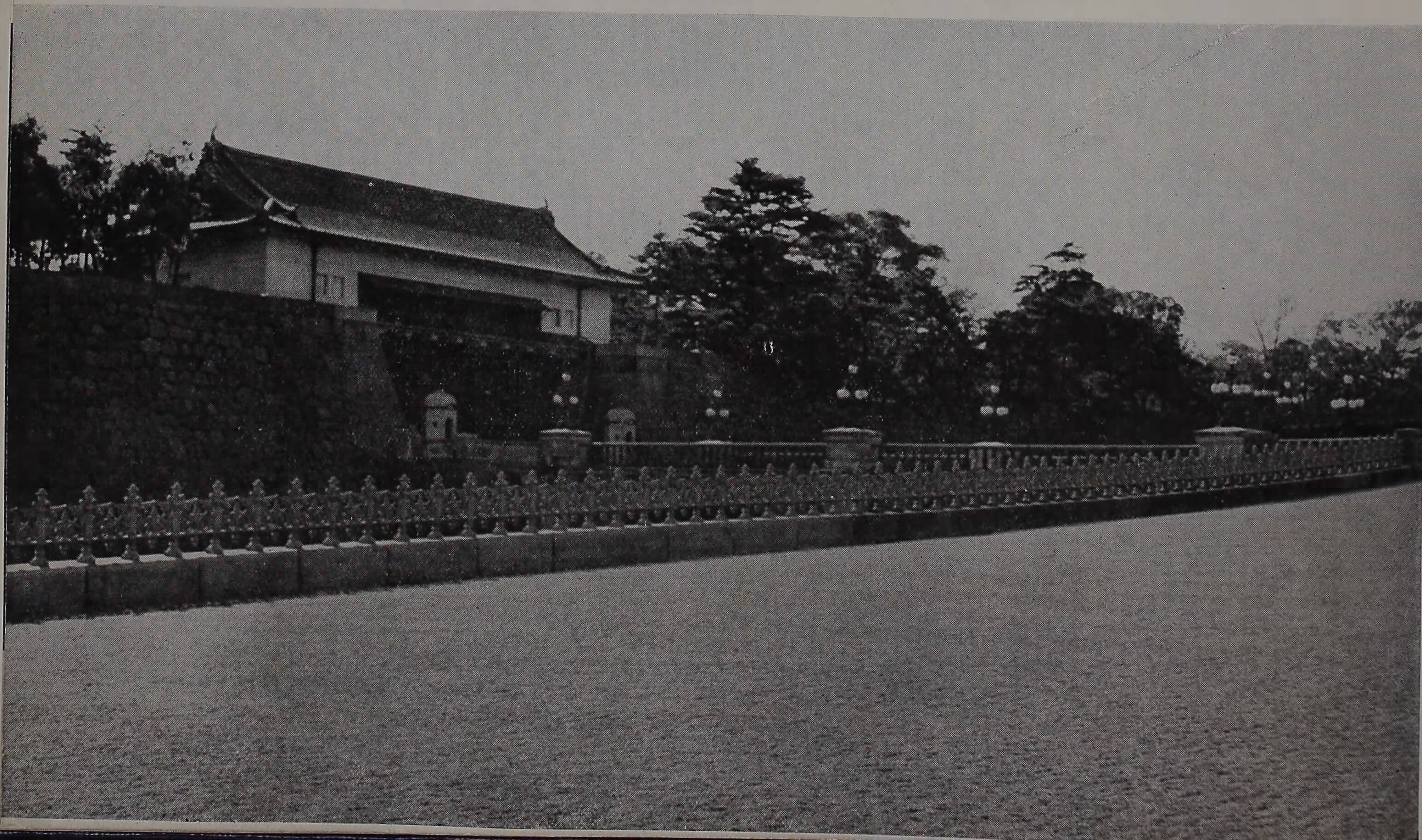
Modern, undamaged structures that line Tokyo's "Wall Street" and the many parked U. S. Army Jeeps and command cars readily give appearance of an American city's downtown section. Dark brown, column-fronted building at right houses General MacArthur's staff headquarters.

