

P.J. - Standard Tuesday, March 30, 1945.
Sumner.

American sea and air power is tracking the Jap fleet right ^{into} ~~in~~ its innermost lair. This headline news comes from Admiral Nimitz tonight, who states that American carrier based planes have assailed the enemy navy in the Japanese Inland Sea and inflicted the heaviest kind of damage on it.

For weeks the question has been - "Where is the Jap fleet?" Nothing was heard of the Mikado's navy after the beatings it took in the sea battles off the Philippines. ~~The Jap warship strength had disappeared, gone into hiding.~~ Where was it? Earlier today we had an intimation - the Navy knew. A spokesman in Washington said that the remnants of the Jap fleet had taken refuge in the waters that lie between the islands of Japan, spaces of water surrounded by islands, the Inland Sea. And there American sea and air power ^{have now} ~~had~~ hunted down the beaten enemy navy.

An American fleet stood off the coast of Japan, and sent its carrier based planes across Jap islands to the Inland Sea, and there they found the Jap warships.

What they did to them is told succinctly by the late communique from Admiral Nimitz tonight; "Ships damaged - one or two battleships, two or three aircraft carriers, two light aircraft carriers, one heavy cruiser, one light cruiser, one destroyer - and other craft." In other

words, **F**rom fifteen to seventeen warships ^{was} hit, in what Admiral Nimitz describes in the following words: "During these attacks," says he, "crippling damage was inflicted on the Japanese fleet."

And planes were destroyed, four hundred and seventy-five of them - two hundred shot down in air battle and two hundred and seventy-five destroyed on the ground ~~at~~ along the shores of the Inland Sea.

Admiral Nimitz tells us that the Japs made

desperate attempts to hit the attacking fleet, sending their planes out in swarms - which would account for the great number of Jap aircraft shot down. One American ship was hit and seriously damaged, but is returning to base under its own power. A few vessels, adds the Admiral, sustained minor damage.

JAP BOMBING

Tokyo
~~The Japs~~ admitted today that the B-29 raids

were causing heavier damage than bombing ever did to

Nazi Germany. Reports of our own Air Forces indicated enormous havoc of flame in Tokyo - caused by the

twenty-three hundred ton fire raid last week. And now

Tokyo states the following: "Fire caused by incendiary *bombs*

swept away a whole district of the Japanese capital,

which burned to the ground."

~~The statement that such immense destruction was greater than Allied bombing has inflicted on Germany,~~ is

not difficult to understand - on the basis of the familiar

fact that Jap cities are of such *paper and* wooden construction as to

make them square miles of fire trap.

~~Another angle of the air assaults against the~~
Japanese islands was stated in Washington today - with a reference to the fact that in the Navy's carrier based air assaults, the planes hit naval bases of Japan's inland sea. This is important with relation to the question -

PHILIPPINES

The latest from the Philippines --

American troops have driven into the outskirts of the capital city of the island of Panay -- ~~Iloilo~~ I^oilo.

Panay, once in the headlines as the name of an American gunboat attacked by Japs back in the times of peace, now returns to the news as the latest island invaded by MacArthur. Complete reconquest is a matter of a short time. And this new invasion of Panay leaves the Japs in full possession of only three of the big islands of the Philippines.

FOLLOW PHILIPPINES

On Luzon, American troops are driving for the big port of San Fernando, and at last reports were only six miles away. They are a bit late, however, because Philippine guerrillas have already captured San Fernando, and there they are waiting for the Americans to arrive for a junction of forces.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD WESTERN FRONT

The American armies have won the last battle on this side of the Rhine - that is, the battle of the Saar and Palatinate. Tonight's latest news tells of the virtual destruction of the enemy armies in that sector - seventy thousand German casualties already. The remnants of the Nazi forces are in wild flight eastward, trying to get to the Rhine and across.

The strategy was that of the familiar old nutcracker. To the north of the Saar-Palatinate, General Patton's Third army was one claw of the nutcracker, while General Patch's Seventh army in the south was the other claw. The Germans put up a savage battle against the Seventh Army, that southern claw, which was able to make but little progress. But to the north, Patton's army ripped the German salient to shreds - and there is one report tonight that the two American armies have met, the claws of the nutcracker coming together. The junction is said to have been near the key city of Kaiserslautern.

