

AMERICAN PLANES

L.I. - Luroco. Friday, Jan. 15, 1943.

From Portugal we have the statement that twelve United States Army planes landed at the Lisbon airport today -- and their crews were interned. Lisbon describes the planes as eleven fighters and one four-motored bomber, and adds that they were forced down by storms.

We are told today that large formations of war planes flew over Portuguese territory -- headed in a southerly direction. This sounds as if their destination were Gibraltar. The Iberian peninsula has been having heavy storms during the past few days and the formations of planes had to fight the tempest. The twelve American aircraft couldn't make it apparently. They landed at the Lisbon airport with their fuel exhausted. They came down safely, without mishaps or injury. Such is the story from Lisbon.

## NORTH AFRICA

In the North African theatre of war - the undersea came into the headlines today, submarine operations. London ~~xxxxxx~~ tells of a series of attacks on enemy ships in the Mediterranean. British submarines have sunk three supply ships and naval vessels and have probably destroyed three other cargo craft. ~~One British sub fought a battle with an Axis minesweeper, made it surrender, took prisoners aboard, and then sank the naval craft. Then the undersea craft went on and torpedoed other Axis ships.~~

The most daring operation was accomplished by a British submarine under the command <sup>of Lieut.</sup> ~~of~~ A.C.G. Mars, <sup>who</sup> ~~he~~ pushed right up to the big port of Naples, and torpedoed a large supply ship there. The explosion blew away the whole forward part of the vessel, and then Lieutenant A.C.G. Mars went right on until he was within gunshot of the Italian coast. He

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bombarded the shore, damaged a railroad bridge and smashed electric power cables. The shelling by the submarine is believed to have impeded communications considerably.

In Africa, on land, today's United ~~Axis~~ States Army bulletin states that nothing of importance has occurred. But the enemy controlled radio at Paris claims that heavy fighting has flared up at a point twenty-seven miles southwest of Tunis. And that is significant. <sup>It</sup> placed ~~the~~ the Allied army within twenty-seven miles of that most important city and harbor.

Air action is reported both in Tunisia and Libya. American Flying Fortresses scored numerous bomb hits along the Tunisian east coast, smashing Axis-controlled harbors there. And in Libya, British bombers kept at their job of raking Rommel's East

Afrika Korps with high explosive. <sup>#</sup> British advices give no intimation of ground action, but enemy sources do - as a prognostication. The official German news agency today stated that the British Eighth Army, under General Montgomery, is expected to attack Rommel's Afrika Korps tomorrow. The Nazi news is that the British have concentrated a powerful armored force and are ready to start their assault before Rommel's ~~forces~~ <sup>battalions</sup> can complete their preparations for battle - and fortify themselves properly. One might guess that this German statement is propaganda in preparation for another renewal of the long Rommel-Afrika-Korps retreat.

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FRENCH

From London we have a dispatch that has a bearing on the internecine quarrels among the French - particularly the dispute about Giraud, DeGaulle and the administration of North Africa. ~~The old French political cleavage, right and left, is becoming more and more apparent in the dispute between the administration that our General Eisenhower is recognizing in North Africa and the Fighting French, who have a lot of backing in Britain.~~

Today in London a Fighting French spokesman took up the subject of the cooperation that has come about between the DeGaulle ~~organization~~ <sup>people</sup> and the French Communists. He said that the Communists have the best underground organization in France and have provided the Fighting French with valuable information. And he stated the official Fighting French position in these words:-

"General DeGaulle," said he, "is pledged to represent

every element in France, so long as that element will fight the Germans. We represent French public opinion," he went on, and added: <sup>"</sup>that Communists are part of the French population."

The Nazis in France were bombed again today by the R.A.F., British planes striking at Cherbourg. This follows the highly significant air raid last night against the most important German U-boat base on the French coast - Lorient. London points out that the German submarine campaign depends greatly upon French coast bases, and these must be kept in operation. Consequently, the heavy smash delivered against Lorient last night has a definite meaning in the business of checking the ~~ravages~~ ravages of the U-boat campaign.

~~The Nazis are supposed to have their submarine shelters heavily protected with concrete and steel. But London points to the tremendous power of the four thousand and eight thousand <sup>round</sup> bombs that the R.A.F. drops nowadays. These mighty missiles have been known to crumble two or more blocks of buildings in the raids against Cologne, and it is believed that they~~

RUSSIA

The most striking Russian war news tonight comes from enemy sources. The Berlin Radio reports that Soviet troops are attacking all along the front in what it calls, "ever new ways." According to the Nazis, the Red Army is on the offensive in the Leningrad area, in the Velikie Luki sector, west of Moscow; before Stalingrad; in the big bend of the Don; and in the Caucasus. The German radio uses the word "climax". And this concerns a warplane. A climax has been reached with the introduction of a new type of Soviet fighter plane, say the Germans. Just what kind of aircraft is not stated, but it must be good if it's a climax.

