

SUBSTITUTE PHILIPPINES

The war in the Philippines is sweeping on-- with new landings and new great air blows. This evening General MacArthur announced two invasions of Mindoro Island -- one on the East Coast and the other on the West. One landing was made on Monday, the other on Tuesday.

This, I suppose, turns out to be the meaning of the story we had several days ago, *that* Japanese account of a big American seaborne force steaming through the inland waters of the Philippines. We couldn't guess at the time what its destination was, and now -- two new landings on Mindoro. These were not opposed, nor was the original invasion of the island -- the Japs being apparently content to give up Mindoro, the northern tip of which is only eight miles from the main island of Luzon. And I suppose it will be -- Luzon next.

The air activity ^{re}ported today was of a kind that might well be a long range preliminary

to landings on Luzon. MacArthur's planes struck
the Japs all along the line of that island, and
on to the north -- toward Formosa. And the carrier
planes of the Navy joined in the bombing of the
enemy in Formosa waters, ~~that is~~ along the line
of Jap communications ^{from Japan} ~~that lead~~ to Luzon.

Today once again the B-29s ~~xxxx~~ raided Japan. They bombed targets at Osaka and Nagoya. More and more Nagoya, Japan's third largest city, is becoming a favorite target for the superfortresses - Nagoya with its huge concentration of war industries.

The mere fact that Japan was bombed again is getting to be a familiar story, but today's event produced something new. The dispatch from out there in the Pacific was ~~xxxx~~ date-lined - Guam.

~~What, no Saipan?~~ Hitherto, all news about the Pacific operations of the B-29s, has emanated from the big superfortress base on the island of Saipan. And, for that matter, the bombers that flew against Japan today ^{took} off from Saipan. So why the dateline ~~of~~ - Guam?

The answer is that things are expanding out there. The B-29s now have three bases -- Saipan, Tinian and Guam. And the operational center is on Guam. The ^{B. 29} ~~superfortresses~~ campaign against the enemy home islands ~~is~~ now ~~xxx~~ directed from that bit of land ~~which~~ the Japs took from us early in the war and

which we have now recaptured. Today's raid against Japan was the first one to be launched ^{and directed} ~~under control~~ from Guam. And so, for the first time, we have a Guam dateline for the announcement - as we will continue to have in the future.

Tokyo confirms the bombings, and adds the usual fantastic ~~is~~ Japanese claims of B-29s ~~is~~ shot down - thirteen this time. More interesting in the Tokyo dispatch is a bit of information about the superfortresses - something that the Japs know better than we do over here. That is - the ~~is~~ sound of the B-29s. Tokyo states that recordings have been made for the purpose of familiarizing the Japanese people with the noise the monster planes make when they come over. Here's a description. One single superfortress makes what the Japs call - "a heavy metallic sound mixed with occasional dull notes like the roll of drums". In the case of a number of B-29s, the occasional rumble like the roll of ~~is~~ drums becomes more frequent. The more superfortresses there are, the more often does the sound of drums

ring out up there - the most ominous drums of war
for Japan.

— 0 —
Herald Hugh T. for Stan.
of Cal. and then more news.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD WESTERN FRONT

The latest from the western front is a powerful American drive against the northern edge of the Nazi salient in Belgium. The American First Army is thrusting into that northern flank along the line that might lead to a junction with General Patton's Third Army, which is hitting the southern side of the salient.

At the same time Patton's troops, having driven their wedge at Bastogne, continued to hammer forward today - against the heaviest kind of counter-assault by the Germans. Tonight's news dispatch speaks of what it calls -- "a tide of counter-attacks". The Third Army, however, continues to shove ahead in a violent armored battle -- the strategy being to drive north, while the First Army drives south, and pinch off the western end of the bulge.

The German command is pouring massive forces into the salient after having pulled back from the edges. The ~~is~~ estimate from Allied headquarters

is that Von Rundstedt has thrown ⁱⁿ two hundred thousand troops, units of infantry and armor -- to hold the bulge.

All of which is one phase of what looks like one of the greatest battles of the war. Dispatches from the western front state that things seem to be shaping up for a decisive clash, and in the strategy of this the salient will be one of two dominant elements. The other is the German assault to the south -- the Saar and Alsace.