WESTERN FRONT

Thirty-five thousand prisoners have been captured to date in the American Third Army sweep into the Saar Valley and the Palitinate. ^{Enemy casualties in the huge defeat total 60,000.} And the remnants of eighty thousand Germans appear to be in a hopeless trap.

The strategic situation is this: Patton's Third Army in the north and General Patch's Seventh Army in the south, are jaws of a nutcracker that is closing in on the German forces that still remain west of the Rhine. The Germans are putting up a savage battle against the southern claw, against the Seventh Army, which has been able to make but little progress. But to the north, Patton's army has been ripping the German salient to shreds.

IP Also, Today American units fought their way to the medieval city of Mainz. And American troops captured the historic city of Worms - famous for the Diet of Worms, which was one of the key events in the Protestant Reformation. At that place the Germans blew up two bridges across the Rhine. They did it successfully.

thereby avoiding another absurdity like the failure to blow up the Ludendorf Bridge - which enabled the Americans to get across the Rhine.

In the bridgehead on the other side, ~~of the river,~~ new advances were made today, a thrust forward for two and a half miles to the north. This has enlarged the bridgehead, which is now twenty-four miles wide and eight miles deep.

The latest is that the Ludendorf Bridge has been abandoned. The captured span collapsed, and then we heard it was being repaired, but now we are told that the repair job is off. Other spans have been thrown across the Rhine to carry supplies to the bridgehead, and the Ludendorf structure is needed no longer. The announcement says it is surprising that the bridge stood up as long as it did - battered as it was by Allied explosive before the crossing, and by German guns afterwards.

Now Hugh James with his evening message for Stan. of Cal. and then more news.

HERO FOLLOW ESTERN FRONT

The American soldier has a way of feeling sheepish when honored for valor, and of talking down his exploit of courage. For example, ~~this is found in~~ ^{take} Sergeant Paul Vacon, ~~of Medford, Massachusetts.~~ On the Western Front he was decorated for remaining at his post under intense enemy fire. Today his girl friend at Medford got a letter from him in which he gave the following account, ~~of why he stuck to his post in the face of deadly peril.~~ "It was a muddy day," he wrote the girl friend, "and I was doggone if I ^d ~~would~~ leave a dry shelter and ~~xxxx~~ get my feet soaked - just because of a few German machine guns." *That's the way he played it down.*

EASTERN FRONT

The Russians have opened an all-out assault to take the Baltic port of Stettin. Stalin announced the capture of Altdamm, a suburb of the city. This wipes out the last foothold ^{of} the Germans ~~had~~ ^{on} ~~of~~ the Eastern bank of the Oder. Berlin reports ^{that} the Russians have begun an attack with a concentration of one hundred thousand on a front only nine miles long -- ~~and they~~ ~~are~~ driving for Stettin.

WAR CRIMES

The status of Hitler as a war criminal was announced officially in London today. The Fuhrer together with other big shot Nazis has been listed as an ordinary criminal -- along with other murderers and assassins. This was stated by Lord Wright, Chairman of the United Nations War Crimes Commission. He mentioned ^{ed} the case of the gas chamber murders of Jews and others by the Nazis. Hitler and his henchmen might be tried for the gas chamber murders and be condemned under regular criminal law.

CARRIER

At Newport News, Virginia, the tide played false today. We are accustomed to think of the ebb and flow of the sea as one of those trustworthy clocks of Nature, like the rising of the sun and the phases of the moon - but the tide can be fickle and uncertain. And so, the launching of the greatest warship in the world was today delayed.