LAND OF CONTRAST

"OH, EAST IS EAST, WEST IS WEST,
AND NEVER THE TWAIN SHALL MEET"

JAPAN most often has been described as a land of contrast, but those same words were merely drawing a comparison between the Western Countries and the Orient. From the time the Santa Fe first entered the bowl-like harbor of Sasebo until the day she finally departed from Ominato on northern Honshu, the

Surrounded by high stone walls and deep, carp-filled moat, Hirohito's palace in Tokyo lies invisible two miles behind steep-roofed guardhouse blocking main entrance. Well-lighted bridge across moat is place where some Japs committed hari-kari when Japan capitulated.





Typical of every port SANTE FE visited, and especially of poorer southern Kyushu coastal towns, are dirty, cheaply built houses that completely fill valley between Sasebo's hills. Unseen, but off to left and below, similar community was totally destroyed by B-29 fire raid.

same idea of two apparent insolubles, the East and the West, was generally confirmed. However, what had never before been pointed out and what struck the amateur observer as most evident, was the great number of contrasts within the country itself.

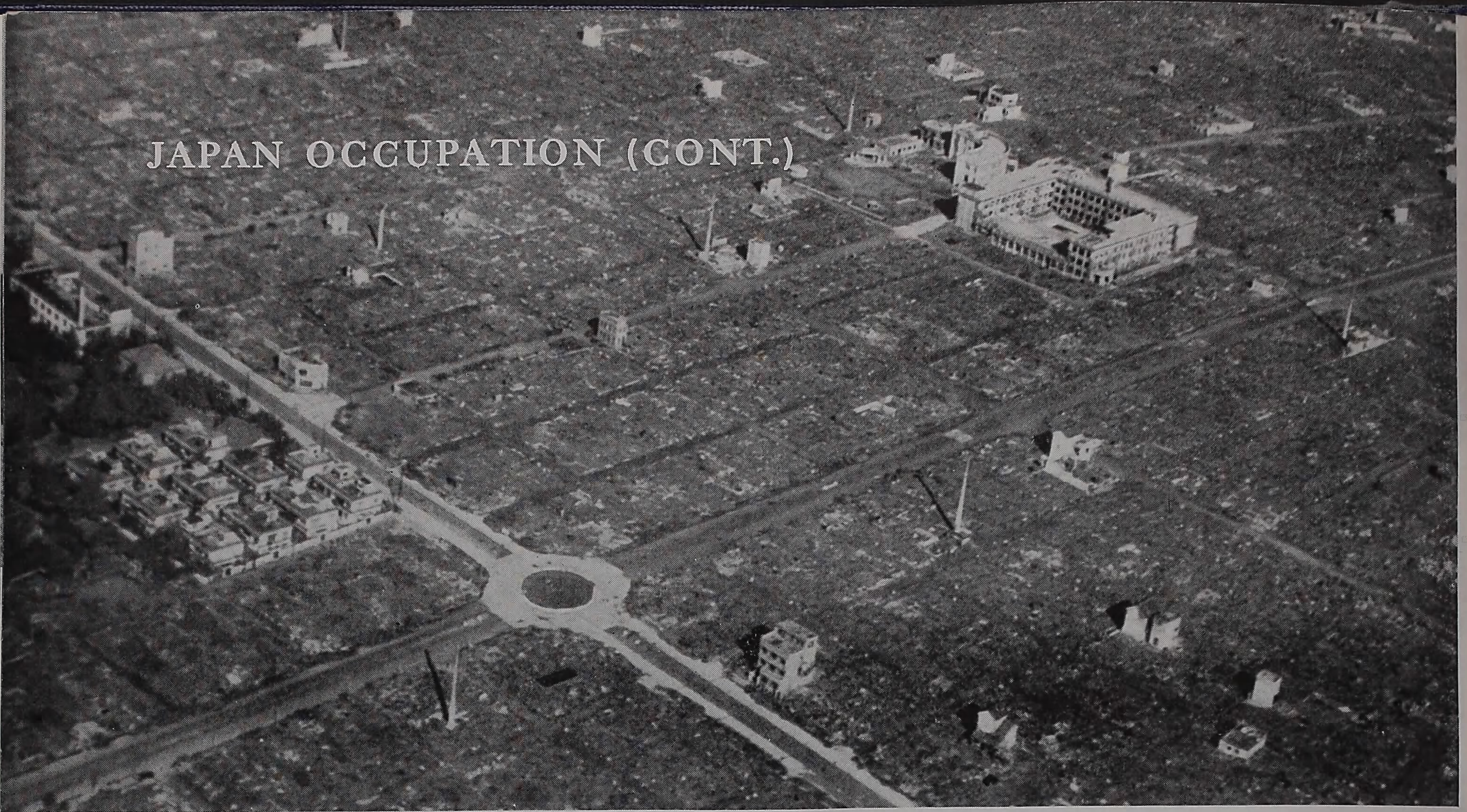
Throughout the land, utter poverty resided side by side with what bespoke great wealth. Tiny, poorly con-

