

Wed. Mar. 8 '44

Canner

Today's American bombing blast against Berlin is described by the British press association in the following words: "The greatest daylight offensive ever seen." And it goes on to state that the armada that smashed the Nazi capital today consisted of eleven hundred Flying Fortresses and Liberators escorted by nine hundred fighters.

More conservative London estimates, however, give a probable figure of seven-hundred-and-fifty bombers and eight-hundred fighters.

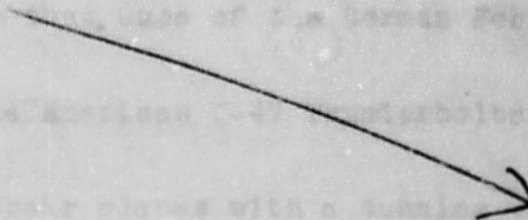
However that may be, it was a stupendous assault - with accent on incendiary bombs. Three-hundred-and-sixty-thousand missiles were hurled on Hitler's big town, and of these three-hundred-and-fifty-thousand were <sup>incendiary</sup> bombs. The objective being, of course, to burn out the already smashed and shattered city.

The three-hundred-and-fifty-thousand incendiaries left Berlin a sea of flame, with the smoke rising to a stupendous height. The day was fair, the sky perfectly clear, and returning American airmen could see the towering smoke for an hour and a half as they flew back to Britain.

The German fighters resistance was ~~described~~ as ferocious.

Nazi planes were up in swarms and the German pilots pressed their attacks with fanatical determination. Returning pilots said that the attacks of Nazi war fliers were <sup>even</sup> fiercer than on Monday - when the Germans lost a-hundred-and-seventy-six planes. <sup>TP Today's</sup> ~~The~~ battle of the sky raged for a distance of a-hundred-and-fifty miles, from one pm today until five pm.

~~The attack was~~ The second daylight mass bombing of Berlin in three days. <sup>is reported to be</sup> And tonight Hitler's capital ~~is~~ erupting like a Volcano.



A late flash from London gives us the final tally of the losses on both sides, *in the air battle over Europe today.* Thirty-eight of our big bombers failed to return -- And sixteen fighters. Which is a great deal less than in the previous mass daylight raid on Monday, when sixty-eight Bombers and eleven fighters were lost. <sup>TP</sup> What about <sup>the</sup> Germans? Our fighters alone shot down eighty-three of their planes.

Late stories from London tell of some new Nazi tricks disclosed in today's mighty assault.

Returning bomber crews declare that some of the German Focke Wulfe 190 fighter planes now look like American P-47 Thunderbolts. That is, the Nazis are camouflaging their planes with a cunning paint job. For example, the Focke Wulfe 190 normally has blunt wings and an almost straight edged tail while the Thunderbolt has tapered wings and a tapered tail. This very obvious difference is disguised by the use of a silver paint, which at a distance gives the Focke Wulfe the tapering effect of a Thunderbolt.

And Nazis are going in for another kind of paint job, a kind of razzle dazzle that leaves the returning American fliers puzzled.

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They say some of the German fighters are gaudily colored with green and black checkerboard designs -- to what purpose nobody knows.

And some Messerschmitts have rainbow hued propellers -- painted in such fashion that the whirling blades look like red discs with orange centers. But, why?

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In the Ukraine, the Russians are striking three separate blows against the half million Germans in the bend of the Dnieper - three Soviet drives in as many directions thrusting into the Great salient that the Nazis occupy. The threat of a trap is so grave that the Hitler commander, Field Marshal Von Mannstein, is said to be preparing to move his headquarters - all the way back to Rumania. The Red Army is fighting to break a way into Rumania, and the Russian units are approaching the important rail junction town of Tarnopol.

The advancing Russians face not only the weapons of the Germans, but also the opposition of the weather - that Spring thaw ~~which~~ <sup>that</sup> has turned the Steppes of the Ukraine into a quagmire. Today's Moscow bulletin states that the rich fields and the ordinary roads are bottomless pits of muds - with military movements possible only along the major highways, roads that are paved. Hence, the campaign right now tends to be channeled along the important highways, where the Germans are <sup>putting up</sup> ~~suffering~~ heavy resistance.

