

P. I. - Standard Tuesday, Dec. 21, 1944. (Tucson.)
Sun.

Today Chief of Staff General Marshall arrived in California, which doesn't sound so exciting until we learn where he came from -- around the world from Teheran. He flew from the Teheran Conference, on eastward, girdling the globe for what in ordinary times of peace would have been rated as an historic exploit of aviation.

The Chief of Staff, as we know, took part in the conferences between President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Soviet Premier Stalin. And then General Marshall faded away into mystery -- his whereabouts kept a secret. Today, with his return to the United States secrecy is lifted, and we learn

that from ~~the~~ Teheran he flew to India, then to Ceylon and on to Australia. On an island north of Australia he conferred with Lieutenant General Krueger, commander of the American invasion of New Britain and ~~then~~ the Marshall-Krueger conference was on the very day of the landing. And General Marshall visited the war area of New Guinea and fighting sectors in the Solomons. All along the line he conferred with military leaders concerning plans to crush Japan. These included talks with our Southwest Pacific Commander, General MacArthur.

Hawaii was his last stop before ~~landing~~ returning home, and at Pearl Harbor he conferred with Admiral

Nimitz. ^{TP} By the time he gets back to Washington he will have flown 35,000 miles
Around the world for war talks - that

summarizes this memorable circumnavigation made by General Marshall.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

In the southwest Pacific things look particularly favorable on that great jungle island of Bougainville. Indications are that the Japs are evacuating the southern part of Bougainville -- abandoning that section of the island to the Americans. This was stated today in Washington by Secretary of the Navy ~~Frank~~ Knox, who told a news conference the Jap forces in the southern sector of Bougainville are pulling out, moving northward, and that it appeared ~~that~~ the enemy forces would concentrate in the area around Buin-Faisi. ^{TP} This of course will enable the Americans who have been expanding their beach heads at Empress Augusta Bay, to ~~and~~ establish themselves in positions for a new big thrust to eliminate the Japs from Bougainville completely.

~~On New Britain allied troops have fastened~~

On the island of New Britain with the American invasion force in full possession of the Arawe Peninsula and its air ~~strip~~ strip -- there are indications that General MacArthur may be planning a new landing blow at the northern part of the island, near the great Jap naval base of Rabaul. This supposition is based on the news of the greatest air assault ever delivered in the southwest Pacific. -- the raid that hit the New Gloucester area, in northern New Britain. Preparation for a landing perhaps.

JAP ADMIRAL

Enemy Tokyo ^{told} ~~tells~~ us something ~~in~~ today

that we didn't know about the American conquest of the Gilbert Islands -- assuming the Japanese account to be correct, which it probably is ⁱⁿ in general. ~~The~~

~~story~~ ^{story} ~~states~~ that among the Japs killed in the American storming of Tarawa one was -- Rear Admiral Kenji

Shibazaki. We ^{were} ~~are~~ ^{today} informed that this Admiral was

the commander of the Japanese garrison on Tarawa, which was wiped out; -- ~~and~~ Jap Admiral ~~Si~~ Shibazaki ~~was~~ wiped out with the rest.

Tokyo radio, in announcing this ^{today gave} ~~since~~

an imaginary ~~mk~~ account of the death of the Japanese Commander -- the way ~~in~~ it must have happened,

according to Jap ideas. And' here's a Japanese

example of war dramatics according to the Japanese

taste!- "When he made his last stand" said the

Tokyo radio," the Rear Admiral must have stood in

front of his men and waving his drawn sword charged right into the midst of the enemy". Which sounds a bit like an oriental Samurai version of an old-fashioned American dime novel thriller.

"The Admiral," the Tokyo version goes on "must have used his sword to the best of his ability, ~~met~~ ^{met} a gallant death with his men -- in a manner that must have brought shivers to the spine of the enemy".

Tokyo should know by this time that American spines don't shiver so easily, although, of course, Jap officers on Tarawa did stage suicide charges with waving swords, and the barbarous hari-kari fanaticism of the Japs might well make any sane man shiver ^{a bit.} ~~as a raving lunatic does.~~

AIR WAR

Last night's British air assault against Nazi Germany is reckoned the greatest the R.A.F.

has ever hurled. ~~The~~ It figures this way: The City of Frankfurt with its giant chemical industry was hit by a force of from eight hundred to a thousand four motored bombers, which dropped two thousand two hundred and forty tons of high explosive and incendiary bombs. ~~But that wasn't all.~~ At the same time R.A.F. planes were ~~ix~~ raiding the Mannheim area -- a secondary assault. And this was the first time that a two thousand ton air blow against one target was combined with a big time raid against another target.