~~There~~ There the enemy has been attacking for three days. Today -- more than ever. Nazi pressure in the Saar and Alsace has increased. The enemy assault has intensified, and there have been American withdrawals at points along a fifty-five mile front.

One dispatch from the front goes into the question of weather, and ~~discloses~~ discloses a bit of meteorological strategy.)

It tells of what it calls a veritable miracle of weather -- a break of luck that the Allies could not have expected.

Today's dispatch tells us that the forecasts for December indicated - exceptionally bad weather, even worse than usual for Northern Europe. The reason was that a high pressure area was moving eastward from Russia, and that high.....

...and the German weather men. And that, it is believed, was one of the chief reasons why the Nazis picked the date they did for launching their offensive into Luxembourg and Belgium.

All that according to the weatherman's prediction for the first few days, ^{for} a week in fact. The high pressure area moving eastward from Russia did its dirty work - dirty weather. Then something unexpected occurred. Another pressure area appeared in the picture - this one moving from the south. One pushed against the other - pressure against pressure, and the result was a stalemate, neither one prevailing against the other.

And that created a static condition of atmosphere, still air, clear, dry, cold, which brought

pressure area promised atrocious weather. The American Air Forces were warned ~~that~~ they could not expect more than eleven good flying days throughout December. ~~That was what~~ ^{So} the weatherman said - both the American and the German weather man. And that, it is believed, was one of the chief reasons why the Nazis picked the date they did for launching their offensive into Luxembourg and Belgium.

All went according to the weatherman's prediction for the first few days, ^{for} a whole week in fact. The high pressure area moving eastward from Russia did its dirty work - dirty weather. Then something unexpected occurred. Another pressure area appeared in the picture - this one moving from the south. One pushed against the other - pressure against pressure, and the result was a stalemate, neither one prevailing against the other.

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the sudden change from impossible flying conditions to excellent flying conditions. ^{And} That enabled Allied Air Power to go into stupendous action and knock out nearly two thousand German motorized units and two hundred and twenty-six tanks in five days - the period during which the German rush was stopped.

The tale is told by Lieutenant Arthur Uizer of Portland, Oregon, who was an artillery observer attached to an American company. Lieutenant Uizer's outfit was fighting in the Siegfried line, and they captured a factory building. There they were surrounded by enemy troops, who attacked them with machine guns, and started blasting their way into the factory. The Americans were overwhelmingly outnumbered and their position looked hopeless -- until artillery observer Lieutenant Uizer resorted to desperate means. The factory building had a deep powerful constructed basement, and in this the Americans took refuge -- while the Germans poured into the upper

BOMBARDMENT

The story of American soldiers under a bombardment of American shells would seem to be a report on a blunder - especially when we are told that the position of these American troops was shelled by an American battery for seven hours, ^{then it} ~~so~~ sounds like an atrocious mistake. ~~But~~ it was really a stroke of heroic strategy.

The tale is told ~~me~~ by Lieutenant Arthur Ulmer of Portland, Oregon, who was an artillery observer attached to an American company. Lieutenant Ulmer's outfit was fighting in the Siegfried line, and they captured a factory building. There they were surrounded by enemy troops, who attacked them with bazookas, and started blasting their way into the factory. The Americans were overwhelmingly outnumbered, and their position looked hopeless -- until artillery observer Lieutenant Ulmer resorted to desperate means.

The factory building had a deep powerfully constructed basement, and in this ~~is~~ the Americans took refuge - while the Germans swarmed into the upper

part. Then Ulmer radioed directions to an American battery of artillery - giving them a point at which to aim their guns. He called for a bombardment of the factory, in the basement of which he and his comrades were holding out. In a minute, shells came over, shells hitting the building and smashing the Germans.

Ulmer continued his directions to the American battery. "Keep shooting", he yelled over and over. All day long he kept calling for more shells - while the factory building was blasted to wreckage and the Americans in the basement were half stunned by the reverberations.

I suppose ^{that - just about} it was the war's extreme example of American cannon-bombarding a building in which American soldiers were holding out - and it did the trick. After seven hours of incessant shelling, the German force was wrecked so badly that the Americans in the basement were able to emerge, and capture the whole village - easily.

