

SUBSTITUTE LEAD TOKYO BOMBING *Sci. Feb. 16, 1945.*
P. J. Standard. Bureau.

The carrier plane bombing of Tokyo still goes on. Late word tonight is that smoking Tokyo, for the second day in succession, is being hit by the bombers that fly from American warships lying off the coast of Japan - the mightiest naval task force the world has ever seen.

Also the bombardment seven hundred and fifty miles to the south is still continuing. That is, the naval and air attack on Iwo Jima, the Jap air base that is a number one stepping stone on the invasion road to Tokyo.

It's an easy guess that the two are connected - the carrier plane assault on Tokyo and the naval bombardment of Iwo Jima. The Japs have an idea, and probably correct, that an American landing on Iwo Jima may come ~~at~~ at any time. Tokyo states that the carrier plane bombing of the Tokyo area is being concentrated on flying fields, the ~~g~~ great military air bases near the Japanese capital. And the way it figures is this -- in ~~numerous~~ order to reinforce

~~etc.~~

~~of bombing in which as many as twelve hundred planes were over Tokyo at one time. If the Jap version be true, much of the smoke is pouring up from blazing buildings and stores of supplies at flying fields.~~

~~The way it figures is this in order to~~

~~reinforce~~ → Iwo Jima with air power, the Japs would have to send swarms of planes from Tokyo air bases. And by knocking these out by carrier plane assault, the Navy is making it easier to land on Iwo Jima and conquer that vital base.

Another point is this - the fact that the American Fleet out there is divided. Time was when we thought it impossible for the Navy to send warships off the coast of Japan, near enough to launch carrier based planes against Tokyo - thereby defying the Jap Fleet and matching carrier plans against land planes. But now the Navy is not only doing that, but is simultaneously hurling a huge bombardment of warship guns against Iwo Jima, seven hundred and fifty miles away. Furthermore, another force of American warships

is down near Manila, bombarding Corregidor.

In other words, the Fleet today is strong enough to divide itself into three parts - one part of which hurls its planes at Tokyo! This is a spectacular indication of how badly the Navy of Japan has been smashed - a point that was emphasized in Washington today. A Navy spokesman declared that the fraction of the American fleet off Tokyo was powerful enough to defeat all the warships that Japan has left. And he added that the Jap Navy, as it exists now, is about equal to a good sized task force.

SUBSTITUTE PHILIPPINES

The reconquest of Bataan, announced a few hours ago, has an emotional meaning for every American -- Bataan, the scene of the heroic defense.

But let's consider what it meant to the gunnery officers of the American warships lying off Manila Bay. They must have enjoyed it, for they were confronted by one of the finest gunnery problems that anyone could provide.

The reconquest of Bataan was completed by American landings at the southern tip of the peninsula. Other troops have been pushing down from the top of the historic peninsula, but the final stroke was an amphibious operation against the southern tip -- and the landings were covered by American warships.

Of course, the Japs would have shore guns at the southern end of Bataan, and these would have to be silenced -- but that was the smaller part.

Because right across from the southern tip of Bataan lies the rocky fortress of Corregidor -- ~~the Gibraltar~~

in which the Americans put up such a stubborn defense when the Japs overran the island. Corregidor the Gibraltar of the harbor of Manila. Actually, the American landings were around Mariveles, which is only four and a half miles from Corregidor Fortress, with its powerful guns. The American troops landed on a shore only four and a half miles from the Gibraltar of Manila.

Not only that - the waters that the landing boats would have to traverse were a mine field. The Japs had ^{shown} ~~seen~~ mines everywhere -- and these had to be cleared. And the mine sweepers had to operate under the guns of Corregidor.

Sounds impossible, and it would have been impossible -- save for the gunnery of the American warships. The cannon of the Navy, aided by bombing planes, fought a duel with the guns of Corregidor. They had, of course, to beat down Japanese fire from the Bataan shore, on which the landings were made, but the big thing was -- those guns of Corregidor.

Yes, the gunnery officers must have been thrilled by the duel of shellfire. The cannonade was intense, a classic of naval guns against shore guns. It worked - for we are told that the mine sweeping and the subsequent landings were carried out with little loss. The Japanese fire from Corregidor was hasty and inaccurate -- the Japanese gunners not able to get set and get a good aim under the hail of shells from the warships.

A thrill ^{for} of the gunnery ^{late-} ~~was~~ - but not such a thrill for the landing parties. We are told that Jap ^{by the guns of our ships} opposition was so thoroughly beaten down that the Commander of the landing troops could give an absurd, comic order to his men. ^{when} ~~On his was in a boat~~ he was ^{going he} ~~informed~~ informed how things were, ~~and then~~ ^{issued} issued this order: "Get your ~~xxxx~~ laundry ready, boys. The villagers will be there to do the washing".

