

150,000 Chinese Reported Drowned By Flood Waters of Yellow River

JAPS REPORT THOUSANDS DROWNED

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New Catastrophe Hits China.—Jap Military Activities Hampered

Shanghai, June 14. (AP)—Japanese military authorities said tonight they believed 150,000 Chinese civilians had been drowned by flood waters of the Yellow river now spreading over a wide area in northern Honan province.

Flood conditions were said to be worst in the Chungmow area, about 25 miles east of Chengchow, the railway junction which has been objective of Japan's recent offensive, now stalled by the Yellow river's overflow.

Japanese officers here said

JOHN EARL BAKER HEADS RED CROSS IN STRICKEN CHINA

Head of the International Red Cross relief work at Shanghai, China, is John Earl Baker. He has visited in Thomasville several times and is the husband of the former Miss Willie Smith of this city. Mrs. Baker is the sister of Mr. Fred Smith and Dr. Charlie Smith of Thomasville.

Formerly investigating engineer for the Yellow River Flood Commission, Mr. Baker has been a high official in China for years and he and Mrs. Baker have remained there since the war with Japan started.

they had no information concerning the fate of large Japanese forces scattered through the flooded area.

Most of the victims, they said, were Chinese farmers and their families.

Chinese reports from the front said the Japanese had been forced to withdraw as far as Kaifeng, 43 miles east of Chengchow on the Lungbai railway.

These reports said the boiling yellow water was ten feet deep north of Chungmow, about 25 miles east of Chengchow, that numerous villages were inundated, and that the flood was two and three feet deep at several points where it crossed the Lungbai railway.

Engineers and relief workers familiar with the destruction that can be wrought by "China's sorrow," as the stream is called because of its frequent floods, said the present upsurge was only preliminary to the heavy flow that normally is not at its height until mid-July.

Deliberate destruction of the dikes, which in many places confine the river to a course above the level of the surrounding country, by Japanese artillery fire and airplane bombing, and by the Chinese themselves to impede the invader, was said by these experts to be largely responsible for the present overflow. However, there have been heavy rains, too.

Lack of dike maintenance in recent months while battles raged on the banks of the big stream was believed to have aided breaks in other places.

John Earl Baker, at present head of the International Red Cross relief work here and formerly investigating engineer for the Yellow river commission, said the course of the flood might strike anywhere or a rough line between Chengchow and Suchow, then into the grand canal and along the old bed of the river through North Kiangsu province to the sea.

This course would sweep across much of the area now occupied by Japanese troops and lines of communications established in their Shantung campaign to cut the east-west Lungbai railway for an advance upon Hankow, China's provisional capital, 300 miles south of Chengchow.