One vivid illustration of the <sup>u</sup> ~~slo~~ <sup>dy</sup> character of the <sup>Ukraine</sup> ~~Ukrainian~~ terrain is seen in a detail of battle - a story that tells

how a Soviet unit was stopped on a paved road, and its commander ordered a flanking movement, a detour across surrounding fields. The mud was so bad that the foot soldiers couldn't get through it. So, the infantry was packed aboard sledges, which were pulled by half tracks - the sledges being able to slide over the mud.

One explanation of the great Soviet victories was given in Washington today by Rear Admiral Land, administrator of war shipping and chairman of the Maritime Commission. He stated that in the successes of the Red Army, a major role was played by lend-lease. Admiral Land was testifying before the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives, which is considering legislation to extend the lend-lease program. *Adm. Terry Land* ~~He~~ said that American shipments to Russia at the end of last year were thirty-three percent above schedule, and added that this was one reason why the Soviets were able to seize the offensive and hold it month after month.

## ITALIAN FLEET

It was stated in Washington today that a Senate committee will review the question of the Italian Fleet. That is, the plan to give Soviet Russia one third of the surrendered Italian warships as was stated by President Roosevelt recently.

What sort of committee will review the matter? The Senate group that deals with petroleum. That may seem odd, but there is a good deal of congressional opinion that Stalin is demanding a third of the Italian navy, because of the petroleum situation in the Mediterranean.

They say the Soviets are apprehensive about <sup>the</sup> great increase of American and British naval strength in <sup>the</sup> inland sea, Moscow believing this to be related to Middle Eastern oil developments -- like the plan to construct an American pipe line across Arabia.

Congressional observers say that Stalin is determined to create a powerful naval force in the Black Sea -- to counter-balance American and British strength in the Mediterranean, and its <sup>adjacent</sup> regions <sup>that</sup> rich in oil. ~~And~~ <sup>that</sup> that's why he is demanding a third of the Italian navy.



In Italy -- it looks as if the Germans intended to start another big battle for the beachhead - their fourth major attack. Word from Allied headquarters indicates that the Nazis are massing fresh troops around the perimeter of the flat land occupied by the Allies - mustering forces for an assault. Their three previous big attacks were beaten off with heavy losses, but apparently they are going to make another try - number four.

In the South, a bitter street battle has developed in the ruins of Cassino, where Fifth Army troops are fighting the enemy from house to house. House often meaning, the wreck of a building.

The weather on the Cassino front has improved, the rains have stopped; the flooded Rapido river has subsided; but its valley is still a bog, a long strip of mud - in which armored units cannot operate.

## BRITISH MINERS

The coal mine strike in England is more critical than ever.

The latest news tonight states that today eighty thousand Welch coal miners were out -- and that's eighty percent of <sup>the</sup> hundred thousand who work in the Black pits. ~~And~~ It seems likely that tomorrow or the next day all coal production in Wales will be tied up.

The walkout is described in these words -- "the most calamitous work stoppage since nineteen twenty-six." Nineteen twenty-six was the year of the general strike in Britain.

*And,* The strike is contrary to the orders of the leaders of the mine unions, who are trying to get the men <sup>to go</sup> back to <sup>work,</sup> ~~back~~ For this they have a special reason. It is an odd fact that the coal mine labor leaders in the districts affected are the strongest kind of "second-fronters" and few things could be more disturbing for invasion plans than a big British coal strike.

The big chief of the miners of South Wales is Arthur Horner, a member of the executive committee of the British communist party, and a vehement advocate of a second front. In another section the leader is Will Lawther, a left winger and a fervent second <sup>front</sup> ~~front~~er.

BRITISH strike. 2

So, a strike is the last thing they want, and the way things are going is taken to mean that they have lost their control of the rank and file of the mine workers.

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Today we hear how in the jungles of Northern Burma, some Chinese met some Americans - and the occasion was historic. Two hard driving military columns, Chinese and American, joined <sup>ing</sup> forces. <sup>Yes,</sup> - <sup>^</sup> and this happened in the rear of two thousand Japanese. So the Japs are trapped, for a culmination of the defeats that the Far Eastern enemy has recently been sustaining in Northern Burma.

