

This afternoon a joint committee of the Senate and House of Representatives came to an agreement on the much debated subject of the Soldier vote. For three weeks the conference was deadlocked, with the Senate insisting on a Federal ballot and the House advocating a state ballot for the Soldiers. The compromise now agreed upon upholds the Senatorial idea, and specifies a federal war ballot. This, however, with a series of restrictions to satisfy the proponents of state's right. Under the compromise, the state will have a lot to say about the use of the federal ballots.

Only one member of the conference voted against the agreement, Democratic Congressman Rankin of Mississippi ^{who is} ~~He's~~ against a federal ballot in any form, and states that he will oppose the compromise when it reaches the floor of the House - will lead a fight against it.

10

A ~~late~~ story from Soviet Russia states that Russian terms for peace have been handed to Finland. That is - there was a meeting in Stockholm between Representatives of the Soviet and Finland, a meeting at which the Moscow terms were presented. Moscow adds that if the Finns accept the proposal, a representative of Finland will be received at Moscow at once.

Meanwhile, we hear that the Parliament of Finland went into secret session to consider the Russian terms. These are, we are told - temperate, moderate, not too tough on the Finns. And the belief is that the Parliament at Helsinki will say okay, ^{and} get Finland out of the war.

~~(keep the last paragraph of the previous Finnish story,~~

~~if you so desire.)~~

Late dispatches from Moscow give details about the peace negotiations between the Soviets and Finland. At Stockholm a Swedish industrialist acted as intermediary, and brought together former Premier Paasakivi of Finland and the Soviet Ambassador to Sweden, Madame Kollontay. She communicated with Moscow, and received authority to present, in an informal fashion, the terms upon which the Soviets would consent to make peace with Finland, and permit the Northern Republic to withdraw from the war.

The Soviet terms are outlined by Moscow tonight as follows:

Finland to break off with Nazi Germany and intern German troops and ships. Should the Finns themselves not be able to accomplish this, the Soviets would render assistance. As for boundaries - the frontiers that existed before Finland's latest war with Russia would be restored.

Then follow several points which would be left for further discussion at Moscow. The demobilization of the Finnish army for example. Reparations to the Soviets for damages caused by Finnish

Finland 2

military operations - and the question of Finland's Northern port of Petsamo, with its rich nickel mines, all these to be discussed later.

Such were the terms presented Soviet Ambassador Madame Kollontay to the former Finnish Premier Paasikivi - terms that were under consideration by the Parliament of Finland today. The word is that the Finnish Parliament said okay, go ahead and negotiate the withdrawal of Finland from the war.

-0-

10/108 (M)

As daylight ended in Russia today, Soviet troops were in sight of the city of Pskov, the gateway to the Baltic states. Two Soviet columns are converging on the city, one from the East and the other from the North. The Eastern drive is within twelve miles of Pskov, while the Northern forces are less than six miles from the city.

Tonight's Moscow bulletin states that in their recent drive against the ^{VA} important keypoint, the Red forces today captured three hundred and ten towns, while during four days of fighting they have retaken fifteen hundred.

Weather conditions are okay for the Soviet offensive - cold, the ground frozen, ~~hard~~ firm earth that a thaw would turn into streams and swamps. The Germans are fighting hard, and the Russians expect them to defend Pskov house by house - that's how important the place is. The city is a junction for a network of highways and railroads, and its fall would disrupt the whole system of German communications and would open the way into the Baltic states.

In Southern Russia, the Ukraine, the Red Army has begun

ATROCITIES

Soviet Russia today made a new formal charge of Nazi atrocities, with a Moscow declaration stating that the Germans killed a hundred and ninety-five thousand civilians and prisoners of war during their occupation of the area of Kiev. The Soviet accusation pictures gruesome methods of Nazi murder. In one case, the Hitler Killers compelled their victims to climb tall trees, and then, they made other Russians chop down the trees.

The Moscow document gives a long list of wanton crimes and vandal destruction. And it names the German authorities responsible, ~~These~~ include ^{ing} Field Marshal Von Mannstein, the German commander in the Ukraine.

The air war in Europe was ^{re}sumed today, after a weekend of quiet. The weather was good for the bombers based on Britain, though heavy skies in Italy kept the Mediterranean air force out of action. So today's bombings were not of the one-two variety, ^{those} two-fold blows, simultaneously from Britain and Italy. The forays against Naziland were conducted ^{this time} by planes that flew from England.