Frankfurt has been bombed forty times now, and that, together with last night's record breaking blast leads to the belief that the great

chemical city is one of those the Allies planned to blot out. At the same time the record breaker cost a large prize - forty-two bombers ~~were~~ lost in the ^{two} fold ~~two fold~~ assault -- one of the ~~largest~~ largest bomber losses in any single night.

FOLLOW AIR WAR

The night of bombing was followed by daylight operations today -- with ^{an} Allied air fleet sweeping down on Nazi targets in northern France; ~~Allied~~ was the right word. Because the Air ~~made~~ ^{U. S.} consisted of ~~United States~~ Marauder medium bombers escorted by ~~British Royal Air Force~~ ^{R. A. F.} fighters.

From this Britain-based action in the air we sweep down across Europe to the Mediterranean to find the news telling us of raids against a German air base near Athens and also against Sofia, the capital of Axis satellite Bulgaria. ^{and} The Nazi air force did ^{not} take it sitting on the ground. Swarms of ~~thxxx~~ crack German fighter planes, elite planes distinguished by their yellow noses intercepted ^{out} squadrons of Fortresses and Liberators. ^{In} ~~and~~ fierce air ~~xxxx~~ battles ^{the Germans} ~~were fought on high. The Nazis~~ lost out; ~~and~~ twenty seven Nazis ~~were~~ shot down.

And you can add these to the figure scored by our Mediterranean air forces on their previous raid, when they destroyed at least thirty seven planes for sure and probably a total of fifty-nine. The two ~~large~~ operations accounted ^{ing} ~~ed~~ for eighty-seven German fighters, while we lost twenty _^ planes of varying sizes.

RUSSIA

Today the Vichy radio which is Nazi controlled, used the following phrase:- "The entire front is on the move". The front referred to is that of the River Dnieper, the battle line in the great bend. And what about the ^{direction} ~~XXXXX~~ in which it is on the move -- backward, for the Nazis. -- retreat, retirement, flight. ^R The Vichy radio continues by saying that the Soviets are throwing what it calls "enormous" numbers of men and machine^s against the Germans. ^R And that's ~~RM~~ why the entire front is on the move, This dispatch from enemy controlled Vichy is ~~RM~~ ground, I think, for 'a good guess that ^{the long} ~~XXXXXX~~ unexpected German evacuation of the Dnieper Bend is now going on in a big way -- full flight, get out as fast as possible.

~~XXXXXX~~ ^R Below Leningrad

the Soviet offensive is rolling on. Moscow tonight

describes the spear-head of the drive as being south of that place called Nevel, and the Russians report that the advance has captured more than one hundred towns and villages.

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There are further stories of German retreat in the sector of Vitebsk and Potol'sk, which are strong holds on the railroads from Moscow to Riga.

~~They are~~ Likewise described as guarding the approaches to Latvia and Lithuania. -- *A* graphic indication of how the Russian advances are threatening to push into the Baltic states. *A* Moscow says the Germans are abandoning large quantities of armament in their retreat before the ~~the~~ pursuing Red Forces.

ITALY

There isn't much news from the war front in Italy. The Fifth Army, after those recent heavy battles and strategic advances is moving forward slowly, preparing for another violent ~~xxx~~ thrust.

~~Today's dispatches from allied headquarters pictures General Clark's troops as making slow progress amid the ~~ix~~ snow-capped mountains of the Appenines. At one place, a push of a mile-and-a-half resulted in the capture of a twenty-six-hundred-foot mountain, which looks down on the low lands in the thrust on Rome.~~

LEAD RAILROAD

Today President Roosevelt staged his third successive attempt to settle the railroad wage dispute. At the White House he held a conference with representatives of the ~~xxx~~ railroad unions.

No go!-- no settlement!

Quite to the contrary - the ~~xxxx~~ railroad situation grew worse today with the announcement that still another group of ~~xx~~ railroad workers plans ~~planned~~ to issue a strike call. The non-operating employees, numbering one-million-one-hundred-thousand, intend to join the three-hundred-and-fifty-thousand operating employees in the strike that the latter have ~~has~~ ordered for December thirtieth.

RAILROADS

Another railroad strike ^{order} should be expected ~~soon~~ ~~before night fall~~. There are two kinds of railroad workers:-- ~~called~~ the operating employees and the non-operating employees. The former group, operating decided on a strike days ago. Their unions issued an order to walk out on December thirtieth. And now the operating employees are supported by the non-operating, the ones who do not actually run the trains. There are a million-one-hundred-thousand of them and they ^{are} to strike simultaneously with the other group on that same day -- December thirtieth.

