

For six nights the people of Berlin had a rest because the weather was too bad for heavy raids. Tonight the Royal Air Force ~~came~~<sup>flew</sup> over the German capital again in one of their biggest raids. They stayed only twenty-three minutes ~~in~~ but in that time they dropped more than two thousand two hundred and forty tons of block-busters and incendiaries.

We have a fair measure of the might of this raid in the words which the German Trans-Ocean News Agency used to describe it: They called it a "terror attack" and that is what they always say after a big sortie. Berlin was already one fourth destroyed after ~~the~~ the ten big raids which the Allies have made since November Eighteenth.

Actually this latest assault was the biggest in eighteen days. Since ~~in~~ January third the only raids on Berlin have ~~been~~ been by British Mosquito Bombers.

The campaign on Berlin is a systematic affair. The Royal Air Force is taking the city

district by district, wiping it out methodically.

While one quarter of the city ~~xx~~ has been destroyed  
no less than forty percent of its factories and  
military installations have been wiped out.

## RUSSIA

On the northern end of the Russian line, the Red armies have won a victory almost as important as the recapture of Kiev. They forced the Germans out of Novgorod which, ever since August, Nineteen Forty-One, had been the buttress of the Nazi front on the Baltic. The Germans announced it first, saying that they had evacuated Novgorod; ~~and so~~ hinting that they had just given it up because they were <sup>- well</sup> tired of staying there, <sup>I guess.</sup>

Later in the day, the air waves around Moscow were given over to Marshal Stalin, who issued a triumphant order of the day, addressed to General Merets'kov, the Red general who leads the armies on that northern front. Stalin described the city as an important economic hub, a communication center, and a strong German defense base.

*And* Meretskov did not stop at Novgorod. He sent his men northwest towards the Baltic. The consequence

was, they tore wide gaps in the Nazi line for a distance of ninety miles, <sup>all</sup> the way to the Leningrad sector. area.

The upshot of it all is that the siege of Leningrad is now lifted completely, just twenty-nine months from the day that it began, August twenty-one Nineteen Forty-one.

The Germans have withdrawn from the entire salient around the east end of the city. This is the end of a battle that lasted six days, a battle in which the Russians killed no fewer than forty thousand ~~German~~ Germans, captured several towns and cities and an enormous amount of booty. They also destroyed great quantities of German equipment, planes, tanks, heavy guns.

The armies of General Merets'kov joined up with the Red Army forces which advanced westward from Leningrad itself. This placed the former capital of Holy Russia beyond the reach of German guns for the first time in years.

Stalin announced the recapture of ~~Moscow~~ Novgorod in Moscow with a two hundred and twenty-four

gun salute. The name Novgorod means "new town", but actually it is one of the most ancient cities of Russia. Founded by Vikings ~~xx~~ many centuries ago. Military experts in London declare that the retaking of Novgorod is as smashing a blow to the Nazis as the victories of Smolensk and Bryansk. It was the third <sup>feather</sup> ~~stone~~ in the cap of General Merets'kov. It was he who broke the Finnish Mannerheim Line in the winter of Nineteen Thirty-Nine-Nineteen Forty. It was he who was responsible for the ~~xxx~~ recapture of <sup>Mojaisk</sup> ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ in the first great Russian counter offensive.

The recapture of Novgorod, plus the holes that Merets'kov has punched in the German line to the North, has placed large German forces - some three hundred thousand soldiers, in peril. A considerable force is on the verge of being surrounded seventeen miles south of Leningrad. The forests around Lake Ilmen are full of disorganized bands of Nazis, cut off from the main body of the army, and harrassed by guerrillas.

## CHURCHILL

Prime Minister Winston Churchill is taking a hand in that ~~ambros~~ squabble over the post-war frontier between Russia and Poland. He had a long talk today, at Number Ten Downing Street, with three of the ~~the~~ Polish government leaders in exile. The first thing he has to do is make it possible for Stalin and the Polish leaders to shake hands and make up. <sup>That</sup> ~~they~~ will not be easy. To do <sup>it</sup> ~~that~~ he will have to persuade some of the Polish Ministers in London to bow themselves out of the picture. Meaning for one, General Sosnowski, Commander in Chief of the Polish fighting forces. The heads of the Soviet ~~government~~ look upon that Polish General as definitely anti-Russian, ~~and therefore~~

~~.....~~

Later in the day, the diplomatic tension over the ~~the~~ Pravda story faded out. Moscow repudiated it. The Russians vowed they were surprised at the excitement that it had aroused. The Deputy Foreign Commissar assured the British Embassy in Moscow that no official of the Russian government was ~~xxx~~

responsible for publishing the <sup>Pravda</sup> report. Furthermore,  
he added <sup>that</sup> the Stalin government knew nothing about  
it until it appeared in print.

