

L.I.-Standard. Tuesday, July 18, 1944.  
Sunoco. (Rochester.)

## France

~~Spag~~ Tonight's news about the invasion has a startling sound, telling of a giant British break-through, a crushing drive that may turn the battle in Normandy into a thundering drive toward Paris. That's the latest, and it's the major fact - the British launching an all-out assault to-day that cracked open the German line, bursting it as penned-up water bursts a dam. Dispatches from the front tell of British armored forces racing through the shattered gap and into the open country beyond, threatening the enemy with a great military disaster.

At the same time, the Americans today captured the city of St. Lo. This they did after a seesaw battle. American troops were in St. Lo last night, but the word this mornig was that they had been drive<sup>n</sup> out. They made a prompt comeback, and this afternoon the capture of the highway city was announced. This, however, was not <sup>one of</sup> the triumphs of the day - because the Germans pulled out of St. Lo in good order, a planned withdrawal to defensive positions on high ground beyond the town.

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and The capture of <sup>St. Lo</sup> ~~the town~~ is eclipsed by the success of the British at the other end of the line - in the sector of Caen.

The suddenness of the violence <sup>of this</sup> offensive today took the Germans by surprise. For days General Montgomery's troops had been thrusting and pushing without accomplishing much. They were concentrating their attacks to the south, and that's where the Germans expected the big push to be launched. They were all wrong. The pushing at the south was a mere diversionary affair, intended by Montgomery to fool the German High Command. <sup>and he</sup> ~~He~~ succeeded. The real blow was struck somewhere else, at the east - the ~~new~~ bridgehead across the Orne River. And the assault crashed through in such fashion that the Allied forces seem to be on the verge of what tonight's news dispatch calls "An Allied victory of ~~gigantic~~ gigantic proportions."

But the action on the ground is only half of the story. The break-through was prepared by a stupendous aerial bombardment which seems to have been a stunning example of the

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effectiveness of sky power in shattering a powerful enemy  
battlefront. United Press correspondent Richard B. MacMillan,  
describing the scene, stated that a pall of smoke fifty miles  
wide and twenty miles deep soared five miles into the air at  
the climax of the deluge of the explosives from above.

~~end~~...

Add France

The stupendous violence of the air bombing is reflected in the verbiage of MacMillan's dispatch. He is a fluent writer, yet I suppose it takes some special phenomenon to provoke description such as the following: "Since dawn," writes MacMillan, "I've been watching this terrorizing, mesmerizing scene of unholy terror in a satanic setting. No man," he goes on, "in his wildest flight of imagination could envisage the scene. Volcanic spouts of evil-looking flame spit like automatic fountains from the ground and throw up a glare through the curtain of gloom cast by the first few hundred bombers." And he concludes: "Now this blazing, shattering, shuddering nightmare is reaching its peak. American heavies, in stately order, rush upon the scene as all the horizon erupts with cascades of bombs gouging into the bowels of the earth."

~~and~~ Which means that something big  
~~huge is really~~ is going on over there.

Air War follow France

The weather has turned clear in Northern Europe, and the result to-day was explosive, <sup>indeed.</sup> For days and weeks allied air power, based on Britain and the airfields in Normandy, ~~was bedeviled~~ was bedeviled by dim skies, heavy clouds and rain and storm - atrocious flying conditions. They could operate only under difficulties and at a reduced pace. This has been state of affairs since the beginning of the invasion - air operations hampered by the weather.

Now, however, it is different, and today's news might be

phrased:- the skies cleared and the storm broke. <sup>! Eight</sup> ~~six~~ thousand <sup>five</sup>

<sup>hundred</sup> warplanes sallied forth to blast the enemy, warplanes based on

Britain and on the airfields of Normandy. Also planes from Italy

where the weather has been good all the time. Altogether, the

<sup>8500</sup> ~~six thousand~~ <sup>more than</sup> planes hit the enemy with <sup>^</sup> eleven thousand tons of bombs!

The biggest event was not one of those long range affairs of

heavy bombers flying far. The major target was nearby, with

heavy bombers joining the lighter ones in a ~~coordinated~~

concentrated assault on the German lines in France to the south of the city of Caen. An area of a mere seventy-five square miles was assailed by three thousand planes - a thousand British heavies, Halifaxes and Lancasters, six hundred ponderous American liberators and fourteen hundred medium bombers. They hurled eight thousand tons of bombs on the German defenses in that area of seventy-five square miles.

