

JAPAN

Tokyo is being evacuated, millions moving out of the enemy capital that is now under the bombs of the Superfortresses. Today masses of civilian population streamed out of Tokyo, their pace accelerated by the wail of air raid sirens. The Japs report that B-29's appeared over the scene four times today - three times on reconnaissance and once to drop incendiary bombs.

The Japanese radio expresses a glum awareness of Tokyo's vulnerability to fire attack, and adds that buildings and houses are being pulled down to <sup>create</sup>~~create~~ gaps designed to keep fires from spreading.

From our side, we have the following description of the B-29's: "The best airplane that has ever been built by anyone," says Major General Lamay, Commanding Officer of the Twentieth Bomber Command. He concedes that at first there were plenty of defects, bugs that had to be worked out. And at

one time the Superfortresses were called - "Killers."  
Because so many were lost in accidents as compared to  
losses in combat. In other words, the B-29's were  
still in an experimental stage, and had to be tested  
out in actual air battle. All of which has led to  
improvements, until now the Superfortress <sup>he says</sup> is the  
best ever. And they have been so  
effective that the Japs are  
evacuating Tokyo.

Bombers of more moderate size are continuing the assault on the Volcano and Bonin Islands -- Iwo Jima hit again. That enemy base, on the way to the main islands of Japan, ~~was~~ bombed for the twenty-seventh time in thirty-one days.

But the real event reported in the late news tonight was staged in the Philippines -- another big sea and air battle. The Japs made ~~still~~ one more attempt to ~~reinforce~~ reinforce their troops on Leyte, ~~island~~ and a convoy of eleven ships was caught at north-western Leyte yesterday. The fight continued on through today - with American planes and motor torpedo boats assailing the Jap vessels.

Of the eleven ships in the convoy, ~~ten~~ ten were sunk or were severely damaged - including four destroyers. Three destroyers were sent to the bottom, and another left burning on the surface. Jap fighter planes were out in force to protect the convoy, and this brought on a huge two-day air battle, in which fifty enemy ~~pl~~ airplanes were shot down. We lost eight



fighters. So another Japanese reinforcement attempt has been blasted and shattered with heavy loss of life -- although it is believed that some Japs may have got ashore on northern Leyte.

~~(Follow this with the Philippine story and change  
the first three lines to read~~

News of ground fighting on Leyte tells of a drive launched by the seventy-seventh division today. The seventy-seventh is the outfit.....



## PHILIPPINES

~~Word from the Philippines is a new~~  
~~drive launched by the Seventy-Seventh Division~~  
~~on the Island of Leyte. The Seventy-Seventh is the~~  
~~outfit~~ that made the surprise landing and captured  
the key enemy base of Ormoc.

Today from Ormoc a new push was launched  
against twenty-five thousand Japs who have been  
pinned between two American Forces. The Japs are  
spread along Ormoc Valley and hold the Northwestern  
part of Leyte Island. They are said to be weakening  
steadily under tremendous air and artillery  
bombardment. Few, if any, of the Japs are expected  
to escape; <sup>and</sup> they are making another suicide stand.

BONG - PACIFIC

Today, in a stately ceremony on Leyte Island, General MacArthur presented the nation's highest military decoration, The Congressional Medal of Honor, to Major Richard I. Bong of Poplar, Wisconsin -- Dick Bong, who is America's top ranking ace of the air. Having shot down two Japs in recent Philippine Air Battles, Bong boosted his total to thirty-eight. -- ~~tops.~~

- This occasion should be one for telling a thrill story about our Number One Ace *who* has had scores of hair-raising adventures. And I should be able to recite one, because I have been collecting war stories of individual valor for a new book to be called -- "These Men Will Always Live."

Dick Bong is on the list - But he is one of those heroes of ~~war~~ who don't tell about their exploits. And, so far as I can discover, the only tale he ever told of his air battle adventures was one that he recited to his little sister, Nelda Bong,

at Poplar, Wisconsin.,

He told her how he riddled a Zero with bullets, and the Jap Pilot bailed out - descending by parachute. Bong's plane swung around and below the dangling Jap, whereupon the Jap snatched off one of his boots, and tried to drop it in Bong's propellor.

Relating this to sister Nelda, Dick Bong laughed: "Another inch or two, and I really would have got the Boot.", said he.

Today he got the Congressional Medal of Honor!



CHINA

of a different sort

News from China was ~~different~~ today - word of Chinese success, for a change. Chungking tells of a four-day, sixty-five mile advance along an important railway line -- the Chinese counter-attacking, ~~against the Japs.~~ Chungking reports the capture of the railway city of Mantang, and indicates that all this may signify a turn of the tide - the tide of Jap success in China running out.

————— o —————  
Let's hear from Stan. of Calif.,  
and then more news - from Europe,  
and here at home.