structed buildings of paper and wood piled one on top of another housed large families in pitiful confusion. One room for sleeping, eating and living was more the rule than the exception. Tenement sections of the larger cities like Tokyo, Yokohama and Nagasaki made similar U. S. slum sections look like palace gardens. But while you were commenting on the wretchedness and filth that

Narrow, littered street in Sasebo City might be part of any other Jap town with its small shops fronting the roadway and the people carrying out their sardine-like domestic lives. Lack of sanitation facilities in homes and poor general drainage system leaves undescrivable odor.



JAPAN OCCUPATION (CONT.)



Aerial photo shows complete effectiveness of American gasoline-filled fire bombs on Tokyo's combustible industrial area. Only structures left standing in several square miles pictured are few sturdy concrete buildings and chimneys. Small section to left is evidently untouched.

seemed universal, you might come upon a rich man's house across the street that gave quite another impression. Here you had to remove your shoes lest the mud from unpaved streets track up the polished clean floors. You found beautiful wood carvings, exquisite silken wall-hangings plus all the other adornments and luxuries usual to the well-to-do.

Even Transportation produced incongruous compari-

sons. From modern elevated trains to the foolish, slow-moving dog-drawn carts, the Jap was content to travel according to his particular means. Education, also was mal-distributed. Although a good number of Nips spoke English and the great mass could probably write his own name, there seemed to be absolutely no understanding of the outside world, or of themselves as thinking individuals.

Close-up of burned-out area near Tokyo's downtown Ginza region bears mute testimony to fact that Japs lost War long before atomic bombs were dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Altho no more perfectly destroyed than this part of Tokyo, atomized Nagasaki is more awfully leveled.



PARTY

THE SANTA FE

was imposed and
the Santa Fe
the ball,
and Cal-
the paid for
a large show,
but it
on even more

the



the first of
the war



the day



Fujiyama, the sacred mountain of Japan, looks down on American troops occupying the empire that thought its destiny was to rule the world.

LAND OF NIPPON

THE FINAL TASK IS OCCUPATION

LIBERTY in Japan quickly showed the crew that the land of oriental people, shinto shrines and geisha houses they expected to find was eclipsed by the poverty and ruin induced by years of fruitless war. Sasebo's fire-bombed business district was a charred

wreckage and the naval base sheltered only crippled remnants of the Imperial Navy. The atomic-bombed area of Nagasaki was nothing but rubble. Tokyo yielded a few meagre souvenirs, more bombed areas, and some glimpses of the Emperor's palace. Tiny Ominato offered planes to dismantle for souvenirs but little liberty or recreation. Otaru and Sapporo, untouched by our aircraft, were the best—but still unexciting. In Japan the word constantly on every sailor's lips was "States." After a seemingly interminable wait, orders came—and the SANTA FE was going home.