<sup>TP</sup> One of the other targets of the day was - the birth place of the Robots. A great air fleet flying from Britain went winging to the places <sup>all</sup> ~~for~~ along the German coast <sup>also</sup> where the rocket bombs are made; <sup>and</sup> where they were developed, where the experimental work was done. Two great plants, one at Peenemunde and the other at Zinnowitz, were smashed by two thousand tons of bombs from seven hundred and fifty flying fortresses - these escorted by five hundred fighter planes. Air battles were fought, and twenty <sup>one</sup> - one Nazi planes were shot down.

## French Underground

The news from France to-day tells of - an "island of freedom,"

~~This, we are told, is deep inside France, in the heart of~~

~~Nazi occupied territory. And it's the place, far behind the~~

~~enemy lines, where British and American paratroops land. We~~

~~have been hearing of late of those airborne commandos who~~

~~descend to join the French underground fighters, the Maquis,~~

~~And now we have the information that they come down in a~~

~~section controlled completely by the patriot forces - that~~

~~"island of freedom."~~

~~It is said to be~~ somewhere to the south of Paris, ~~and consists~~

~~an~~ area some six miles square ~~where~~ a month ago, the Maquis

~~were~~ in such strength that they decided to take over. The

~~opposition~~ <sup>they</sup> had to contend with was a force of Vichy militia,

which pro-Nazi-outfit was quickly disposed of. And the patriots

were in control. It was all done with such secrecy that the

Germans and the Vichy authorities didn't know about it.

The local patriot leaders phoned every day to the headquarters

of the Vichy militia and reported - all quiet, everything

honky dorry.

Behind this veil of concealment the underground organized the district, a French general with a distinguished war record coming to command. And word was sent to the Allied forces asking for help. That was when the British and American-paratroop-commandos began to arrive, reinforcements from the sky.

The Germans found out eventually, but by this time the island of freedom was so well equipped to fight that, when a detachment of

German soldiers was sent in, it was promptly defeated ~~and chased out~~ *And now*

*allied paratroopers are streaming*  
Thereafter the Germans, with plenty of other troubles on their hand apparently let ~~the~~ <sup>is</sup> ~~patrols~~ stronghold alone.

*mm, here:*  
So, that's where the Allied paratroop commandos have been landing in a steady stream, joining the Maquis in operations of sabotage ~~and~~ against enemy war centers and military transport. Operations - based on the island of freedom.

end



Italy

In Italy American troops to-day captured a highway junction on the historic River Arno. This places them well up the line beyond the Port of Leghorn, which they have now outflanked

- - Leghorn neutralized. And the new advance to the Arno

threatens to outflank ~~Pisa, that famous~~ <sup>the</sup> medieval city <sup>of</sup> Pisa,

<sup>fame.</sup> of ~~the~~ Leaning Tower. The present importance of the city is

<sup>what is called</sup> that it is an anchor of <sup>^</sup> the German Gothic Line.

At last reports the Americans were advancing along the level valley of the Arno, and if they succeed in outflanking Pisa, the Germans will be in for another of their retreats.

end..

Russia

A new surge forward by the Russians - this time in Poland.

To-night ~~\*\*\*\*\*~~ Stalin announced <sup>S</sup> that Red Army troops have smashed to within nineteen miles of the city of Lvov, which

is th~~is~~e dominating fortress of southern Poland. The new

Russian offensive is on a front of a hundred and twenty-four

miles, and has scored advances of as much as thirty-one

miles. The Russian aim apparently is to encircle Lvov with

great flanking movements. The city, the third biggest in

Poland, is one of the great <sup>rail</sup> ~~big~~ junctions of Europe, and

its loss would mean another critical setback for the Nazi

war machine.

— o —  
Now a word or two from  
our sponsor — and then ~~we~~  
we'll turn to the Pacific war.

## Tojo

It is none too clear what the news about Tojo means. We have merely an official Jap announcement that he has been removed as chief - of - staff of the Japanese Army. Apparently, he still remains premier, head of the Tokyo government - the announcement merely telling of the appointment of his successor as chief - of - staff.

