

PACIFIC

L.I. - Standard. Tuesday, July 11, 1944.
Sunoco.

American bombers have assaulted Yap Island, that bit of land which was in dispute between the United States and Japan shortly after the previous war - the island with the peculiar name, Yap. It's important airdrome was hit by thirty tons of high explosive, and ~~xx~~ five Japanese planes were shot down.

RUSSIA

Moscow announces that the battle of Vilno has now reached the annihilation stage. That is, the Soviet forces have encircled that key city in Lithuania and are now fighting to destroy the ~~German~~ German garrison there. At the same time, a ~~new~~ Soviet column is moving rapidly toward Kaunas, which is described ~~as a final German stronghold~~ as a final German stronghold - before the frontier of East Prussia is reached. East Prussia, the cradle of German militarism, is only forty miles to the West ~~of Kaunas~~ *of Kaunas.*

FOLLOW RUSSIA

The Russian War news tells of a strange sort of fantasy today, the appearance of thousands of men as if out of nowhere. It tells of an Army swarming into daylight and public view out of vast swamps and marshes, so desolate and unknown that they may well be called - "nowhere." ^{TP} The immense and forbidding Prippet Marshes, ~~for example - which~~ are almost untraversable save ~~for~~ by the sparse and primitive people of the swamps. Well, the on-rushing Soviet forces have now driven the Nazis from those parts, and out of the dreary northern swamps has emerged - a partisan Army.

For three years that singular military force conducted a strange war of its own. When the enemy came, in the early days of Hitler triumph in Russia, hosts of Soviet fighters escaped into the wilderness - which is soggy in the summer and frozen in the winter. There, they formed themselves into partisan bands and continued to war, sallying out ~~again~~ against the Germans, plaguing them with raids and ambushes,

cutting communications, and wiping out isolated enemy groups.

They organized as a unified force, an Army of the swamps, and were important enough to be commanded by a full-fledged Major General - an official of the local Communist party, who was given high military rank. For armament, they captured weapons of the Nazis, and they also made their own. In the northern wilderness they set up machine shops that turned out tommy guns hardly to be distinguished from the regular Red Army issue. They shot down German planes and took their guns and ammunitions. They even acquired ^{a number of} ~~three~~ forty-five millimeter cannon, the shells for which they got ^{by} sending parties to raid Nazi supply centers.

Now they have emerged into the open. As the regular Red Army forces drove the Germans out, the Partisan hosts of the Marshlands swarmed out of their hidden retreats. ~~And~~ And American newspaper correspondents who have seen them say they look like a fierce and formidable outfit - not like hunted men but like hunters.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD FOR FRANCE

Tonight's late bulletin from the Second Front indicates that the most violent fighting of the invasion thus far is now going on. The clash of arms is particularly furious on the Allied right flank. Where American forces are driving for the city of St. Lo. They got to within two miles of that place, launching an all-out attack early this morning - under the cover of a pulverizing artillery barrage.

The Germans responded by charging head-on, with an assault of their own. Tonight's bulletin describes the ^{armored} ~~armored~~ onslaught of the enemy as - "extremely heavy". And the result of the ^{fighting} ~~fighting~~ is described as "frantically confused".

It is ^{not} ~~not~~ clear just what the result of the attack and counter-attack has been, but we hear that the Americans hold a ridge of high ground overlooking St. Lo. - a crest of hills that they captured today. ~~At the eastern end of the line, etc. etc.~~

FRANCE

The Second Front battle in France is still a stubborn, slow-going advance by the Allies. American troops scored successes today when they drove, in violent fighting, to high ground - a ridge of hills overlooking the key highway and railroad junction of St. Lo. This evening the Americans could see the city of St. Lo only two miles away. In their most recent advances they have taken sixteen villages.

At the eastern end of the line, British and Canadian forces drove today to the Orne River south of Caen - but they had to make a withdrawal in the face of a powerful German counter-attack. The Nazis threw a hundred tanks, including ~~for~~ sixty ton tigers, into the action. The British and Canadian forces pulled back and thereupon beat off the enemy assaults. A communique from headquarters states:~ "a great battle is now raging with fury".

