

LAKELAND LEDGER

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DOOLITTLE'S VISIT

Lakeland was highly honored by Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle's visit here Sunday and Monday and would have liked to give him a rousing welcome back from Europe, where he played a major role in helping to knock out Germany.

But the war department, eager to keep his presence here a secret, urgently requested that nothing be published about his visit until after he had left and that no public celebration be held for him here. He and General Patton will be given a super-celebration in Los Angeles on June 9 and 10.

The smiling and courteous but tough general, who set the world on its ears by bombing Tokyo a few months after Pearl Harbor, looks none the worse for wear despite the great strain under which he has worked during the past 33 months overseas. His gift for taking obstacles in his stride served him well during the period he spent working on the nazis. He was the first American to take a crack at the Jap homeland and he looks fit enough to proceed on back to the Pacific and help finish off the Japs, an assignment which the war department announced for him last week as he arrived back in the United States.

He was in his usual jovial mood as he had lunch at the Lodwick School of Aeronautics Monday with his friend of long standing, Albert I. Lodwick, president of the school. The disarming smile which is so conspicuous a part of his personality had lost none of its warmth and readiness. He was much concerned that the crew of his B-25 be notified in plenty of time to get lunch and he sought out the school's butcher to thank him for the good meat served. It was the same kind of thoughtfulness which won the deep admiration of the soldiers who served under him on the Tokyo raid and in the European and Mediterranean theaters.

General Doolittle has been one of the most effective leaders in the present war and Lakelanders hope he will return before too long so they can give him a public reception without censorship restraint.