That mere fact, though, has the largest implications - following, as it does, the ouster yesterday of the commander of the Japanese fleet, Navy Minister Shimada. It was obvious enough that the Navy Minister was fired because of Japanese defeats at sea, and now the ousting of Tojo from the job of army chief - of - staff is to be explained in exactly the same way: - out he goes because of the disasters his forces have incurred.

This is the more vividly apparent because of another piece of news that the Japanese People heard today. We've known about it all along; but they were kept in the dark about their newest calamity. That is - the American conquest of Saipan.

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The tidings of the loss Saipan was made public by Tojo himself today, and the event is not being minimized. Tojo is quoted as telling the Japanese People that this newest American victory brings what he calls - "a great national crisis." And I suppose he is right about that.

Anyway - Three things occurred in swift and dramatic succession the ousting of the Navy Chief, the removal of Tojo as army chief of staff, and the announcement of the loss of Saipan.

The logic is only too evident.

Today in Washington ~~as the~~ Secretary of State ~~cordell~~ Hull stated that the news about Tojo could probably be interpreted as a sign of Japanese desperation. He said it indicates how badly the Jap leaders are worried about the way the <sup>War</sup> ~~top~~ ~~restoration~~ in the Pacific is going. Other comment, however, points out that there is no sign of an elimination of Tojo as the chief enemy war lord. - He still remains premier. However, he may lose that job too, and if he does, <sup>it might even</sup> ~~it may~~ be a prelude to <sup>a desperate</sup> ~~some new~~ Japanese ~~as desperate~~ peace move, in the vain hope of wangling a compromise. That's what diplomatic circles in Washington are

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inclined to think - the possibility that Tojo may be booted  
out altogether as part of some tricky manuevere for peace.

end



Add to-jo

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The story of Saipan is made the more vivid by Japanese accounts today. In telling of the American capture of the island, the Tokyo radio went into the harrowing details - which are probably true enough. It states that the Japs fought for days without water, after their reservoirs had <sup>been</sup> destroyed <sup>by</sup> the American fire. And Tokyo goes on to say: "not a single artillery piece was left to our units with which to attack the American tanks."

The Japs, in presenting this military failure, play up the suicide angle and tell of the end of vice admiral Nagumo, who commanded at Saipan. "In a ceremony to his men," says the Tokyo account, "Nagumo emptied a little bottle of saki (Japanese rice wine) donated by his Majesty, the Emperor, and shouted "banzai" three times. Then he rushed into the enemy ranks with his drawn sword."

It is hard to figure how the people of Japan are going to take these stories of defeat. All the dressing up of Samuri melodrama can't disguise the fact that the Japs have lost

Saipan and are likely to lose <sup>a</sup> lot more <sup>before long..</sup> end

Pacific

*Take this item for instance: -*

It looks more and more like an invasion of Guam - that

American island which the Japs seized early in the war.

Once again a powerful task force has hit Guam, battleships, cruisers and destroyers. It was the seventh naval shelling of the island since July eighth, and that kind of treatment sounds like a prelude to amphibious operations - landings.

end

## EXPLOSION

The official count in the great California explosion disaster gives us a figure of more than three hundred and fifty lives lost. This includes two hundred and fifty sailors and nine officers. And other victims were coast guardsmen and crew members of the two ships that blew up.

Accounts today gave almost fantastic details of the blast. One munition ship and then another exploded at Port Chicago, not very far from San Francisco.

The flash of explosion was seen one hundred mile away, lighting up the sky. And fifty miles away the people were awakened by the roar that crashed through the night. Windows were shattered fifty miles away, and a ponderous chunk of metal eighteen feet long was blown through the air for a mile.

The explosion at Port Chicago was the worst in this hemisphere since the Halifax disaster during the previous World War -- when exploding munitions brought cataclysmic havoc to Canada's great port.



## CONVENTION

The democratic Convention is all set for a paradox—a presidential convention concerned almost entirely with the vice-presidency. The Republican convention, to be sure, was such a runaway affair for Dewey that the vice-presidential nomination assumed unusual importance. But in Chicago now, the fight for second place is almost as hot and tense as some of the major battles for presidential nominations in the past. The fracas has been steaming up all along, and the coming of vice-president Wallace raises the temperature to the proverbial fever heat. Tomorrow Mr. Wallace will take personal command of his own campaign.