London now considers the <sup>3</sup> whole business  
~~indicated~~ at an end.

## ITALY

In Italy, the Nazis have been driven out of Minturno, <sup>all of which</sup> ~~and it~~ looks like a decisive victory in that Allied march on Rome. Minturno is only seventy miles from the Eternal City and was the anchor spot of the German line on the coast of the Tyrrhenian Sea.

It was not the American troops that forced the way at Minturno, <sup>it was</sup> ~~but~~ the British <sup>with</sup> ~~units of~~ General Clark's Fifth Army. They did it by <sup>a</sup> ~~one of the~~ pincers operations, <sup>and, by</sup> ~~partly~~ a leap frog attack. One British division landed from the Tyrrhenian Sea above Minturno, while <sup>their comrades</sup> ~~another outfit of British~~ attacked from the east.

The Germans <sup>hurled</sup> ~~threw~~ at them two heavy counter-attacks led by tanks, <sup>which</sup> ~~but these~~ were repelled. When the vanguard of the Fifth Army reached the outskirts of Minturno, the Germans decided it was untenable, and evacuated. Evidently they set fire to it first, because Berlin announced that Minturno had been completely destroyed.



As one result of this battle, we learn that the Germans are apparently withdrawing many of their veteran troops from Italy and replacing them with recruits. Prisoners captured in the battle of Minturno said that many of their men were under fire for the first time. The obvious inference <sup>of which</sup> is that the German high command is transferring the cream of its shock troops to the west, in preparation for the Allied invasion.

ADD ITALY

Bombs were dropped in the southeastern suburbs of Rome. Allied planes attacked the marshalling yards ~~in~~ in those outskirts of the Eternal City, the yards which the Nazis use for the transportation of troops and supplies to the south.

Some of the explosives fell on two of the big ~~main~~ aqueducts ~~in~~ that bring water to Rome and the city is reported to be practically without water today. The Germans put out a report that the water supply of the Vatican had been impaired. But it is known that the Papal authorities have a considerable amount of water stored up. In fact it is even suggested ~~that~~ that Pope Pius may distribute some of it to the people of Rome.

## BARI

Tonight we have for the first time an eyewitness account of the <sup>melancholy</sup> Allied disaster at Bari early in December, <sup>when</sup> ~~the~~ German <sup>planes staged a surprise</sup> raid ~~that~~ wrecked the ~~city~~ and <sup>damaged much</sup> ~~destroyed many~~ Allied ships <sup>sinks</sup> and huge quantities of ammunition. One United Press correspondent says those German bombers blasted Bari into a ~~hellish~~ nightmare of exploding shells, leaping flames and shattered buildings. <sup>TP</sup> The greatest <sup>part</sup> of the damage was ~~the~~ <sup>result of</sup> ~~accomplished by~~ a lucky hit on an ammunition ship.

<sup>TP</sup> The Germans came over shortly ~~but~~ after seven o'clock in the evening, at a time when the harbor was jammed with ships, all ~~of them~~ loaded with munitions of war. The reporter declares it was almost impossible for the enemy to miss.

When they got that ammunition ship, there was a terrific explosion and the whole sky seemed to fill with a dull reddish flame. After a few seconds of

silence, a strong wind whipped through the town like a tornado. For miles around <sup>could be</sup> ~~they~~ heard the sounds of breaking glass, and of doors, window frames and Venetian blinds being whipped out. As a matter of fact, the concussion blew out windows as far as ten miles inland, and even ~~at some points~~ twenty miles away the force of the explosion was felt.

The ammunition ship set other ships on fire, some of which sank swiftly, while others burned all night.

~~As a matter of fact,~~ <sup>And,</sup> the disaster might <sup>even</sup> have been <sup>far</sup> worse. ~~To be sure,~~ <sup>Although</sup> the Germans did destroy seventeen vessels, <sup>there were many many</sup> ~~but that is comparatively few~~ <sup>times that number in the harbor.</sup> ~~of several hundred that were safe in their berth.~~

Owing to ~~the ruling of the~~ censorship, this is the first ~~time~~ <sup>word we have had of that</sup> eyewitnesses ~~were permitted to tell about~~ ~~the~~ Bari disaster.