The German accounts of a Soviet offensive at Leningrad are expanded today by word from Sweden. Stockholm states that the Soviets are attacking the fortress of Schlisselberg, twenty-three miles from Leningrad - and a Number One key point. Also, the

command in that area has been taken over by Marshal Timoshenko, the Soviet Commander who made headlines on the southern front some time ago and then apparently was removed.

*in all*  
Stockholm, moreover, transmits information about Soviet guerrillas attacking Krasnodar, ~~That is~~ the most important Nazi air center in the Rostov area - southern Russia. Soviet air power has been striking at Krasnodar for days, and now Stockholm tells of extensive guerrilla operations.

None of the foregoing is mentioned by Moscow, which today merely told of further advances in the Caucasus.

## SUICIDE PLANE

A strange story of <sup>a</sup> Japanese suicide plane is told by a member of the crew of the aircraft carrier HORNET, which was sunk in sea battle off the Solomons. Coxswain James Prince, who has returned home on a visit to his parents at Asbury Park, tells how the Jap suicide planes were out to ~~crash~~ <sup>plunge</sup> into the aircraft carrier. "Four attempts to crash into the HORNET with bombers failed by a narrow margin," he said today. "I saw these four planes, and ~~each one crashed~~ <sup>each one fell</sup> into the sea near the HORNET. In each case," he goes on, "the plane exploded. There was a great flash of flame, and then the plane sank."

But a couple of Japs did crash their planes into the carrier. One suicide Jap pilot plunged into the HORNET'S elevator, -- and that suicide war pilot was a woman.

Such was the report among the members of the carrier crew. "There wasn't much left of the plane or the pilot," said Coxswain James Prince today, "but the

*reports were that* the doctors confirmed *the fact* ~~was~~ that the pilot  
was a woman, ~~was a subject of much conversation among~~  
~~us survivors.~~

TAX

A warning was issued today by Congressman Doughton, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, which Committee is considering new programs of taxation - those pay-as-you-go plans, for example. Chairman Doughton tells us that a mighty peculiar idea has spread over the country, a lot of people thinking they won't have to pay any income tax in Nineteen Forty-Three. <sup>H</sup> This notion is deduced from talk about one feature of pay-as-you-go which involves the cancellation of ~~income~~ tax on last year's income.

*According to the pay-as-you-go plan | tax*  
~~Meaning, that~~ people would pay this year's income <sup>as</sup>

<sup>as</sup> they earn it, ~~pay as you go~~. I suppose it takes an

optimistic soul to misunderstand the matter - but apparently a lot of people are under the impression that cancelled taxes on last year's income would relieve them of paying any income tax at all this year. It's a great idea - but it ain't so.

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Here is the formal statement issued by Chairman Doughton: ~~"The Committee having to do with tax legislation, has been advised that reports are coming from over the country to the effect that a change would be made in the tax law which would preclude the necessity of filing the Nineteen Forty-Two return due on March Fifteenth, Nineteen Forty-three. This~~

<sup>any</sup> assumption on the part of any taxpayer that he will not be required to pay his NineteenForty-Two return on March Fifteenth, Nineteen Forty-Three, is erroneous," says Chairman Doughton.

In other words, no matter what plan is adopted, we will still be paying our income tax during the coming year - whether it applies to last year's earnings or this year's earnings.

PRICE ADMINISTRATOR

Today the Senate Banking Committee approved the President's nomination of Prentiss M. Brown to succeed Leon Henderson as Price Administrator - in charge of price fixing and rationing. The Committee vote was unanimous, and now the nomination goes to the floor of the Senate where it is certain to get a prompt okay.

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And so the former Senator from Michigan, who was defeated in the last election, becomes Price Administrator. That rationing and price fixing job is of Number One importance, and everything would seem to be fine and dandy for the former Senator, or is it?

Today Prentiss Brown was on his way from his home town to Washington and stopped off at Detroit. No sooner did the train come to ~~a stop~~ <sup>a halt than</sup> when people swarmed aboard. - Irate citizens with complaints about price fixing and rationing. They demanded that

the newly named Price Administrator straight <sup>en</sup> out their troubles right away.

The bedeviled Mr. Brown had to fight his way through. When he got to his hotel, it was the same thing all over again - this time by telephone. His phone did nothing but ring, with all sorts of people on the other end complaining about rationing and price fixing and demanding that he do something about it right away.

The latest from the harried and hounded Mr. Brown is the glum observation - that a Price ~~Administrator~~ Administrator cannot be popular. So says the blue Mr. Brown. *And Leon Henderson must be chuckling.*

COAL

The Senate hearing on the coal strike began today, and various union representatives gave testimony. ~~John L. Lewis, big boss of the coal miners union, was there, but he preferred to let his story be told by Thomas Kennedy, Secretary and Treasurer of the Mine Workers of America;~~ Kennedy stated that the anthracite strike was, what he called - a mistake, a terrible mistake." He said that he had done ~~everything~~ everything he could to end the strike, but <sup>had</sup> it failed.