The opposition to Wallace is already counting him out, and a whole string of hopeful aspirants are trying to count themselves in. The most probable of these, according to the gossip tonight, is Byrnes of South Carolina.

## ADD CONVENTION

A somewhat involved statement about the fourth term was made today by one of the President's cabinet members - Harold Ickes, the curmudgeon. Ickes lived up to his reputation for saying grumpy, plain-spoken things, when he declared : "Theoretically, I am not in favor for a fourth term, but in this situation I am for it because I have no alternative."

This statement made at Democratic headquarters in Chicago will serve to enhance the Ickes fame for giving a cheer by being the least against something.

And now another Standard of California message.

In sky flight aloft, a most welcome triumph was scored by an American flier, Lieutenant Charles Ellson of Norwich, Conn. He was no ace with a high score. The number of Nazi planes on his record was exactly zero, although the number of his fighter plane missions was eighty. <sup>u</sup> <sub>^</sub> Lieut. Ellson had been out of luck; though he had flown forth for air battle eighty times, he had not succeed in bringing down a single enemy - not until today! His luck came suddenly. He shot down three - battling against Nazi fighters as the fleet<sup>s</sup> of the sky flew to bomb the birth place of the robots.

end

## Follow Russia

Scandanavian  
Word from ~~Stockholm~~ gives new information about <sup>the</sup> a panicky flight  
of Germans from East Prussia. As the onrushing Soviet forces  
near that home provice of the Junkers, waves of fear <sup>are</sup> spreading  
through East Prussia. And hordes of those arrogant Junker  
People <sup>have</sup> pack <sup>ed</sup> up and start <sup>ed</sup> moving, rleeing the Red Army. We are  
told that the exodus is as dense along the roads as the pitiful  
swarm of Belgian and French refugees was in the disastorous  
days of 1940. Its the other way around now --- East Prussian  
refugees.

Many go by sea, with boats of all descriptions taking East  
Prussians to Western Germany. And today's dispatch from  
Stockholm tells us that this has resulted in a racket, with  
the local fishermen charging sky high prices for taking people  
westward along the coast. The prices, though are not in money  
- no cash on the line. The fisherman demand merchandise, food,  
clothing - a sign that their faith in Hitler's currency is  
vanishing.

end

Prisoners

Again we have atrocious news about <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ Nazi killings of prisoners of war. Previously, fifty Allied flying officers were shot by Hitler's Gestapo in connection with an escape from a prison camp. And now - thirty-three more. This was announced today in the London House of Commons, and the Nazi<sup>s</sup> admit it - they stating that twenty-seven of the thirty-three were shot while trying to escape. No further details of the new atrocity are given. We are merely told that the British are making an inquiry through the neutral Swiss government.

end;

## Brazil

Today we are told of the landing at Naples of a force of soldiers unlike any of the many other units that have gone ashore at that big Italian port - troops wearing a uniform not hitherto seen in Italy. They were Brazilians, men from the great south American Republic, from the coast and from the inland pampas and jungle. In other words, the first Latin-American country has sent its contingent to a war zone.

Brazil has already done much for the cause of the United Nations - particularly by allowing our air forces to use Natal <sup>and Belém as</sup> jumping off place<sup>s</sup> for the sky voyage across the South Atlantic.

I made a flying trip down that way recently, and saw the giant operations of the bomber ferry lines that cross from Brazil to Africa. I was told, and I could see, that this wartime air route was of the utmost importance for the building up of allied sky power across the Atlantic. And now, Brazilian troops have landed in Italy - to take part in the battle against the Nazis there.

We are not informed of the size of the Brazilian expeditionary force nor the kind of troops of →

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which it is composed, ~~But~~ it is believed to be larger than a mere token outfit, and to consist of both ground and air units - infantry and airmen.

All of which is just a beginning - for we hear that Mexico too is preparing an expeditionary force for service on battle-fronts overseas. Of course, we don't know how important these Latin-American contributions may be in a strictly military way, but they mean a huge lot for Pan-American solidarity.

~~\*\*\*\*\*~~ ~~to~~ No wonder ~~that~~ secretary of State Cordell Hull expresses what the news dispatch calls - "Immense satisfaction" over the arrival of the Brazilian expeditionary force in Italy.

~~By~~ end....