

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Fresh news from the Pacific tonight.

The Japs dispatched a convoy to bring reinforcements to their base at Wewak, in New Guinea. ~~It was not~~ <sup>Not</sup>

a large one; but it was trying to run the blockade, <sup>the last effort of the enemy to hold on to Wewak.</sup>

~~block~~ Two hundred American bombers of General

MacArthur's command spotted the convoy and wiped <sup>with bombs and cannon fire.</sup>

it out. The American formation sank every Jap ship

including two transports crammed with troops <sup>S.</sup> ~~and~~

~~killed many hundreds of them.~~

Wewak has been under ~~constant~~ <sup>continuous bombardment</sup> bombardment for eight days, ~~in a row~~ and the destruction of the

convoy puts the Wewak garrison ~~xxx~~ in a bad plight.

<sup>o</sup> ~~Further north in the Pacific,~~ <sup>- in fact way to the North,</sup> a formation

of U. S. Army Liberator <sup>S</sup> ~~bombers~~ raided the enemy

installations on ~~the island called Matsuwa.~~ <sup>That</sup>

<sup>Matsuwa,</sup> ~~is midway~~ <sup>Kurile</sup> in the ~~Jurix~~ islands. The big Liberators

on this raid took off from a base in the Aleutians,

L.T. SUNOCO, MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1944

Nimitz

~~GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY,~~

~~News from the Pacific tonight!~~ *Also,* Admiral Nimitz

has attacked the Japanese in the eastern Marshalls.

It looks like the preliminary to a seizure of the only remaining bases the enemy have<sup>s</sup> in that part of the archipelago. An attack in force, says the communique from Pearl Harbor, which tells us that it was delivered by carrier-borne planes, protected by battleships.

In this action the bombardment of the atoll known as Mili, was the first action by battleships and carriers since the big raid on Truk. Mili is the most important base the Japs had left in the Marshalls. Nimitz battleships moved in to close range with their heavy guns. So Mili was probably turned into a shambles.

At the same time, Mitchell medium bombers, operating from land bases in the Marshalls, carried out

*and* caught the Japs completely by surprise. One

of the pilots, Lieutenant Robert Lockwood *from the*

*state of*  
~~Entirely~~ Washington, said that when he went in he

found the air fields covered by an overcast of

clouds, but he bombed right through them. Another

pilot running in a few minutes later reported that

the raid had done ~~satisfactory~~ *plenty of* damage to ~~the~~ *those* Jap

installations *in the bleals* *far northern*  
Kwiles.

Nimitz - 2.  
~~LEAD~~ 2

an attack on Jap bases in the Carolines, especially Ponape. Liberators and Mitchells, from the Seventh Air Force under Major General Hales, along with Venturas from the Fleet Air Wing, as well as Marine Dauntless dive bombers and Corsair fighters, attacked other enemy installations. All this without any loss to our side, says the report.

JOLLY ROGERS

Somewhere in New Guinea, there is a formation of bombers whose members have received among them a total of three thousand, five hundred decorations. Up to March Seventeenth, they had destroyed definitely three hundred and forty-four Japanese planes, probably ninety-seven more. They call themselves the "Jolly Rogers", and their planes, four-engined Liberators, carry insignia of white skulls over crossed bombs, against a green background.

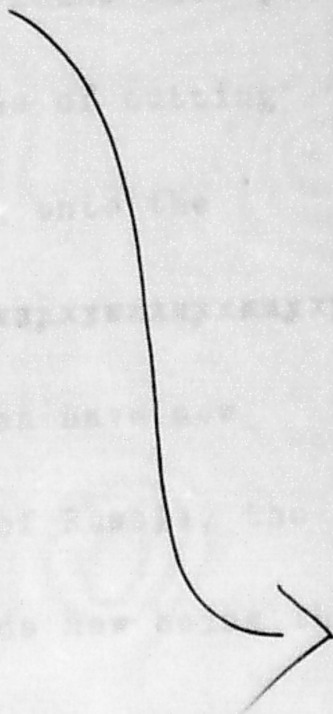
And They ~~fellows~~ had to fight <sup>plenty</sup> for the right to those <sup>ins</sup> insignia. Some of ~~the~~ the higher officers ~~thought they were~~ <sup>objected,</sup> ~~hardly proper,~~ but, the boys won the argument. ~~at the~~ ~~time they took the title of~~ "Jolly Rogers", one of their ~~senior officers~~ <sup>was a Colonel</sup> ~~was A.H. Rogers of Greenville, South~~ ~~Carolina, who is now back in the United States.~~ <sup>✱</sup> They are proud of themselves and <sup>they don't</sup> ~~do not~~ mind letting the world know it. <sup>In fact</sup> They have built billboards in New Guinea,