Maves of medium bombers gave the French Invasion Coast another pounding and five hundred American flying fortresses struck at the German city of Brunswick, ^{or Braunschweig,} The Brunswick raid was another act in the great explosive drama of knocking out the Nazi production of fighter planes - Brunswick being a great center for the manufacture of Messerschmitt fighters.

German air resistance was nil. The German planes keeping to the ground. This was because of clouds, a huge cloud bank, thousands of feet thick, which covered the Continent of Europe. The absence of German fighter resistance was illustrated by the story of ^{one} a flying fortress. Hit badly by flak, the fortress dropped out of formation

and would normally have been an inviting target for enemy fighters out to kill off stragglers. However, not a German plane appeared and the limping bomber flew ~~its way~~ peacefully back to Britain.

The flak that hit the fortress tells the story of the kind of opposition that the air squadron encountered - plenty of opposition from the ground, plenty of flak, *All the way from the Ruhr to Brunswick, which is not far from Berlin, the big planes ran the gauntlet of bursting anti-aircraft shells which sought them out in the heavy overcast of clouds. The losses? A record low. Only one bomber failing to return.*

The destruction wrought to the German fighter plane-factories at Brunswick was devastating ~~this~~ - in spite of the deep dense layers of cloud. Returning American bombardiers were jubilant about the way their new equipment worked - the technique of bombing through ^{the} overcast. They said they were enabled to aim accurately right through the blanket of clouds, and lay their bombs on the targets.

Future prospects of the war in the air were discussed in the British House of Commons today, and a vivid phrase was used: "The glittering prize of air supremacy."

~~"the glittering prize of air supremacy."~~

London Air Minister Sir Archibald Sinclair stated^{ing} that the Allies were now within reach of their aerial goal, the complete command of the skies. Allied squadrons have been hitting Germany so hard, that now four - fifths of the Nazi fighter strength has been tied down to the defense of Germany. In spite of the critical military situation in Russia, the Germans are compelled to keep the vast majority of their planes in Western Europe - to protect the factories that produce the planes. ^{And still} ~~But~~ their fighter production is being smashed. All of which spells the inevitable conclusion that the Allies are now within reach of what the Air Minister called "the glittering prize of air supremacy."

On the Roman beachhead today the Germans made a spectacular attempt. They laid down what the news dispatch calls - "the heaviest artillery barrage in the beachhead campaign." And under cover of the blast of shells, they launched tank and infantry attacks. It ~~do~~ looked like a full-dress assault; but the Nazi tanks and infantry were brought to a halt by the return fire of the Allied artillery - the guns laying a wall of explosions and flying steel.

And then, in spite of the spectacular opening, the German offensive dwindled down to a series of local thrusts - punching here and there, and gaining little if anything.

At the same time, the Americans and British were doing a little pushing of their own, ~~and~~ gaining some ground ⁱⁿ with a limited local offensive near Aprilia.

Air action in the battle of the beachhead consisted of blasting the Nazi airdromes near Rome today. American dive-bombers hit flying fields, while other squadrons smashed at the railroads that feed German supplies from the North.

SUBMARINES

Fourteen more Japanese vessels destroyed in the Pacific, thereby boosting the sinkings for American ^{The} Submarines, ^ new list given out by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, includes a large tanker, a medium transport, a small cargo vessel, and eleven medium cargo ships sent to the bottom. Which raises the total of ships torpedoed by American submarines to six-hundred-and-eleven.

For some days ^{the} news has been ^{hinting} intimating that one of our most ^{persistent notions} prominent beliefs in this war has ^{been} a myth; and today comes word that seems to shatter the illusion completely. ^{Said illusion being - Truk,} the mighty Japanese Naval Base, the Mikado's Pearl Harbor. ^{TP} All during the war, and long before, ^{grew and grew to} the legend of Truk ~~has been built up to~~ increasingly formidable proportions. - ^{That the place was} as the key bastion of ~~the~~ Japs strength. We have had the feeling that if our forces could capture Truk, the war against Japan would be as good as won.

All of which lent an element of dizzy surprise, when ~~the~~ week before last ^{that Navy} a task force ~~of the navy~~ went straight at the supposedly invincible base, and gave it a violent pasting - with only feeble resistance encountered and with little loss to our side.