In answer to which, I suppose, some tough G. I's may be muttering - the gunners on the ships had all the fun.

The latest from Bataan:- after the landings
of today, it's all over for the Japs at that neck of
land.

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Now a message from Standard of California
and then the news from the war in Europe.

RUSSIA

News from the Eastern Front is that two Russian Armies have joined forces - Zhukov's Army, which is battling along the Oder thirty one miles east of Berlin, and Konev's Southern Army - which has been driving through Silesia. The two established a solid front today when Konev's Troops pushed to the Oder southeast of Berlin - reaching the town of Somerfeld, sixty-six miles from the capital.

The general strategic fact is that the two Russian Armies now are on a line north and south, from the Baltic Sea to the mountains of Czechoslovakia. The front begins just below the important Baltic harbor of Stettin, and runs southward along the Oder to the point where that river bends to the east. Thence the front continues southward to the mountains.

~~One point to be reckoned with is this: The Nazis, in their battle of desperation at the Eastern Front, may plan to make their final stand along that line from the Baltic to the mountains of Czechoslovakia~~

It's a line much shorter than the Western Front, and on the south are ranges of mountains which are like natural ramparts. So the history of the Eastern Front during the next few weeks may be written along a last ditch line from the sea to the mountains - with the Oder being indeed the last ditch for the Nazis.

~~is~~ If so, **T**he Russian assault has already begun - Berlin stating that Zhukov's Army is launching violent thrusts at points ~~where~~ it has established bridgeheads across the Oder nearest Berlin, thirty-one miles away. And ~~Korner~~'s Army, linking up today with Zhukov's, is hurling heavy assaults at a key point which is likely to bulk large in the news during the next few days, the fortress of Cottbus. That place is between the Eastern bend of the Oder, and Berlin's own river, the Spree.

WESTERN FRONT

On the Western Front, the Army of Canada still holds the spotlight - the Canadians today driving for another mile, in a battle so stubborn that a mile is a mighty long way. The Canadians have reached the Rhine, and today cleared a two-mile stretch on the south bank of the river. It was grim going through muck and mud, in the face of the heaviest Nazi cannonade that the western front has known in weeks.

The Canadian drive is on a twenty-five mile front, and aims to push to the Rhine at all points - for an eventual forcing of that formidable river barrier. Indeed, one report today was that the Canadians had crossed the Rhine, but this was later denied by allied headquarters.

GERMAN GIRL

Every so often we stop and wonder about the Nazi mind, the peculiar twists of brains infected with Hitlerism. And today brings a curious example, an odd disclosure of the quirks of Nazi mentality - in a seventeen year old German girl.

Along the Western Front, the American ~~xxx~~ military police got word that ~~this~~ Nazi fraulein, blond and pretty, had something to do with German sabotage. They broke into her home to ~~xxxxx~~ arrest her, and found the Hitlerian Fraulein writing a letter. This she tried to destroy, but the American M.P.'s grabbed it - ~~xxxxx~~ a letter to her boy friend, a Nazi storm trooper.

In it she ridiculed American soldiers - made fun of them with mockery and scorn. For example, she related how a couple of days before, she had been walking along, when an ^{American} ~~xxxxxxx~~ soldier on guard stopped her with a shout: "Halt", he yelled. "You're walking into a mine". She had almost stumbled into a mine field laid by the retreating Germans. And to the storm trooper she wrote: "The American saved my

life".

The next day, she was looking out of a window, when she saw that same American. She smiled at him and waved, and he smiled back, with a broad, good-natured grin for the blond German girl.

So what was her opinion of the Americans? Just this: "The American", she wrote, "is altogether a comical soldier".

At last reports, the Nazi fraulein was answering questions propounded by the American military police on the subject of her connection with sabotage - and she may not be finding that so comical.

WALLACE

The House of Representatives today passed the bill that divorces the Billion Dollar Federal Loan agencies from the Department of Commerce. Meaning, that Henry Wallace will be ~~xx~~ deprived of the control of the loans and the billions, if and when the Senate confirms him as Secretary of Commerce.

The Republicans today wanted the bill to be put off until the Senate passes on the Wallace nomination - this in the belief that the Senate would turn Wallace down if the Loan Agencies went along with the Department of Commerce. ^{Administration} ~~Administration~~ forces, on the other hand, wanted the bill passed right away - as a compromise to help in procuring a Senate okay on Wallace.