President Roosevelt today spoke in serious terms about the possibility of a general ~~xi~~ railroad strike. ~~He~~ asserted that it would be the most serious blow that could be directed against the progress of the war. He disclosed that he has ~~suggested~~ suggested a compromise solution of the labor dispute, and the

compromise is the one that ~~was~~ ^{is} anticipated ~~on this~~ ^{in referring}
~~to it~~ ^{to it} ~~program~~ last night: -- over time. The railroad workers
have been offered an ~~increase~~ increase of four cents an
hour, which is all that Economic Stabilizer Vinson
would permit under the restriction of wages -- the
ceiling. This the unions turned down and now President
Roosevelt suggests that in addition to the raise of
four cents an hour the railroad workers could be
granted another four cents an hour by means of overtime.

That would in effect give them a pay boost
of eight cents an hour.

In other industries over time is paid on
the basis of forty hours a week. But in the world
of railroading the men get over time only after
forty-eight hours a week. The President said he
considered this unfair ~~(and it will be quite proper --~~
~~and within the ceiling on wages -- for the railroad~~

The President ^{today also} ~~Roosevelt today~~, gave his ~~own~~ opinion on the subject of the much debated -- Canol project. This Canol business represents United States Army oil development in Canada. It has been attacked as being a huge waste of money -- one hundred and thirty million dollars of hard American cash; and it's now being investigated by the Truman Committee of the Senate. ^R Yesterday, the Canol project was defended before the committee by Lieutenant General Somervell, Army Chief of Supply. The argument in favor of the expensive business of producing oil in ^{Arctic} Canada, is that it places a source of motor fuel close to the United States Air Forces in ^{the Alaskan and} the Aleutian area. ~~Now~~ We hear that the Truman Committee, which had hitherto been regarded as hostile to the Canol ~~project~~ project was impressed by General Somervell's contentions. ^{And} now we have President Roosevelt, to

The President pointing out
the same effect. ~~stated~~ today that at the time
the Canol Project was formed he would have okayed
anything to get a new source of oil near Alaska
and the Aleutians -- and never mind the cost.

SHELLING

The shelling of Vancouver Island on Saturday became more of a mystery today when the skipper of a freighter said "I didn't do it". The Pacific coast of Canada was agitated on Saturday when shells of an unknown origin fell near Vancouver Island. And the explanation was given out that the shooting had been done by an armed ~~steamer~~ coastal steamer -- engaged in routine gunnery practice. Today, the Captain of the steamer came forward with a denial. His vessel did not fire the shell. So who did? Maybe a Jap sub. That's one surmise which has been made.

CALIFORNIA

In California Governor Earle Warren took action in the ^{matter} ~~middle~~ of a soldier vote in the Nineteen Forty-four Presidential election with the administration calling for the federal government to handle the election ~~xx~~ system among the servicemen, the ^{U.S.} Senate passed a resolution for the states to do the job in accordance with states rights. And promptly this cue was followed by Governor Warren who today recommended two changes in the California election law to simplify the ^vote of the service men in this country and overseas. ^{TP} The changes are simple: Both have to do with the time element. As the law stands, only fifteen days will be allowed for the sending out and getting back of soldier and sailor ballots. The Governor proposes the period of time both before and after election day be extended so the time needed for voting ~~xx~~ by the service men will be increased to forty five days.

Today in Reno, Doris Duke Cromwell was granted a divorce, but promptly her husband's lawyer announces the divorce will be contested. He characterized the Reno Divorce in one word "valueless". So the world's richest heiress may still have some legal fireworks before she is finally and completely free of matrimony. ^RIn court at Reno the charge she made was -- "extreme cruelty". To which one might ask: how cruel must cruelty be to be extreme? Some small elucidation of this may perhaps be found in one of the specific charges which the heiress to the Duke tobacco fortune made against her husband social James H. R. Cromwell, former United States Minister ~~at~~ to Canada and one time aspirant to the governorship of New Jersey. She said he demanded sums of money from her. And of these the largest touch was for Seven Million

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Dollars. ^A She said hubby asked her to let him have
a mere Seven Million for personal uses and campaign
expenses. So that's what extreme cruelty means,
when somebody tries to touch you for Seven Million
Dollars. If that ^(happened to) ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ me it would be not
only cruel but actually fatal.

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How about you Tucson Ben?