That astonishing fact led to a lot of wonder:- what was the matter with the Japanese Pearl Harbor? and subsequently we've been getting intimations that Truk never was what it was cracked up to be, never was so tremendous an Oceanic stronghold! ~~No~~ Japanese Pearl Harbor at all!

These hints are now followed by confirmation more or less official. We are told that, the American planes that raided Truk noted

the absence of drydocks fit to accommodate anything like battleships. How can you have a number one naval base without battleships-drydocks? American observers noted in fact, an all around absence of first class maintenance facilities for a fleet.

All of which was decidedly puzzling. And now the surmise is that the wily Nips, with all their guarded secrecy about their mid-Pacific islands, have really been hoodwinking the world. They cunningly spread the belief that Truk was their Pearl Harbor, when, in fact, it was nothing of the sort.

However, the Japs must have a great Pacific island-base somewhere. They must have their own version of Pearl Harbor. Where is it? That question was answered today in a Washington publication called "Naval Institute Proceedings," which has a semi-official status. In an article printed therein, we are told that the Japanese Pearl Harbor is in the Bonin Archipelago, which is called by the Japs Ogasawara. This group is far to the north of the Marianas, in which Truk is located. The Bonins, or Ogasawara, lie in fact between the Japanese Pacific island empire, and, Japan proper; - ^{in fact} ~~they are~~ only six hundred miles from Tokyo. Which, of course, would put them in a

much more strategic position than Truk as a naval base defending Japan.

The whole thing is surrounded by ironies of history. For the Bonins were first settled by Americans, and have a place in the story - that once admired American exploit - the opening of Japan.

Back in eighteen-forty, there was in the state of Louisiana a group of some eighty men and women who hardly excited the Admiration of their neighbors. They were a free love colony. Not getting along any too well in Louisiana, they decided to seek a free-love paradise in the South Seas. So they set sail. They visited the Gilberts and the Marshalls, but didn't find the right kind of paradise. They kept on, and came to the Bonin Archipelago. That was the place, and there they settled - for an Eden of Adam-and-Eve, *sans fig leaves.*

Some while later, Commodore Perry made his historic visit to Japan, which resulted in the opening of Japan and the beginning of Japanese ambitions and aggressions. Perry, in his voyage stopped off at the Bonins - where the free-love colony was flourishing. His interest was in naval strategy, and he immediately saw the possibilities of the island as an outpost of American naval power. He explored the

Archipelago, raised the American flag, and thereafter advocated the American acquisition of the Bonins. His advice, however, was ignored.

And in the course of time - the Japs occupied the islands. Whatever happened to the free-love colony, ^{alas,} we are not told. *Chased by the Nips we suppose.*

So that's the place where the Japanese really have their Pearl Harbor; - according to the story in "Naval Institute Proceedings."

If they have kept a veil of secrecy around Truk, they have hidden their doings at Ogasawara with a still deeper secrecy. In fact, only one foreigner is known to have visited the Bonins in the last twenty years. He was an American, who went out there - and learned practically nothing. The story is that Japanese guides were to show him around, but they entertained him so profusely, *- with so much* probably ~~with~~ Saki - that he observed little or nothing at all.

So there you have what amounts to a revolutionary disclosure -- the debunking of Truk as the great Japanese Naval Base! Just an illusion fostered by the Japs, whose real Pearl Harbor is in the Bonin Archipelago, which they call Ogasawara, *where some Americans went to practice free love long ago.*

ADMIRALTY ISLANDS

A new conquest of another island group - that's the latest from the Southwestern Pacific tonight. The communique from Allied headquarters announces the invasion of the Admiralty Islands. These are small bits of land in the Bismarek Archipelago North of New Guinea, they were violently bombarded by air and from the Sea whereupon United States amphibious forced landed, units of dismounted cavalry. The Japs on the island are fighting, but their resistance is being speedily overcome, and you can count the Admiralty islands as still another American conquest.

They are important because they flank the big Japanese bases at Rabaul and Kavieng, and formed part of the Japanese island line from the Dutch East Indies to the big bases in the Bismarcks.

And in the central Pacific - new air attacks against the Japs in the Marshalls and Carolines. The important base at Ponape was hit heavily by American bombs, thirty tons of high explosives falling on Ponape. The Atolls in Marshalls is not named. We merely know that some of the remaining Marshall Island groups in Japanese

admiralty islands 2

possession were smashed up - in the latest series of American air
blows in the central Pacific.

-0-

10020