The aircraft carrier MIDWAY is a giant of forty-five thousand tons which will assail the enemy with a new and more formidable type of plane. ~~Instead of having the giant slide down the ways in ordinary fashion, the MIDWAY was~~ built in a drydock - the launching to be accomplished by letting in water from the sea to float the super carrier. ~~The MIDWAY was christened today with all formal ceremony, and in came the water, but not enough. The idea was to take advantage of high tide - so as to have a maximum of water.~~ But today along the Virginia coast, high tide was lower than expected, the tide four inches

less than normal, and not enough water poured into the drydock to float the MIDWAY. However, the engineers down there say that Old Man Ocean will make up for the deficit, will compensate for the missing four inches of tide late today or tomorrow morning - and float the MIDWAY for the launching.

The Navy is turning out three 45,000 ton carriers. ~~The MIDWAY, of course, is named after that all-important American naval victory over the Japs, in mid-Pacific.~~ Another ^{One} super-carrier ~~being~~ being built at New York, will be called the CORAL SEA, ~~after the sea battle in the southwestern Pacific.~~ Those are eloquent names - the triumphs of the Coral Sea, and then of Midway, having marked the turning point ~~when the surge of Jap aggression was stopped and~~ ^{of} the war in the Pacific, ~~began to turn in favor of America.~~ No name has been selected as yet for the other ~~forty-five thousand ton~~ ^{Super} carrier, and I wonder what they'll chose - the name

should be something to match the glory of CORAL SEA and MIDWAY. What do you think?

Four Negro Wacs at Fort Devons, Massachusetts, were convicted this evening. Court-martialled on charges of disobeying a superior officer, they are sentenced to dishonorable discharge and one year at hard labor.

The four Negro Wacs claimed that they were subjected to discrimination and made to do heavy work in a hospital. They were tried by a court-martial consisting of two white Wacs, two Negro captains, and five other officers.

WAGES

President Roosevelt today ordered a survey of the problem of establishing a guaranteed annual wage for American workers. He directed the War Mobilization Advisory Board to study the question, which has long been urged by the unions.

The President stated that last December the War Labor Board recommended such an inquiry, in connection with the transition of the country from a war economy to a peace economy. Under a plan for a national guaranteed wage, workers in all industries, even those subject to seasonal layoffs, would be assured of a fixed income.

DOUGLAS

A scathing remark was made today by that old master of the biting phrase - George Bernard Shaw. This was on the occasion of the death of Lord Alfred Douglas, whose name fifty years ago was blazoned in the scandal and downfall of Oscar Wilde. Shaw, an old time friend of Lord Alfred Douglas, today recalled that on a previous occasion, years ago, a London newspaper printed that Douglas had died, and with this published a most uncomplimentary story about him. Douglas, very much alive, responded by suing for libel, and the London paper had to pay heavy damages. So today Shaw said: "I would advise the papers this time to send down and view the body, just to make sure."

There was still another libel affair in which Douglas himself was sued - by Winston Churchill. He had ~~not~~ accused Churchill of stating falsehoods about the big sea battle of the previous war, the Battle of Jutland.

Douglas lost, and was sentenced^d to six months in jail for criminal libel.

Yet, only a couple of weeks ago, he wrote a touching letter to Churchill, asking the Prime Minister to intercede in behalf of Poland, and Churchill replied with equal courtesy and kindness.

MORMONS

In a castle in Scotland, an English woman is engaged in a strange task. She is enrolling people who have been dead as long as three hundred years, enrolling them in the Mormon Church. It seems that out in Utah, the Mormons decided that their ancestors in times gone by, should be adopted into the Church of the Latter Day Saints. So the Utah Genealogical Society started a research job - to trace back ancestors of the Mormons. A lot of these were Scottish, and an English woman, Katherine Horner, skilled in such matters, was commissioned to hunt through old Scottish records.