DEGAULLE

~~In the excitement of the President's
announcement of acceptance today, we must not forget
what he had to say about General DeGaulle and the
French committee of national liberation. Before
he announced himself as a candidate for the Fourth
Term he had told the newsmen of one result of his~~

Pres. R. announced today that
~~conferences with the French leader~~ DeGaulle's
committee is now recognized by the United States as
the working authority for Civil Administration in
France. Apparently this does not mean in full
formality, a recognition of DeGaulle as the head of
a provisional government. But it does mean that,
in all practical matters, the General's committee
is regarded by the United States as in charge of the
civil administration in liberated sections of France.

AIR WAR

Today American warplanes based on Britain defied not only the Nazis, but also the elements. The flying weather was exceedingly bad, and yet more than two thousand ^{bombers} ~~xxxxxx~~ and fighter escorts raided at long range -- all the way to Munich and southern Germany. The skies were solid masses of clouds, nothing to be seen on the ground below, so the bombing was done by instrument -- the bombs directed at military targets by the use of those aiming devices that are among the most recent marvels of the war in the air.

Meanwhile Allied Supreme Headquarters gives us figures for air action during the first month of the invasion. British and American aircraft flew one hundred and fifty-eight thousand sorties, each sortie a flight by a single plane. The loss, ~~xx~~ as compared with the number of sorties, was one percent. The total number, twelve hundred and eighty-four. The Nazi loss during the same period was one thousand, sixty-seven. We lost more because we were spotting attacking-planes against anti-aircraft fire constantly.

ADD AIR WAR

In addition to the bombers based on Britain -
American planes stationed in Italy struck a heavy
blow, making it a ~~xxxxxx~~ two-way affair. They hit
the Nazis at the great French naval base at Toulon,
with three thousand tons of bombs. ~~Adding~~ ^{From} Britain ^{and}
~~to~~ ^{from} the Mediterranean, ~~xxxxxx~~ twenty-five hundred
planes ^{went into} ~~were in~~ action today.

The latest is: that eight American bombers
have landed in Switzerland, some of them badly damaged.
It isn't apparent whether these eight that came down
in Switzerland were based on Britain or ~~is~~ on Italy.

ROBOTS

There was a great exodus from London today, forty-one thousand people leaving, mothers and children. They are fugitives from what Londoners are calling the "Ersatz blitz". That is - the rocket bomb assault.

The war of robots was renewed again today after a quiet night. For the first time last night, the hours of ~~the hours of~~ darkness passed without a single rocket plane crossing the channel, but when daylight came, the inhuman assault began again - the senseless mechanical flight of the robots. At the same time London was evacuating forty-one thousand mothers and children - to get them away from the weird terror. This brings ~~up~~ the total ~~xx~~ moved out to ninety-six thousand - more leaving London than at any other time since the early days of the war and the great blitz.

Now Hugh, if you will give
us your Stan. of Calif. item, then
we'll talk about Pres. Roosevelt.

Today's political bombshell burst with a particularly ^{*You may have read about it - about*} shattering violence. ~~There were that~~ group of men and women ~~in~~ crowded in a rather small room, standing jam pack ^{*ed*} in front of a desk at which sat a smiling gentleman who with a famous love for whims and ~~jokes~~ jokes, must have been tickled by what he saw. The crowd in that room consisted of ~~the~~ ^{*exactly ninety-nine*} White House correspondents - face to face with the President once again. For months, at the news conferences, they had been ~~going~~ after him with questions - cunningly phrased queries, subtly turned interrogation, trying to draw him out on the subject of a Fourth Term. Trying to get a hint, an inkling, some admission. The President had parried all their ~~■~~ questions, had fenced with them in verbal bouts, and all the clever quizzing had resulted in exactly nothing - the ~~Rumors~~ Fourth Term as big a question mark as ever. Today, no doubt, the White House correspondents had some more questions cooked up, but they never had ~~■~~ to ask them.