The place - Hukawang valley, where jungles are thick between the mountains, and where villages of the North Burma tribes are dotted here and there. <sup>R</sup> The Japs in Hukawang valley were battling against an Allied force, when American ~~General~~ <sup>General</sup> Lieutenant <sup>^</sup> Stilwell ordered a double outflanking movement, an encirclement by Chinese from one direction and by American troops from another. So the two forces went toiling through the tropical thicket. Today the Chinese drove forward for ten miles, and that brought them to the Americans. Thereby forging a ring around the Japs. - <sup>Q</sup> a matter of Chinese-American collaboration that bids fair to make history!

There is heavy fighting on the Willaumez peninsula of New Britain, on which the Marines landed Monday. Tonight's comm<sup>u</sup> nique from General MacArthur states that the Leathernecks are consolidating position against what the communique calls -- "strong opposition."

In a statement made tonight Donald Nelson, chairman of the war production board, spoke about the time it would take for American industry to return to peace time production after the defeat of Germany. In six or eight months, said he, It will take that long after the Nazi collapse for American industry to resume the production of civilian goods on a large scale.

And, Donald Nelson stated that he favors government control over industry during that six or eight months transitional period -- but no longer. He said he would strongly oppose what he called "any attempt to put post war economy in a totalitarian straightjacket"



## ELECTION

Today we have the usual contradictory interpretations of the surprising election result in Denver. Last night the Democratic candidate, A disabled hero of the air war in the Pacific, was leading by a slender margin. But that was wiped out, and the election goes to the Republicans - the G. O. P. picking up another seat in Congress, replacing a Democrat. This occurs <sup>ing</sup> in a district that has been heavily Democratic since nineteen-thirty, and causes the Republicans to shout that the trend against the Administration is still continuing.

Democrats in Washington, however, contend that local issues in Denver were so confused in the election for Congress, that no conclusion can be drawn that would apply to national politics.

At any rate one result of all this may be that Colorado's <sup>50-</sup>able and young ex-Governor, <sup>Ralph Carr,</sup> may now be on the come-back trail as a political figure to be reckoned with in the West.

~~Lowell Thomas~~

Black market--

There was mockery and irony in Detroit today, when the woman leader of a crusade against the black market was arraigned in court for selling gasoline coupons in a big black market deal.

Last August at Lansing, Michigan, the crusading lady conducted a campaign among housewives - urging them to strict observance of price ceilings and rationing. She was most eloquent about it, extolling patriotism and the war and denouncing anybody who had anything to do with black market transactions.

And now in Detroit, the crusader is charged with a black market transaction of large proportions - the sale of nineteen-thousand-and-two-hundred gasoline coupons for nineteen-hundred-and-twenty dollars. ~~That figure~~ Ten cents a coupon.

The police state that she arranged the deal by telephone with a Detroit gasoline station operator. Whereupon he went to her home to pay the money and get the coupons. It was a trap, the money was

marked - and the crusader against the black market was arrested with the nineteen-hundred-and-twenty dollars' worth of incriminating cash still in her hand.

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When the authorities seached her apartment they found sixty thousand coupons representing gasoline valuation of four hundred thousand miles. And the belief is that a few weeks ago she may have sold one hundred and fifteen thousand coupons for twenty-one thousand dollars.

How did she get them ? She was a rationing official. The crusader was chief clerk of a ration board at Lansing, Michigan, where a large shortage of gasoline coupons has been discovered.

This is a disturbing day for Charlie Chap<sup>lin</sup>~~man~~ and tomorrow is scheduled to be the same. The one-time King of Motion Picture Comedy today lost his plea in the paternity suit against him, a plea that the case be dismissed. Some while ago, medical science undertook to investigate the contention of Joan Barry that Chaplin is the father of her child. And the doctors announced that a blood test showed that Chaplin could not have been the father. However, the Judge did not agree with this. He thinks the jury should decide, and ordered Chaplin to answer the paternity complaint. In other words, there will be a paternity trial.

And tomorrow Chaplin must appear in court for arraignment on a charge that Joan Barry was deprived of her civil rights. He and a couple of friends and four officials facing the accusation that when Joan Barry tried to see Chaplin at his house, she was arrested on vagrancy charges, and rushed out of Hollywood. Which brings Charlie into court tomorrow-- One day of trouble after another.

The longest jury trial in the history of the American courts came to an end today, in Los Angeles. The case was before the jury for five years and - one after another - five judges presided.

This longest jury trial concerned the four million dollar estate of Michael Francis O'Shea, who died at the age of ninety and left no will. Most of his relatives and prospective heirs were in Ireland, which made it an international affair.