That was five years ago, and today the news discloses that the woman genealogist has her working quarters in an historic castle at Edinburgh, a five hundred year old castle once occupied by Mary, Queen of Scots. *The Mormon headquarters in fact is in* ~~the very bedroom in which~~ the very bedroom in which the tragic Scottish Queen spent the honeymoon of her

unfortunate marriage to the Earl of Bothwell. ^{It} In that room, right now, are huge stacks of notes and data pertaining to Scottish ancestors of the Mormons ~~of~~ Utah. ~~The woman researcher hunts through the registers of Scottish parishes, and to date has gone through thirty-five hundred volumes. In these she finds ancestors of Utah Mormons, some of these going back three hundred years.~~ When an ancestor is traced, she sends the information to Utah - and there the ancestor is enrolled in the Mormon Church. He or she may have been a Presbyterian or Anglican - but that does not matter. *A Mormon he becomes.*

BURMA

Oh yes, and there's more news from the Far East, - that is, from Burma. It was officially announced today - Mandalay has

fallen. The capture of the capital of Burma has been completed. ^{on the Irrawaddy} Mandalay means romance, but we've talked

before about that city of Kipling legend. So let's go on

to another item of Burma news - the capture of Mogok, ^{also on the Irrawaddy.}

That rather ugly name doesn't mean much, but Mogok is a famous place in the legends of beauty, beauty in the form of a gleaming red jewel, the ruby. At Mogok are the world's greatest ruby mines, and out of the earth there they dig the most precious of all - the pigeon^s blood ruby.

~~(A few years ago I traveled ^{that way,} ~~out there,~~ and retain a vivid impression of the ruby mines of Mogok. It is one of the ~~most~~ picturesque ^{places of} ~~spots in~~ the world, gayly dressed people, ^{men & women in bright silks} pagodas on every hilltop around, and ^{I wonder what treasures of} along the riverbank, ~~and above all, in~~ pigeon blood rubies. ~~I wonder how many of them~~ were stolen by the Japs and taken back by plane over the jungles of Burma, Cambodia~~

~~and Siem, to Tokyo!~~)

I recall Mogok ^{sadly} ~~principally~~ because of something that did ^{not} happen there. It happened in Paris. I had a river boat on the Irrawaddy. My wife and I visited the ruby mines, watched the Burmese girls in their rainbow silk costumes screen piles of rubies. They showed us ^{the} pigeon ^s blood, ~~most~~ ^{rubies} ~~gema~~ more valuable than diamonds.

8 My wife's eyes became much bigger than, any of the rubies. She wanted a couple.

As all travelers know, if you get things right at the source, for some reason no one can explain, you usually wind up paying more than you would pay if you got the same thing a thousand miles away, say in a shop in New York, or London. But that was not true of the rubies of Mogok. So I bought a couple for my wife. They were uncut, and of course unset, and she carried them around the world, the idea being to have them put in

~~and~~ earrings, in Paris. But alas, in Paris, they vanished.

Some Parisian thief got them, and there went the dream of the wondrous earrings of pigeon^{'s} blood rubies from Magok.

And now the Japs have lost Magok.

9 And now H - again for Stan of Cal.

CHERRY TREES

Taken from early 3/20/45 bc.

A newspaper dispatch from Washington speaks unabashedly of - the Japanese cherry trees. This, in spite of attempts to change the names of those flowering trees which, in the happier days of some thirty-five years ago were sent by Japan to the United States as a gesture of friendship. They have been a favorite sight in Washington ever since.

One suggestion has been that they be called - "Korean Cherry trees." The National Park Service has called them "Oriental flowering cherry trees." During the previous war we had the famous case of - "liberty cabbage" which, however, promptly reverted to sauerkraut as soon as hostilities were over.

Anyway, those cherry trees in Washington bloomed today - anticipating the arrival of Spring. The glowing pink blossoms beat that kindly season in by some hours. Spring is due in about half an hour. Astronomically speaking, Spring will begin at seven thirty-eight P.M. Eastern Wartime. *39 mins hence counting the minute reserved for you Hugh.*

"Where is the Jap fleet?" Nothing has been heard of the Mikado's Navy since it took such severe beatings in the sea battles off the Philippines. And the best belief is that the remnants ~~of the enemy navy~~ have taken refuge in the waters that lie between the islands of Japan, spaces of water surrounded by islands - the inland sea. That would seem to be a safe hiding place, ~~and the Japs indicate that some of their warships may have been damaged.~~ But in Washington today a Navy spokesman indicated that American air power is hunting down the Jap fleet in the inland sea.