The walkout is being run by union locals - in defiance of the larger union ~~organization,~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~various~~ officials of the locals gave to the Senate Committee their version of the strike - which came ~~about~~ about as a protest against an increase of union dues. <sup>TP</sup> They <sup>did</sup> said that the wages the miners got ~~do~~ not square with the rising cost of living, so they want an increase in the rate of pay.

The Union has a contract with the mine operators, which contract does not expire until April. The local unions asked the John L. Lewis mine workers organization to try to reopen the contract for discussion of wage increases right away. This demand was refused. At the same time, union dues were increased from a dollar a month per miner to a dollar and fifty cents per miner. That was the last ~~XXXXX~~ straw - the Union refusing to do anything about a wage increase and then slapping on ~~an~~ an increase of dues. The Union locals protested without avail, and their members went on strike.

This was the story told today in behalf of the strikers, with officials of the Union locals asking the Senate Committee to send representatives to the scene of the strike, and demanding that the War Labor Board reopen the contract between the Union and

{ the coal operators, and procure an increase of wages.

{ The miners want two dollars a day more.

## PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY

Today began the March of Dimes in connection with the President's Birthday Ball. This is the tenth year of the annual drive to support the fight against

infantile paralysis, ~~(and the anniversary may serve to~~

~~remind one of a contrast. (In totalitarian countries,~~

~~dictators mold youth and childhood to the purposes of~~

~~despotism and aggression. In this nation, the~~

~~President, with reference to youth and childhood,~~

~~is a national leader in the battle against that enemy~~

~~of the young - infantile paralysis.)~~

Now here is a bit of comment on the O.P.A.

ruling - that going by automobile to your local

birthday ball comes under the heading of pleasure

driving, which is forbidden. The Committee sponsoring

the birthday celebration tells us that Americans are

going to attend it just the same, not in pleasure

driving automobiles but in many other sorts of

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conveyances. The Committee is urging birthdayball committees to offer prizes for couples who arrive in the most unusual vehicles - hayracks, spring wagons, handsome cabs, bicycles or roller skates.

## MARKSMAN

A lot has been said about the natural born ability of Americans when it comes to handling a gun. As evidence, let's take the natural born marksmanship ability displayed by Private Paul Mains of Surveyor, Pennsylvania.

At Camp Atterbury, Indiana, Private Mains was out on the rifle range, and in the first fifteen shots he made fourteen bulls eyes. The Lieutenant supervising the target practice, thought that was mighty fine. He walked to Private Mains to give him a bit of applause. Then the Lieutenant stared. Was he startled!

"Say," he exclaimed, "you've got no rear sight on your rifle."

"That's right, sir," the soldier responded, as if he were expecting a ~~xxxxxxx~~ bawling out. "The rear sight must have been knocked off, sir. I didn't notice it until I was ready to shoot."

That floored the Lieutenant completely, and

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Private Mains went on with his target practice.

With the same rifle -- no rear sight -- he qualified as an expert marksman with a score of a hundred and ninety-five.

I wonder what he <sup>ll</sup>~~will~~ do when he gets a rear sight on his gun. I suppose they'll have to move the target back a mile or <sup>so</sup>~~two~~ to give his shooting eye a real test.

TORPEDO ACE

Last night I noted, among other guests in the studio here, a young naval officer - who kept unobtrusively in the background. He came with someone else, and was introduced as Lieutenant Larsen. When the program was over, he left with a quiet "Good-bye".

*And* after he was gone I was told - "That was Swede Larsen, Commander of Torpedo Squadron Eight."

I said, "Holy smoke!"

Torpedo Squadron Eight - that outfit of Navy torpedo planes which won death and immortality at the Battle of Midway! The planes flew out and smashed the Jap warships ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> devastating attacks. Not one plane returned, and only one man survived.

After Midway, Torpedo Squadron Eight was reconstituted, and went on to new deeds of heroism. This time in the battles of the Solomons. The glowing honor of being its commander was given to Lieutenant

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Harold Larsen of Omaha. He has led Squadron Eight in twenty-seven attacks in four months, during which his torpedo planes <sup>have</sup> hit every type of Japanese warship from battleship to destroyer, sinking them and blasting them. Swede Larsen himself is on record as <sup>the</sup> a flier who has made more successful torpedo runs against enemy ships than any other man now living.

So that was the quiet and unobtrusive young Navy flier who was in <sup>here</sup> last night, and wouldn't it have been a treat to have had him on the air for a couple of minutes - if I had only known who he was.

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With which expression of regret, I turn the microphone over to Hugh James.