## WESTERN FRONT

Steady American advances today in the Battle of Germany - with rapid thrusts forward by the Seventh Army. The Seventh is linked up with Patton's Third, and in the past thirty hours has swept forward for sixteen miles.

Today troops of the Seventh drove into the town of Sätz, only a mile from the Rhine in the northeast corner of France. This represented a push of eight miles today, and put American Forces within thirteen miles of the great city of Karlsruhe, capital of the German State of Baden. Karlsruhe is now within easy gun range of American heavy batteries.

Patton's Third Army today launched another thrust into the industrial Saar - this with a river crossing. American Troops in assault boats beat their way across the Blies River, and seized a village on the opposite bank. Fighting in that sector is heavy, and an American withdrawal is reported at one point - not far from the new river crossing. Heavy

counterattacks by infantry and German Tiger Tanks forced the abandonment of a village.

North, in front of Cologne, General Hodge's First Army surged forward today - eight more towns captured. The object there is the city of Duren, on the Roer River. American Troops are now within a thousand yards of Duren.

The general picture is one of enemy withdrawal, slow but steady - the Germans being thrust back toward the Rhine.



## FLYING FORTRESS-EUROPE

Today, on the Third Army Front, General Patton ordered a special breakfast for half a dozen American Airmen, presented them with medals, and then had them flown to England in his private plane. General Patton knows how to appreciate valor and hardihood in a tough spot - ~~and that bunch of flying men certainly had the valor and the fortitude.~~

From Britain, a flying fortress took off to bomb Nazi Germany, a Fortress with a sad and sighing name - "Homesick Angel." Over Germany, the Homesick Angel got into trouble, and had two engines shot out by flak. ~~Nevertheless, Pilot Horace L. Spencer of Austin, Texas, flew on to the target, and they bombed it - A big German military warehouse.~~

~~By this time, the Homesick Angel was in such bad shape that~~ **a** return to Britain was impossible. The Fortress was able to fly only a few miles more - And that Angel certainly was homesick. So they set a course to fly to the

nearest Allied Line - General Patton's Third Army Front in the Saar. They hadn't any charts for that sector. All they could find was a newspaper map, -

~~The Western Front as drawn in a London Newspaper they had happened to bring along. So that was what they used - Navigator Lieutenant S.J. Abelman of Clearwater, Florida, setting a course by the Newspaper Map.~~  
*And they navigated by that - -*

It worked all right, and they approached Patton's Third Army Front. They were at comparatively low altitude, the Homesick Angel gradually losing power. And the Germans on the ground shot at the crippled fortress with rifles and machine guns. <sup>And</sup> They scored hits, ~~and~~ <sup>knocked</sup> out the remaining two motors. That was the end - The Homesick Angel would never get home.

The crew bailed out, and by now they were over no man's land. Fluttering down by parachute, ~~they came down in~~ between the fighting lines. Patton's men saw them descend, and patrols went out to get them - Patrols that had to drive off parties of

there  
Germans in No Man's Land.

They found and brought back the crew of the Homesick Angel, and when General Patton heard about it, he "Rolled out the Welcome Mat", as Pilot Spencer of Austin, Texas, expressed it today.



## FOLLOW FORTRESS EUROPE

The bombing of Germany continued at a violent tempo today - an armada of twelve hundred and fifty American Bombers escorted by nine hundred fighters hitting the great Nazi synthetic oil plant at Merseburg, and blasting railroad yards in the Frankfurt Area. This followed the sixteen-hundred-heavy-bomber-attack of yesterday, and in the two days ten thousand tons of high explosive had hit key targets in Germany.

The latest - The R.A.F. is over Germany tonight, a great fleet of R.A.F. bombers ~~pickig~~ picking up in the darkness where the Americans left off as the day ended.

## RUSSIA

The latest from Russia is an announcement of the capture of the Hungarian city of Godollo, *an important* ~~which is a big time~~ railroad junction, the meeting place of nine rail and highway lines. And Godollo is only ten miles from Budapest, which capital city appears about to fall. <sup>TR</sup> Moscow states that heavy Soviet artillery has been shelling Budapest for the past thirty hours. And the latest is that Russian tanks have broken into the outskirts of the city. Moscow reports the entire German Front in Hungary as being in a state of collapse.



STATE DEPARTMENT

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today took up the Assistant Secretary of State nominations that the President has made. ~~Secretary Stettinius appeared, and urged that the appointments be ratified promptly by the Senate.~~

The Committee questioned Joseph C. Grew, who was American Ambassador to Tokyo at the time of Pearl Harbor. He, as one of the Assistant Secretaries named, was asked about a shipment of American scrap iron and oil to Japan before the war. He replied that he had been in favor of those much debated shipments - because this country was not prepared for war. We were not, he explained, in any position to back up an economic embargo - embargo meaning war.

