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The latest from the Southwest Pacific tells of another powerful air blow against the ^{big} Jap base at Rabaul, with another enemy cruiser sunk and two more Jap destroyers sent to the bottom. In addition there was smashing damage to a cruiser, and eleven ^{Also} destroyers were probably damaged. Eighty-eight Japanese planes were shot down.

The figures for enemy losses are a measure of the magnitude of this latest stroke of war against the key Jap base in the Southwest Pacific. The havoc was wrought by ^{our} sea and air forces -- with an ^{American} aircraft carrier and other warships playing their part on the surface of the sea, while the planes hit hard from the air.

Two hundred American planes were in the great air assault, giant Liberator bombers and carrier-based aircraft, ^{with a} ~~and the~~ cost to us ^{of} ~~was~~ [—] seventeen, [^] the heaviest

loss of planes that we have sustained in a single operation in the Southwest Pacific. Enemy air squadrons swarmed to assail the task force, and there was a wild swirl of ~~the~~ ^{in the sky -} battle -- in which most of the Japanese air losses were incurred.

~~Our~~ warships sustained only minor damages and light casualties.

2
Another flashing episode of war tells ~~how~~ an American aircraft carrier was assailed by>

PACIFIC

~~Here's the latest about the war in the Southwest Pacific. A United States aircraft carrier ~~assailed by~~~~
Japanese planes -- assailed repeatedly. Japanese bombers came swarming to the attack in four distinct waves, one after another. All the assaults were beaten off by the guns of the carrier, by its planes, and by the accurate shooting of surrounding ships. The carrier was not damaged. "The Japs never made a dent in it," said Secretary of the Navy ~~Frank~~ ^{late} Knox today.

He explained that he was disclosing the story of the carrier as an answer to the tall tales the Japs have been telling of late - their claims of having inflicted huge losses, virtually wiping out the American fleet.

Today the Japs continued their stories about a major naval battle in the southwest Pacific, a monster clash of rival fleets. Every line of

Tokyo propoganda seems anxious to create the impression that the main fleet of Japan is now in battle with the bulk of ^{Uncle Sam's} ~~the~~ naval forces, ^P ~~of the United States.~~ There is

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no such battle, states Allied headquarters in the southwest Pacific. The monster clash is ^{all} a Japanese

fake - pure invention. And this was echoed today by Secretary Knox ^{who said} ~~in Washington.~~ He ~~stated categorically,~~

"There has been no surface engagement ~~in the Pacific~~ since the night of November Second." ~~and added~~ "That's a positive and unqualified ^{statement.} ~~statement.~~"

~~The night of November Second was the occasion when our ships gave the Japs the sharpest kind of beating, sinking four destroyers and a cruiser.~~

Then what are the Japs talking about? ~~Why the~~ ~~shepper about a monster battle?~~ ~~What's the purpose of the propoganda?~~ ^{super-conflict?} Secretary Knox thinks it is to bolster up Japanese morale at home - encouraging them with

tall stories about big battle and big victory. "It is apparently due," said the Secretary, "to a psychological situation at home, and they find it necessary to fool their people."

♡

While the marines are fighting to wipe out the Japs on Bougainville Island, we are given an account of how American forces landed on another island, and then withdrew. It isn't often that we hear of our forces going ashore, waging a fight, and then boarding their ships again and going away - invading and evacuating. But this was something special. ^{TP} A couple of weeks ago, we heard how the marines had landed at Choiseul Island, east of Bougainville. Two thousand marine paratroopers stormed their way ashore, and assailed a Japanese garrison of from three to four thousand. The Japs announced it as a large event, but it was all a sham. The landing was designed to keep the Japs on that island busy, while the real

WINANT

The War Department announces that the son of the United States Ambassador to Great Britain is a prisoner of war in Germany. First Lieutenant John G. Winant, Jr., was the pilot of a Flying Fortress - a veteran of bombing raids against Nazi ^{land.} ~~Germany~~. He took part in one of those famous shuttle missions - take off from England, blast a target in ~~Nazi~~ Germany, and fly ~~on~~ south to North Africa. His plane was lost and the son of Ambassador Winant was listed as missing. Now the word flashes - he survived, came to earth safely and is a prisoner of war.

ITALY

~~And now to Italy from which country we will
hear by short wave radio in just a minute. Let's
precede our broadcast from Naples with a quick glance
at the outstanding dispatches of the day.~~

General Mark Clark's Fifth Army has scored
in Southern Italy -
another advance - a push forward of a mile, but the
going is slow. The weather, after being wet and rainy
for days, has turned to winter - for it really can be
mighty chilly in usually sunny Italy. The frosty gales
of winter are blowing. The terrain is tough, rugged
and mountainous. The Germans are heavily fortified,
and are fighting with what today's dispatch from
Allied headquarters calls - "great skill and tenacity."
They are battling fiercely against a break-through of
their Winter Line.

The weather and terrain being what they are,
the enemy has gone back to World War days, we are told.