advertising themselves as the "best so-and-so heavy  
bombing unit in the world. Their claim seems pretty good.  
In addition to the planes they have destroyed, they have  
sunk more than two hundred and fifty thousand tons of  
enemy shipping and damaged a hundred and seventeen  
thousand more. They have to their credit a total of  
more than thirty-two thousand combat hours, flying an  
average of three missions a week, two a day when  
necessary.

## RUSSIA

In Russia, the armies of the Ukraine have captured two more important places. One, Mogilev-Podolski, a big Nazi bastion on the Dniester River. Another is Vinnitsa, an industrial city sixty miles to the northeast. The Second Ukrainian Army, under Marshal Konev, is on its way to the Carpathian Mountains in Bessarabia, and have cut another railway line. In fact, they are not far from retaking the last two roads which the Germans hold across the Dniester.

Moscow today summed up the results of the



Russian offensive which began last July Twelfth. In that time they have pushed the Germans back six hundred and fifty miles to Poland, five hundred miles to Vinnitsa, and five hundred and fifty miles to ~~that town~~ <sup>a point</sup> on the Dniester ~~which~~ <sup>that</sup> they occupied today. ~~That is a~~ ~~formidable advance in any man's war.~~ <sup>IT</sup> Moscow commentators tell us a story to which our ears have become accustomed. They claim that Field Marshal von Mannstein has abandoned all hope of saving anything like the major portion of the battered armies with which he was holding onto the Ukraine. The Russians have serious hopes of cutting off all the Nazis that are still holding onto the sector around Odessa and Nikolaev. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

<sup>IT</sup> Any way ~~we~~ look at it, the Soviet armies have now pushed the Germans almost entirely out of Russia, the only sizeable portions left in Nazi hands now being the Crimea and the country around Odessa.



The Nazis themselves have an interesting argument to reconcile <sup>Hitler's</sup> ~~the~~ people of Germany <sup>to the long, long German</sup> ~~for the Russian~~ retreat, ~~advances~~. A military spokesman in Berlin declared today that the Russians have <sup>advanced</sup> ~~been going ahead~~, too fast for their own good, ~~They have gone so far and so quickly,~~ ~~that they~~ have exhausted themselves; ~~And now, adds the~~ ~~Nazi commentator,~~ the Red Armies are standing in dead space. All their advancing has amounted to a defeat, says this ingenious Nazi, because the Russians deluded themselves by false hopes of being able to annihilate the Germans. ~~They have neither done this nor have they~~ ~~even surrounded any sizeable body of Nazi troops since~~ ~~Stalingrad.~~

The spokesman added the intimation that the Nazi high command has a great and crushing stroke of strategy in reserve. ~~No more can be said just now about~~ ~~the present state of affairs in Russia, because it would~~

~~reveal that great German strategy prematurely. But,~~

~~by retreating all the way along the line from the~~

~~Baltic to the Carpathians,~~ *that* the Germans have won a

preliminary decision in Russia.

~~And if you can understand that, you are one up •~~

~~or so.~~

## HUNGARY

The Nazis, we learn today, have taken over full control of Hungary. So we hear both from Turkey and Switzerland. The story goes on to relate that Admiral Horthy, the Regent of Hungary, and his most important generals, were invited to Hitler's headquarters as guests. While there, the Fuehrer sent an army across the frontier, an army that occupied Horthy's country while the Regent was away.

ADD HUNGARY

The story broke early today and was reported with reservations but this evening there seems to be no doubt about it. ~~But the fact is~~

~~that~~ The mass of the Hungarian people were ready to quit, fed up with the Nazis. The Germans were fully aware of ~~them~~ <sup>this and were</sup> determined that in this war they would not be caught as they were in the last war, left in the lurch by their Allies. So the Nazi ~~Fuehrer~~ <sup>fast one</sup> pulled a ~~typical Hitler trick~~, drew the Hungarian Regent and all the top ranking Generals off base, then poured ~~in~~ his Army in.