MANPOWER

President Roosevelt today authorized the reclassification of farm workers. As things now stand, some three hundred and sixty-four thousand men, between eighteen and twenty-five, have been deferred from the draft because they were doing essential jobs in agriculture. These deferrals may now be cancelled -- farm workers drafted into the Army. As many will be taken as the law permits - according to the order issued by the President today.

This action was taken in response to an urgent plea made by the Army command, a plea for more manpower to be sent to the battlelines. And this is believed to reflect the losses that we have sustained in the German offensive on the western front.

RUSSIA

Russian troops today drove their way to the heart of Budapest. That is, they broke through to the river Danube, which runs ^{right} through the Hungarian capital; ~~At last reports~~ ^{putting the} Red Army Forces ~~were~~ within striking distance of the Parliament Buildings -- and of the University, which the Germans have turned into a fortress. The latest word is they have captured the heart of the city.

As a result of today's fighting, one hundred and sixty-six more city blocks were captured by the Russians -- as Budapest flamed with fantastic devastation of war.

The Germans, meanwhile, are trying to drive to the relief of the city - and they have made some progress. Moscow states that the Nazis pushing from the west have captured several places on the south bank of the Danube. However, the German relief columns are still thirty miles away from the city -- and it seems most doubtful that they can fight their way for that distance before the remaining Germans in Budapest are wiped out.

ADD RUSSIA

Here's later word! —

~~The latest is~~ a Soviet bulletin stating
that a Nazi relief force has driven for six miles --
definite gain by what is called a powerful German
counter-offensive.

GREECE

A new Greek Government was formed today, with General Nikolas Plastiras as Prime Minister. He is an anti-monarchist, the hero of a revolution against the Greek Monarchy in 1922. Today he succeeded in forming a cabinet that took oath of office to the Regent of Greece, Archbishop Damaskinos.

that tonight in Washington formal assurance was given by Price Administrator Chester Rowley.

"Not a change in a million," said he.

"We are not going to cancel any outstanding shoe stamps."

SHOES

If you are worried about the possibility of shoe rations being cancelled -- forget it. All over the country there has been a panic of shoe buying because of rumours that shoe rations would be cancelled. The panic-buying has been so great that tonight in Washington formal assurance was given by Price Administrator Chester Bowles.

"Not a chance in a million," said he. "We are not going to cancel any outstanding shoe stamps."

CONGRESS

The new Congress sprang a surprise this evening by voting to continue the Dies Committee and, in fact, make it permanent. This was astonishing indeed, because the Administration Leaders in Congress have been hostile to the Committee, which has stirred up so much controversy by investigating Communist activities in the United States. Four of its members are out of congress now, including Congressman Dies, who didn't run for re-election.

The move to re-establish the Committee was made by ^{Democratic} Congressman Rankin, ^a Mississippi, who jumped in when the other side wasn't looking -- and got a majority of southern Democrats and Republicans.

The opening of the new Congress today had a musical accompaniment - a legislative version of a cowboy song. This emanated from the vocal chords of newly-elected Senator Glenn H. Taylor of Idaho - the Senator who had a career as a cowboy singer, and whose electioneering campaign for the legislative halls of the nation was loud with melody and harmony.

The Taylors are a musical family. The Senator himself plays the guitar and banjo, and sings baritone. His wife plays the saxophone and ~~trumpet~~ trumpet, and sings contralto. His son, nine years old, plays the clarinet and the piano. And all of these instrumental and vocal resources were employed in getting the singing cowboy elected to the ~~the~~ Senate.

Upon arriving in Washington, the newly elected lawmaker ~~the~~ draped his toga around him and announced with dignity: "I didn't come here to play the guitar - I came here to be a senator".

However, the newsmen kept insisting, and today, as he stood with his family on the steps of the capital, the Senator broke down and sang a cowboy

song adapted to the occasion - a parody of "home on the range".

The senatorial baritone rang out with the familiar tune and these words:

"Oh give me a home near the capitol dome,
Where my kids in the back yard can play".

After having sung this house-of-Congress-cowboy-song, the Senator went inside, and sang another tune. Something quite different, taking the oath of office as a United States Senator. ^{And} That's not at all like a cowboy song - or is it?

*And now Hugh give us
Your closing refrain.*