The Germans have built elaborate systems of trenches, reminiscent of the war in France more than twenty-five years ago. ~~The Allied armies, abandoning motorized methods for a while, are hauling supplies by mule pack, and the three newest German divisions to arrive on the Winter Line, are all horse drawn -- the old way of horses pulling guns.~~

The latest -- the Badoglio radio announces that the fall of Mignano seems imminent -- the town at the entrance of a valley leading to Rome.

As for air action, that's been hitting *again at* a most vital place - the railway link between France and

Italy. The British ^{again} blasted ^{at} Modane, the bottleneck ~~that~~ ^{ing} lead through one of the great ~~channels~~ ^{Alpine tunnels}. And

American bombs have cut the railroad along the coast, the line that ~~cuts~~ ^{skirts and plunges thru} the mountains along the Mediterranean shore. The point of attack was the City of Cannes, so famous as a gay resort. But Cannes is also an important railroad junction, and was bombed heavily.

As for the internal situation in Nazi occupied Italy, the news tells of new popular outbreaks and new Nazi ferocity. A dispatch from Bern describes Armistice Day in the big cities of northern Italy.

The Nazis tried to stop any Italian observance of the day

^{of German} ~~of their~~ humiliation and defeat in the previous World

War. They imposed a curfew, but this the Italians disregarded and celebrated Armistice Day - ^{whereupon} ~~and~~ German police opened fire on ^{the} ^{TP} crowds. Switzerland tells us

that in the great City of Milan, eight persons were

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killed, and scores injured by Nazi bullets. It was
at night, and the Milanese came out and heaped flowers
on monuments dedicated to Italian soldiers who fell
fighting the Germans of the Kaiser. Anti-Nazi
inscriptions were painted, and there was a crowd
demonstration on one of the large avenues. There, the
German police ~~opened fire,~~ *replied with blazing guns —* shooting down civilians,
including women and children.

FLIER

Today the Army released the story of Shorty Musco, of Providence, Rhode Island. Shorty dreamed of going to Sicily. His parents were Sicilians, and his grandparents were still living over there. But Shorty was in the air force, a staff sergeant, and his outfit was stationed in North Africa.

Last summer, when Sicily was invaded, Shorty Musco devoured all the accounts of the landings and swift advances - and how he wished he could be with the boys there on the island that his people came from. But Army Air Force routine was otherwise, and the sergeant's outfit was ordered to fly in the first bombing of Rome. Shorty was the tail gunner on a Liberator called - "Blasted Event." No, not "Blessed - - ~~Event~~ - "Blasted Event." And the big plane was among the others that dropped their bombs on Roman railroad yards. ^{TR} Heading back for North Africa, the "Blasted

Event" was attacked ^{- and really} ~~and~~ blasted ~~somewhat~~. A shell from a German fighter knocked out the Number Two engine. The Liberator fell out of formation, and the pilot started looking about for an emergency landing field. They were off the coast of Sicily, and one of the Sicilian fields in Allied-controlled territory was the right place. And that was a thing to delight Shorty Musco. At last he'd be in Sicily - the land of his parents.

Shorty was mighty busy along about now.

The big plane, crippled, ~~came down on the landing field,~~

~~when~~ two Messerschmitt fighters swooped down on it for a

kill. As the first one came in ~~on the tail,~~ Shorty got

it in his ^{square in his sights} ~~sight~~ and blazed away. The Nazi was ripped

apart and fell. The second Messerschmitt was close

behind, and Shorty swung his gun to get it. But the

^{German} ~~Nazi~~ beat him to the shot, and the cannon shell burst

inside of Shorty's tail turret. The Nazi did ~~not~~ live to enjoy the success, because the ~~was~~ ^{wait} gunner promptly knocked him out. Other enemy fighters dived to the attack, and three of these were shot down.

The "Blasted Event", badly damaged, made its landing on the Sicilian flying field, and Shorty had his wish - but he was not alive to know it. They took him from his gun turret, and there was only one thing to do - leave him there in Sicily. The hills were full of German snipers, and they could hear the roar of battle not far away. Orders came for them to ~~get away~~ ^{clear out} from that field as quickly as they could. But first they made arrangements. People from a local village came to them, friendly, ^w wanted to help, and they promised to give a fitting funeral to Shorty Musco. Also - ~~they'd~~ look up his grandparents and bring them as mourners.

So that ^{'s} how Shorty Musco of Providence got to Sicily; ~~and will never be taken~~ to Rhode Island.

RUSSIA

Moscow tells us that Soviet forces have driven to within cannonading distance of ~~an~~ ^{the} important railroad junction. ~~This place, ^{or} ~~near~~ Jitomar,~~ ^{which} is a major goal in their drive to cut the sole remaining railroad lines that the Germans still retain in ~~Russia~~ ^{the Ukraine}. The Russians are moving along the highway from Kiev, and ~~they~~ have now reached a point eighty miles beyond that city. And, they are ~~now~~ only sixty-five miles from the old frontier between Russia and Poland.