~~The~~ <sup>later</sup> reports reveal that the Hungarians didn't <sup>exactly</sup> ~~not~~ take it lying down. Some of them fought back. But they were overwhelmed by the powerful, fully equipped Nazi Army which tonight has Hungary reduced to the equivalent of a conquered country.

And, Admiral Horthy and the Hungarian Generals, Staff ~~top ranking officers tonight~~ are Hitler's prisoners. <sup>Such is</sup> ~~at least, that is~~ the ~~general~~ supposition.

## ATLANTIC WALL

One bit in the news today is a rough description of the Nazi defenses of Fortress Europe. It comes from Ralph Heinzen, United Press correspondent who was ~~interned~~ interned thirteen months in Germany. He tells us that from the Spanish border of France all the way up to The Hague in the Netherlands, there are six thousand cannon and three thousand mobile guns. The heavy cannon are planted solidly behind steel and concrete. They boast that they have used ten million tons of concrete along that Atlantic Wall and are strengthening ~~that~~<sup>the</sup> line all the time.

Along  
~~All the way up~~ that coast, are mines by the millions. ~~As a matter of fact, the minefields extend all the way up north to Petsamo in the Arctic Circle.~~

~~Some of them~~ explode on contact, others are operated by radio from shore. The Norwegian <sup>shoreline</sup> ~~coast~~ is also

fortified with some <sup>hundred</sup> seventeen <sup>^</sup> cannon, practically one

to the mile, for fifteen hundred miles.

For another detail, the Nazis have the waters off shore sown heavily with jagged steel snags imbedded in concrete, also submerged <sup>wrecks.</sup> ~~mines~~ The purpose of these is to rip the bottoms out of landing craft.

Heinzen reports that the Nazis are amazingly frank about some of their defenses. After the invading armies have smashed their way through the fortifications along the coast, they will have to storm through an inner arc of defense along the Rhine. Heinzen, escorted by Gestapo guards, was permitted to make a personal tour of inspection of some thirty-one forts in that inner defense arc.

But there is also an intermediate line of fortifications which stretches all the way from Flanders to the Argonne. Behind that again is the Siegfried Line, which has been modernized and in many parts reconstructed.

Another defense wall has been erected on the south coast of France, all the way from the Pyrenees to the Alps. On this they have used the forced labor of hundreds of thousands of French and Italian workmen.

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Well, maybe we can do something about that through the air. Lets see what's the latest air news! —

The Eighth Air Force has turned loose its fury again on the ancient industrial city of Frankfort-am-Main, center of the Nazi chemical industry. This, only thirty-six hours after the R.A.F. had sent a thousand bombers over Frankfort.

So far our losses are given as six heavy bombers and eight fighters. With only four of the enemy shot down. Most of our losses were from anti-aircraft fire, for few German planes came up to meet them.

~~In all, more than fifteen hundred Allied planes were involved today, some striking at Austrian plants. These flew from Italy and report that they bagged thirty Nazi fighters.~~

The raid on Frankfort was the fifteenth important operation in twenty-days by Lieutenant General Doolittle's airmen. The weather was poor, but the damage done enormous. So we hear. Over Frankfort alone some five hundred bombers dropped their loads. And with them flew some six hundred fighters.



LEAD ITALY

The Fifth Army is still fighting to clear the Germans out of Cassino. The brunt of the latest phase ~~of it~~ has been borne by ~~the~~ New Zealand troops ~~of the~~ ~~British army, these daughty fellows from Down Under,~~ *commanded by the* ~~whose commanding general is the famous~~ *general,* Freiberg, V.C. *are reported to* The New Zealanders have just completed a fierce charge in which they captured a hotel which was the final bulwark of Nazi resistance on the western edge of the Cassino ruins.

~~In the outskirts to the South, the Nazis are still holding out. After the ferocious bombing which turned Cassino into a rubble heap, we thought the Germans would be ousted. Instead ~~they~~ they have been able to pour in reinforcements; and, yesterday they delivered six counter-attacks; ~~one after the other.~~ ~~These were~~ so stiff they drove the Allies back for a short distance.~~

The latest reinforcements which the Germans *sent* ~~poured~~ in were paratroopers, young, fresh Nazis, tough as they come. Each <sup>has</sup> with him a printed ~~brief~~

leaflet signed by his commanding officer, which reads: "I intend to stay in Cassino indefinitely."

The Germans also recaptured a hill on the slopes of Monte Cassino. A band of Gurkhas, those tough mountaineers from the Himalayas, is surrounded five hundred feet below the summit of the mountain. We hear the Gurkhas are holding on grimly, and being reinforced by plane.