The Republicans today, aided by a bloc of Democrats, were beaten by a slender margin. Then, having failed to delay the bill, they voted to pass it - to make sure that Henry Wallace won't get the loan agencies. The bill now goes to the White House, where the President is expected to sign it - and that is

believed likely to insure a favorable vote in the Senate for the confirmation of Wallace as Secretary of Commerce. And how else would you describe the

fracas that we hear about today - between Drew Pearson and Westbrook Pegler? These are two mighty men of the pen, columnists who are famous for flinging the flaming word and wax uncovering the blinding revelation. And now Drew Pearson goes to court and sues Westbrook Pegler for damages - fifty thousand bucks. That much for things that Pegler in his column wrote about Pearson as a news commentator. ~~Of course you'd figure that it would take a lot of the dollar words to make fifty thousand dollars worth, but that's the way it works in the courts.~~

The complaint, as made public today, is a legal document, but its words were like literary vitriol. It stated: "The defendant labeled the plaintiff a 'so-called news broadcaster specializing in falsehood and swarming people with par political and personal allegations, broadcasting lies for

LIBEL SUIT

Every so often there's a clash between such mighty paladins, that we call it - a battle of the giants. And how else would you describe the fracas that we hear about today - between Drew Pearson and Westbrook Pegler? Those are two mighty men of the pen, columnists who are famous for flinging the flaming word and ~~xxx~~ uncovering the blazing revelation. And now Drew Pearson goes to court and sues Westbrook Pegler for damages - fifty thousand bucks. That much for things that Pegler in his column wrote about Pearson as a news commentator. ~~Of course you'd figure that it would take a lot of two dollar words to make Fifty Thousand Dollars' worth, but let's go on to examine the charge.~~

The complaint, as made public today, ~~is a legal document, but it~~ reads ~~more~~ like literary vitriol. It states: "The defendant labeled the plaintiff" a miscalled news broadcaster specializing in falsehood and smearing people with ~~xxx~~ political and personal motivations, broadcasting lies for

smearing purposes and charged that the plaintiff was malicious and unreliable as a news reporter and so on, and that as a news reporter he was a faker."

That, says Drew Pearson, comes to Fifty Thousand Dollars' worth - and who are we to say that the figure is too high or too low?

NAMES

A Boston professor tackles the old Shakespearean question of - what's in a name? This applies to the names our parents give us, and the Professor answers that the moniker bestowed on us may effect us all our lives. He refers, for example, to names like Percy, which have a mild and gentle sound. The effect they're likely to have is either one extreme or the other. "Percy" may revolt against the timorous implications of his name and grow up into a regular firebrand rebel. Or, on the other hand, he may resign himself to his name, and grow up as inoffensive as Percy sounds.

In other words, it may be one extreme or the other. And here's what gets me:- The professor refers to his own given name - which is Lowell S. Trowbridge. And here's what he says: "My first name", he remarks, "is a derivation from a French word which means 'wolf'."

On the basis of one extreme or another, what could that signify? Does it mean that a fellow

with that given name is either a wolf or the opposite of a wolf? I wonder which it could be?

As for your name Hugh, I wonder what it could mean?

PRISONER SHIPS

The story told in Wisconsin today doubles the tragedy of American prisoners lost in ships torpedoed by friendly submarines. Once before we heard of a Japanese prison ship sent to the bottom with a great loss of American lives. At that time, last September, only eighty-three out of seven hundred and fifty survived. And now, another similar story tells of eighteen hundred prisoners jammed in an enemy vessel when it was torpedoed, and there are only five known survivors.

The story is related at Appleton, Wisconsin, by Sergeant Avery Wilbert, who has returned home. He was captured at Corregidor, and went through horrors in prison camps in the Philippines. Then last October the Japs began to move prisoners by sea, and he was put aboard a small, filthy transport crowded with eighteen hundred Americans and some British.

Just as the ship left Manila, word came of an American air attack, and the vessels hid out among some islands, ^{and} then started across the China Sea - when a torpedo hit. The ship broke ~~in~~ in two, and the

PHILIPPINES

The headline for today, the latest news, and news to ring in American ears!- the capture of Bataan. General MacArthur announces that American troops have seized that peninsula, the name of which rings in American ears. For days our soldiers pushed down to Bataan from the north, but the final stroke was launched from the other direction, the south. That is, American troops landed at the southern end of Bataan -- which finished the game for the Japs - so far as that neck of land was concerned.

The landing was covered by the fire of warships and was preceded by a daring job of minesweeping - in which our ships braved the fire of ~~Japanese~~ Japanese ~~in~~ guns on Corregidor. American warships fought gun to gun duels with corregidor, and the troops landed on southern Bataan at a number of points.

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water swarmed with survivors. The prisoners had life belts which the Japs had handed around. Enemy destroyers blasted everywhere with depth bombs, huge explosions among the survivors. Enemy boats ~~we~~ came around and picked up some Japs, but they beat off ^{the} Americans with oars and clubs.

Sergeant Wilber and four others found an abandoned boat, climbed in, and eventually drifted ashore on the Philippines, ⁱⁿ friendly territory. Philippine insurgents were ^{took them in} ~~in~~ and finally got them to the American forces.