~~Further north, in ~~White Russia~~, violent fighting has flared - this ~~incident~~ in spite of the weather. The Russian winter is coming fast, and the countryside is covered with snow and slush.~~

~~In the extreme south, the Crimea, a heavy battle ^{is} still on for the possession of the old town of Kerch. The Russians are in sight of the citadel of Kerch, which has been blasted and set ablaze by Nazi demolition.~~

LEBANON

Today there was street fighting in the ancient city of Beyrouth -- and this brings to a new crisis trouble that has been increasing in the land of Lebanon.

That's a French colony, and the people want independence. There are three religious sects: Christians, Mohammedans, and Druses, and all are in a state of sedition against the French authorities.

P Recently a Republic of Lebanon was proclaimed. The French proceeded to arrest its leaders. That brought the trouble to a head, and today in the Moslem quarter of Beyrouth, guns and barricades ^{con-}fronted French troops. French tanks tried to break through, but failed. One tank was successfully attacked and burned. French troops tried to arrest the leader of the Druse tribesmen, but were warned that if they touched him the French High Commissioner in ^{the} Lebanon would be assassinated.

The leaders of the Christian Maronite Church and the local Grand Mufti of the Moslems have appealed to the British minister, asking for intervention against the French. The British are in a difficult position. If they should support the Lebanese malcontents they would antagonize the French National Committee of Liberation, while if they side with the French they will excite the anger of the Moslem world.

Today a Moslem spokesman told a United Press correspondent: "If the British assure us they will stay out of the fight, we can smash the French forces here."

MARIGNY

Mar for
~~Before going to the war news, let's look down~~

~~at~~ Nassau, *and* the Bahamas - *and* the man who last evening was acquitted of the charge of murdering his father-in-law. The jury, along with its verdict of not guilty, recommended that ~~Alfred~~ deMarigny be deported. So what does he say about that? Nothing doing, he replies.

Today he sat with his nineteen year old wife in his home, and talked with newspapermen. "Sure I plan to stay here," he declared, "It is not for the jury to decide that. I am staying in Nassau. It is my home, and my friends are here."

To this Nancy Oakes deMarigny nodded in smiling agreement - continuing her allegiance to the husband who was found not guilty of murdering her ~~multi-millionaire~~ multi-millionaire father.

ZOOT SUIT

All is not quiet on the zoot suit front in Los Angeles, and yet all should be quiet, because of special measures taken to keep the jitterbug addicts in a happy frame of mind. That is -- ^{to} keep them jitterbugging.

Last Spring the nation was startled by the Zoot suit headlines from the Pacific Coast, with stories of how the ferocious jitterbugs were waging pitch^{ed} battles with sailors, soldiers and Marines. Subsequent to that, various devices were thought up for alleviating the truly paradoxical situation. For one thing a club was formed, The Club Los Pachucos. Mexican jitterbugs call themselves -- Pachucos. The idea was that at the club the zoot suit gangs would be kept busy cutting rugs in the wildest of jive, and therefore wouldn't get into trouble on the streets.

The club Los Pachucos had hardly started

swinging with its hot music before new trouble
broke out. For ~~example a~~ ^{example a} zoot-suiting Pachuco
was grabbed by the police outside of the club. Waving
a razor, he was chasing another Pachuco -- while his
jitterbug pals ~~were~~ ^{went on} ripping the rugs inside.

The most sinister part, however, was another
instance, ~~incident~~ of zoot suiters assaulting service men. Two
Marines, Chester Kowalski and Harvey Swarner, heroes
of Guadalcanal, had just been released from the
hospital after treatment for war wounds. They were ^{just}
walking along when seven ~~pachucos~~ pachucos in those weird ~~xx~~
zoot suits attacked them. The two young veterans of
the Solomons fought back, two against seven, ^{And they} ~~and~~ were
in a critical situation when the police arrived and
arrested four of the frenzied jitterbugs, in whose
possession they found a knife and two pistols.

Today at Pittsburgh, Mrs. Georgia Hopkins announced that she is joining the WACS. For months Mrs. Hopkins, who has been working in a defense plant, has wanted to enlist as a woman soldier. But she didn't dare, because *alas & alack* her son told her not to. Mrs. Hopkins is a widow, and her boy is a marine. She goes a lot by what he says, and he didn't think much of women in uniform.

"He said he didn't approve of women in military service," explained ^S his mother. ~~today~~

So why is she enlisting? ^{well,} Today Mrs. Hopkins got word that her ~~son~~ ^{boy has just} married Mabel Trent of Allack, Kentucky; ~~and she is~~ ^{and alas and alack Mable is} a private in the WACS.

"I guess he has changed his mind," says Mrs. Hopkins,

~~and~~ ^{ing} announced that she is joining up right away; *also* a Wac — and now it's no longer *alas and alack*.

And, here's ~~Hugh~~ George

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