Dozens of heirs made claim to the four million dollars, and, with the case on trial before a jury, evidence piled up - a ton of evidence. <sup>Xea;</sup> That's correct. By the time the depositions were all in, nearly two-thousand pounds of testimony had been accumulated. The affair dragged on and on - for five years. And now it ends after a continuous sitting of the jury for sixteen months.

After all the long drawn out proceedings, it took the long suffering jury a mere six hours to arrive at a verdict - distributing the four million dollars among a whole string of heirs in Ireland.

And now, Ben, I'm going to  
bequeath to you - this microphone.



## SCIENTISTS

And now meet two scientists. Charlie - who is seventeen. And Anne - who is sixteen. They today were declared the winners of the Westinghouse Science scholarships, which are granted annually to the nation's most promising Teen-age-scientists. Fifteen thousand high school students competed this year, and the top honors go to Charles Amber Davidson of Fort Bridger, Wyoming, and Anne Hagopian,<sup>of</sup> New York City.

Seventeen year old Charlie is a country boy who has been delving into electronics, chemistry,<sup>and</sup> microscopic biology, for six years. Ever since he was eleven, he has been working on what they call - an invisible searchlight, which employs infra-red rays and an electronic pick-up, and is designed for military use.

In addition, Charlie also goes in for painting - quite an artist. But don't think he is altogether on the highbrow lofty intellectual side. He was captain of his high school football team, and is a boxer. - He won a light heavyweight boxing award.

Sixteen year old Anne Hagopian concentrates on physics and geometry, and has built models of atoms. Also - an original model to

demonstrate principles of geometry.

Anne, like Charlie, goes in for painting. Quite an artist.

Unlike Charlie, however, she has not been captain<sup>st</sup> her high school football team and has not won any award as a light heavyweight boxer.

Here's news. The state of affairs between the Senate and the White House today <sup>took on an aura</sup> ~~was one~~ of love and affection, peace and good-will.

<sup>Yes, the</sup> ~~That~~ new head-on collision that was threatening between the Legislators and the President has turned into compliments and bouquets.

It was all because of the Rural Electrification Administration, with a Senate sub-committee calling a presidential assistant, <sup>Jonathan Daniels, to</sup> testify - and he refusing, and they angrily threatening contempt charges against him. And, moreover, the sub-committee wanted to take a look at the files of the electrification administration, and that wasn't permitted. <sup>So</sup> ~~And~~ they said indignantly <sup>that</sup> they <sup>would</sup> subpoena the files. all of which looked like another stormy clash between the Senate and the White House.

But yesterday, the Presidential assistant - Jonathan Daniels - appeared and gave testimony, as we heard last night. And that ~~seems to~~ <sup>have had the effect of pouring oil on</sup> ~~certainly did pour oil on the~~ troubled waters, because today the sub-committee had only the most agreeable things to say about the Presidential assistant - they poured oil on him.

"the President," says the committee, "could have delegated



<sup>no one</sup> ~~no~~ <sup>who could</sup> who could have conducted himself in a more dignified manner, <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>who could</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>g</sup>  
<sup>have</sup> evidenced more desire to do all he could."

And to top off the compliment, the sub-committee graciously  
 decided not to subpoena the files of the Electrification Administration.

<sup>2</sup> "We will not make any request to the President" says Senator  
 Gillette with a pleasant nod in the direction of the White House.

In other words, everything is <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>honky</sup> dory, sweetness and light;  
 for a change.

and now, here's Ben for a change,  
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## PEARL HARBOR

In Washington today, it was denied that the Japanese in Hawaii used secret radio sets in transmitting espionage information to Japan before Pearl Harbor. It has been alleged that they did, and some have blamed the Federal Communications Commission, saying that the F. C. C. was responsible for a situation that made it possible. This allegation in turn tended to place on the F. C. C. some of the responsibility of what its chairman today called "the horror of Pearl Harbor."

The chairman, James Lawrence Fly, entered a general denial. He told a Congressional Investigating Committee that the F. C. C. had taken all proper measures making it highly improbable that any under-cover radio sets could have been in operation.

They weren't necessary, anyway, he argued. All the Hawaii Japs had to do was just walk into a regular commercial cable or radio office and send any message they wanted - in code. So why bother about secret radios?