## PACIFIC

For several days there has been a conspicuous silence about the land operations <sup>on</sup> ~~of~~ the island of New Britain. ~~You might also call it a~~ <sup>almost</sup> ~~deafening~~ <sup>stunning</sup> ~~silence. And there is a decided impression that~~ ~~there~~ ~~progress is~~ ~~painfully slow.~~ We ~~do~~ hear ~~that~~ the Japs made another attack on Hill Six-sixty. <sup>But</sup> ~~The~~ Marines beat them back and as the enemy retreated they left one hundred and twenty six <sup>of their</sup> ~~dead, behind~~ ~~them.~~

For the rest, the news from the war in the Pacific is almost entirely about air attacks, principally ~~principally~~ <sup>the</sup> the raids on Weewak, ~~on~~ New Guinea, and Rabaul, ~~on~~ New Britain. Allied bombers and fighters destroyed or damaged forty-nine Japanese planes in those sorties. They dropped one hundred and thirty-three tons of explosive on the Boram Air Field in Northern New Guinea and destroyed many planes on the ground. At Rabaul they made three raids in four days, shot down twenty one enemy fighters and probably one more. All in all the official

communiques from the Pacific theater ~~are~~ mostly ~~a~~  
~~list of constant and~~ *concern* repeated air attacks; ~~just~~  
hammering away, ~~and~~ destroying enemy ~~land~~ forces  
here, *and* there, and all over the map.

## SHOOTING

Tonight there is a new and dramatic climax to that shooting mystery at the luxurious Drake Hotel in Chicago. Mrs. Frank Starr Williams, the rich wife of an attaché of the State Department in Washington died just twenty-five hours after the bullet was fired into her brain.

Although her condition has been critical ~~ix~~ the Doctors had expected her to live throughout the night. They had so notified her family, including her husband. The consequence was that when Mrs. Williams died only an interne~~e~~ was at her ~~xxx~~ bedside.

*And that speeded up*  
~~This accelerated~~ the efforts of the Chicago police in their investigation. Several new facts came to light in the course of the day which served

only to confuse the matter. ~~The police~~ <sup>The police</sup> found the pistol with which she was shot on the ledge of a service elevator. They also found in the closet of the room occupied by Mrs. Williams ~~a~~ <sup>a</sup> persian lamb coat and the flowered ~~silk~~ silk dress. Mrs. Patricia Goodbody, the daughter of Mrs. Williams had told the police that the shooting lady wore a persian lamb coat and a flowered silk dress. Later in the day ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~police~~ announced that Mrs. ~~R~~ Goodbody admitted that she was the owner of the coat and the ~~silk dress~~ <sup>silk dress</sup> found in her mother's closet.

The police ~~found~~ <sup>next reported</sup> that powder burns had been ~~found~~ <sup>found</sup> on the hands of the dead woman. These are taken as an indication that she probably grappled with the woman who attacked her. The medical examiners ~~xxx~~ also found powder burns on the left hand of her daughter, Mrs. Goodbody. Mrs. Goodbody explained that when the mysterious invader started shooting she, Mrs. Goodbody threw her hands up in front of her face.

*What a story for Mary Roberts Rinehart - or somebody.*



KELLEMS

The Connecticut lady who refuses to pay her income taxes is sticking to her guns. Miss Vivian Kellems, who owns a war plant in Connecticut, is ~~in~~ ~~Seattle, Washington, tonight and very~~ indignant because Treasury Secretary Morgenthau accused her of being disloyal. She says she is not only <sup>proud</sup> ~~ready~~ but eager to pay taxes to win the war. But, she adds, she and millions of others object to paying taxes to enable billions of dollars to be squandered on plain and fancy boondoggling all over the world. She throws *the term* ~~the word~~ "disloyal" right back in the Secretary's teeth; says she can prove that boondoggling projects are being supported by the taxpayers' money and she is willing to testify before the proper congressional committee. She says further that it is all very well for Secretary Morgenthau, who inherited a large fortune, and probably always had money in the bank. But as for

her, if she pays her December Fifteenth tax  
installment, it will bankrupt her and her factory  
in Connecticut.

LEADER

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The Republican members of the Senate have chosen a new acting leader. For several months the regular leader, Senator McNary of Oregon, has been in Florida recovering from a major operation. Before he left, he ~~previously~~ appointed Senator White acting leader. And now his colleagues have confirmed McNary's choice. However, when the brilliant Oregon Senator returns to duty, he will resume his place as leader.