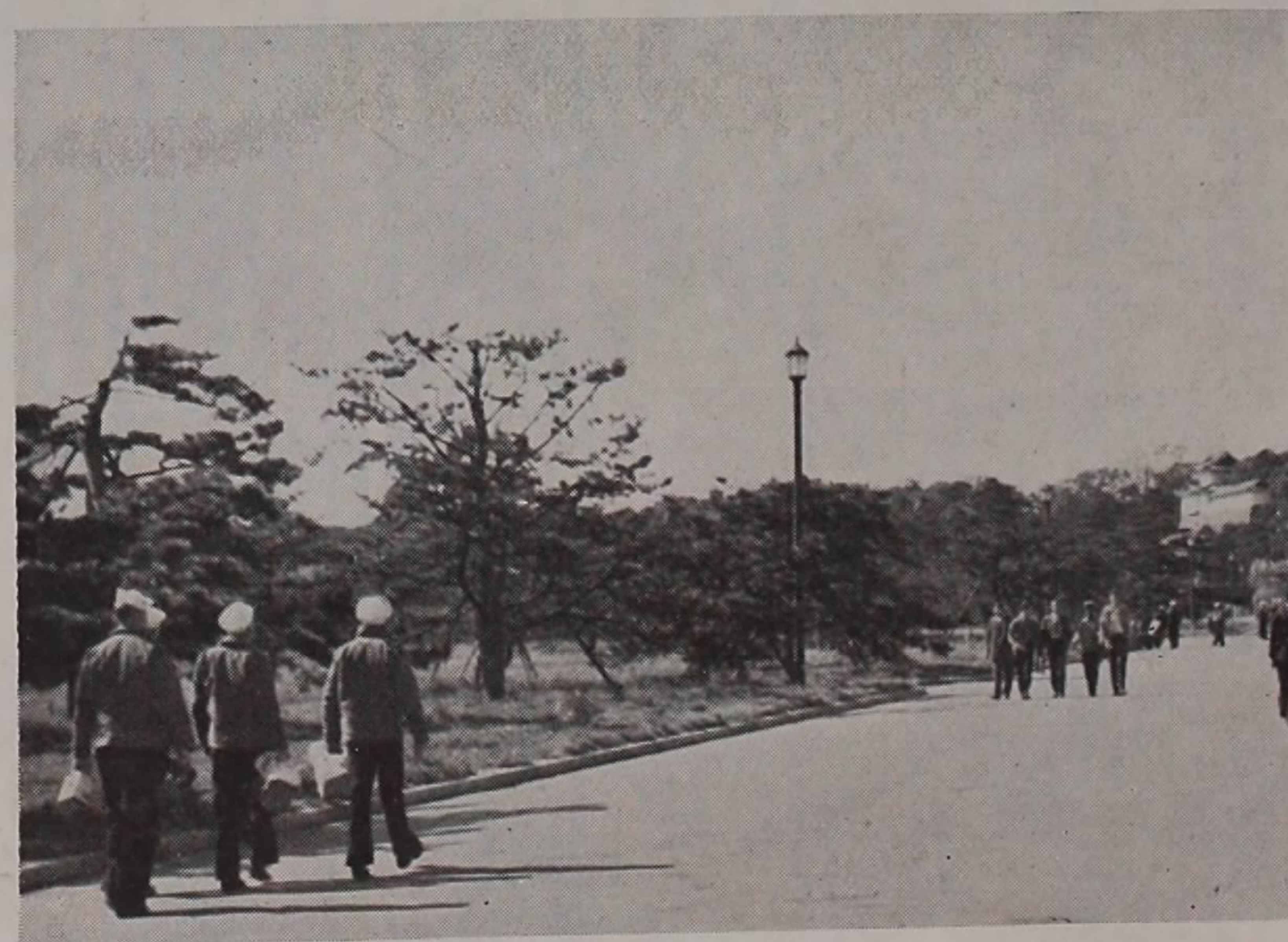
As liberty expires, all paths lead to the Sasebo Fleet Landing.



The ship's photographer poses for camera with small-fry friends.



Sidewalk vendors often sell objects from their own bombed homes.



Sight-seeing bluejackets stroll up street to Emperor's palace.