He was asked about the Jap Emperor Hirohito - Former Ambassador Grew having been represented as believing it would be a good thing to keep Hirohito on his throne after the war. Today he said that this

was - "a distortion of his views." <sup>That</sup> about Hirohito, he had no set belief.

"We can't say now," he explained, "Whether an Emperor will be an asset or a liability." ~~I have never held that the Emperor should be retained, I have never held that the Emperor should be eliminated, but I think,~~ he summarized, "That the situation ~~should be left fluid until we get to Tokyo and size up the situation.~~" To this he added the observation that Japan has never been defeated in war in modern times, and nobody knows what the psychological effect of defeat will be.

~~Of the Assistant Secretaries of State whom the President has named, opposition is focused on businessman Will Clayton and Poet Archibald MacLeish - The New Dealers being skeptical about Clayton and the Conservatives casting a wary eye on MacLeish. Today Clayton denied that he was in favor of international cartels, while MacLeish announced himself in favor~~

~~of the free worldwide distribution of information,  
and announced himself an opponent of Communism.~~

At the hearing Secretary Stettinius was asked about the British using American lend-lease equipment in their battle against Left Wing Insurrectionists in Greece. That query was promptly squelched as an improper thing to ask. Thereupon it was followed by something that really made eyes pop.

Senator Guffy of Pennsylvania demanded:  
"Are the British now using lend-lease against our Ethiopian Allies?"

That was immediately stopped as improper - but it gave a hint of a possible development that certainly has not been headlined in the news. Are the British in trouble with the Ethiopians, whose country they liberated from Fascist Italy only a couple of years ago? They restored Haille Selassie to his throne, the King of Kings who had been driven out by Mussolini. Has the British Ethiopia love feast



ended? Are the British now on the outs with  
Haile Selassie?

*at the moment*  
Well, Ethiopia is hidden behind the curtains  
of dimness and distance, and the censorships of war.

CONGRESS

Today in Congress a Bill was introduced to boost the salary of the President and also to increase the pay of the Cabinet and the members of Congress. The President now gets seventy-five thousand a year, and the proposal is to make it a hundred thousand. ~~What, no freezing of wages?~~

The sponsor of the bill, Congressman Vinson of Georgia, explains that the President gets a smaller salary than Frank Sinatra - And, moreover doesn't have the bobby socks chasing after him. ~~The bill as proposed makes no provision of bobby socks.~~ Congressman Vinson says that, after necessary expenses are deducted from the Presidential seventy-five thousand dollars a year, the White House net is about twenty-seven thousand dollars. And the same kind of shrinkage occurs in the case of members of the Cabinet and Congress.

We gather that some of them are so bad off that, ~~instead of returned soldiers~~ ~~we~~ ~~may soon see Congressmen~~ ~~selling~~ ~~pennies~~ ~~apples.~~ ~~or the streets~~ ~~we~~

## NEW PLANES

Here's a fast one, a news item with speed. Its tells of fighter planes that will whiz along at more than seven hundred miles an hour - almost the speed of sound. This was stated before the House Naval Affairs Committee today by Rear Admiral Ramsey, Chief of the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics.

Admiral Ramsey explained that at present the top speed of Navy Fighter Planes is around four hundred miles an hour, although some have approached the speed of sound in dives. But new and faster types are being developed, and the Admiral predicted a seven hundred miles an hour fighter plane - "In the near future."



## ROCKET

Headlines of war are on the Rocket, and this is followed by a prompt revival of the old idea of a trip to the moon by Rocket. That great old romancer, Jules Verne wrote a book describing such an adventure -- a book that thrilled a couple of generations of boys. And now from London, we have the word that a Rocket trip to the moon - with passengers -- is being planned.

Today Professor A.M. Low, President of the British Inter-planetary Society stated the following: "People laughed at us before the war, but look what the Germans are doing with Rockets now." And he told of the project to make a voyage in what he called -- "A Space Ship". This to be a passenger carrying projectile shaped like a cigar and propelled by Rockets. The Professor added that they hadn't quite decided whether to make a landing on the moon or just fly around the earth's ~~surface~~ "Queen of the Night."

In case you are inclined to think the Professor is lacking in common sense, you might consider another thing he said - he declared that he didn't think that he, himself would be one of the passengers - not the professor! But he believed there would be no lack of volunteers. So if you know anyone who wants to pay a visit to the man in the moon, why tell 'em to look up Professor Low of the British Inter-Planetary Society. As for me, when the space ship leaves for the Moon, much as I'd like to go along, I think instead of saying solong for good I'd rather stick to Mother <sup>---</sup>Earth, ~~and say --- SOLONG UNTIL TOMORROW.~~

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