~~The Germans have a line of defense which reaches from the southwest corner of Cassino to the ruins of the Roman Amphitheatre, a mile below the town. In the center of it is the ancient Palace of the Dukes of Monte Cassino, which the Nazis have made into a powerful fortress.~~

A Nazi broadcast boasts that the Allied attacks at Cassino have collapsed under withering German artillery fire. All of which we hear isn't true. But the fact remains that we haven't yet taken Cassino.

## VESUVIUS

Another eruption of Vesuvius, one of the greatest in recent times. By tomorrow, two ~~whole cities~~ <sup>towns</sup> will have been destroyed, ~~swept over by~~ <sup>wiped out by</sup> ~~streams of lava from the~~ <sup>rumbling old Vesuvius,</sup> ~~steaming cooled volcano.~~

The American military government promptly took measures to evacuate the inhabitants of the two doomed towns on the slopes of the volcano. Some seventy-six hundred people altogether are being carried away in Uncle Sam's army trucks. Another town is in the path of the lava stream, but in no immediate danger.

People often wonder why the Italians of that countryside continue to live on the sides of a volcano. The answer is that the volcanic soil is incredibly friendly to grapevines.

The volcano experts at the Royal Observatory in Naples report that the present eruption is already as formidable as the one that was recorded in Eighteen

Seventy-Two, when twenty people were killed.

The spectacle of the eruption was a great show for the G.I.'s of the American Army. Dougboy sightseers are having their pictures taken on the ~~xxx~~ lava. Soldiers, Wacs, nurses, are ~~driving and walking all over the~~ <sup>thronging the</sup> roads in jeeps, trucks, command cars, and on foot, for their first sight of a volcano in action.

with his chaplain and his lawyers, and asked that he be not blindfolded. Then he himself gave the order, "Fire!" A volley rang out, and that was the end of Pierre Laval, <sup>so-called</sup> traitor to France.

He was the first highly placed Frenchman to pay the price for helping the enemies of his country.

He was a young man, only forty-four. His political life had been meteoric. Up to ten years ago, few people had ever heard of him. Then he rose to be an associate of the infamous Pierre Laval, a collaborator

There was a dramatic scene on a rifle range near Algiers at dawn today. Lined up <sup>was</sup> ~~with~~ a squad of twelve <sup>red soldiers,</sup> ~~men~~ of a firing squad. Presently a car drove up carrying several men. One of them ~~was~~ a chaplain, two ~~of them~~ were lawyers, the other ~~was~~ a former French Minister of the Interior, *whom a courtmartial had convicted as a traitor and sentenced to death.*

He took his medicine like a man, shook hands with his chaplain and his lawyers, and asked that he be not blindfolded. Then he himself gave the order, "Fire!"

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with the Nazis.

Before he died, he was courteous to the officers in charge of the firing squad, but took time out to curse the man who had prosecuted him at his trial, Major General Pierre Weiss. The prosecutor had asked the court to lay down a principle that collaboration with the Vichy Government of France was of itself treason. The defendant's lawyers appealed to General DeGaulle at the last moment, but he, as President of the French Committee of National Liberation, rejected the plea.

*And now Roger Kump.*

## WEDDING

A wedding was celebrated at London today in three languages, Serbian, Greek and English. Serbian because the groom was Peter the Second, King of the Serbs; Greek because the bride was the Princess Alexandria of Greece; and English because it took place in England.

The young King wore a crown on his head for the first time in his life. The crown of Yugoslavia. To make it fit it had been padded. Evidently, they padded it too much, for at one part of the proceedings it wobbled and the audience thought it was going to drop off. After the wedding the couple went off for a very unroyal honeymoon, -- for only four servants accompanied them.

The ceremony took place at the Yugoslav Embassy in London, in the presence of King George the Sixth and Queen Elizabeth of England, King George of Greece, Queen Wilhelmina and Prince Bernhardt of the Netherlands, King Haakon of Norway, and the Duchess of Kent, and the Duke of Gloucester..

According to accounts, this is a real love match. The young couple met two years ago at a tea party; and within a month the young King was driving the Princess to Cambridge, where she was in school. On that ride he proposed. So we hear. And ~~she~~<sup>when</sup> she accepted young Peter was so overjoyed that he nearly drove his car into the ~~and~~ ditch.

*And now Roger, drive ahead*