Right off the bat, the President presented to them a letter to the Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Robert E. Hannegan. The letter began by referring to the fact that a majority of the delegates to the Democratic National Convention had been directed to vote for the renomination of Franklin D. Roosevelt. And then the Presidential letter stated the following: "If the convention should carry this out, and nominate me for the Presidency, I shall accept. If the people elect me, I shall serve."

And was that a bombshell hurled in the midst of the crowd of news writers! You might have expected a stampede to the telephone, each trying to get on the wire and give the news to his paper - that big headline. You know how reporters love to ~~xxxx~~ beat each other out, get a story to their paper and news service ahead of the others - a scoop. But there was no stampede to the telephones, for the simple reason that the President, in anticipation of this, had the

4

doors locked - and they could not get out. So all they could do, for the moment, was to digest what the letter went on to say.

"Everyone of our sons serving in this war", the President wrote, "has officers from whom he takes his orders. Such officers have superior officers", "the President" he went on, "is the Commander-in-Chief, and he, too, has his superior officer - the people of the United States. If the people command me to continue in this office and in 'this war", said the letter, "I have as little right to withdraw as a soldier has to leave his post in the line".

The President went on to say that, personally, he did not want to run for the presidency again. "After many years of public service," said he, "my personal thoughts have turned to the day when I can return to civil life. All that is within me", he continued, "cries out to go back to my home on the Hudson River".

After which the letter concluded: "Therefore,

reluctantly, but as a good soldier, I repeat that I will accept and serve in this office, if I am so ordered by the Commander-in-Chief of us all - the sovereign people of the United States."

So that's the way the White House correspondents got the big news today. - ~~about once~~
~~overwhelming blast, after all the pains and labors~~
~~that they had gone in to in vain, trying to get the~~
~~information~~ The President must have enjoyed the scene hugely - with his sense of the dramatic.

It is an apt thing to compare this Fourth Term acceptance with the previous third term draft. Four years ago, President Roosevelt kept his intentions secret until the very last moment -- until the Democratic Convention had ~~xx~~ nominated him. Then he announced his acceptance. Now it's different - and of this we have had some previous hint. A week or so ago I passed along some Washington word that the President would very likely not wait until the actual nomination to announce his acceptance of what already

was a foregone conclusion, and today this was borne out - with the affirmative answer given just eight days before the Convention opening.

Meanwhile, with the Presidential part of it settled, political speculation goes on to the Vice-~~Rxx~~ Presidency. There is an immediate buzz of gossip about whether Henry Wallace will be renominated ~~in~~ and given second place on the ticket. ~~One line~~

~~of reasoning is that, by announcing his acceptance today, the President has in effect renounced his power to put through the ~~xxx~~ renomination of Wallace. There is plenty of opposition to the Vice-President among the conservatives of the Democratic Party, and the assumption is that, if the President intended to have Wallace for his running mate again, he would put the thing through by holding up his own acceptance - with the idea that he wouldn't accept unless Wallace were on the ticket too. ~~Rx~~ That line of logic leads to the assumption that the question of the Vice-Presidency will be wide open in the convention, a~~

ADD ROOSEVELT (the part concerning Wallace)

~~But here is another~~ ^Q report from Washington
~~which~~ states that the Vice-President may withhold
any statement until the President has spoken. And
we hear that the presidential word is ~~likely~~ likely
to be in favor of a renomination for Wallace; ~~that~~
~~the~~ F.D.R. ^{to} ~~will~~ throw his influence ^{to the} ~~in~~ support of
Wallace - so ~~xxx~~ we are told.

~~There were ninety-nine correspondents crammed
in that White House room today. The President did
not begin with the acceptance letter. He kidded
them for a while, talking about DeGaulle and the
French National Committee. He had his fun stringing
them along to the breaking point - until he threw
his bombshell.~~

DEWEY FOLLOW ROOSEVELT

From the other side the word is that Republican Candidate Thomas E. Dewey will meet *the* Republican Governors of ~~the~~ States -- twenty-five of them, in St. Louis. Dewey will discuss with them the problems and ~~political~~ policies of the campaign -- this in accord with his method of cooperating with the leaders of his party - along the line of establishing the completest kind of harmony in the eventful months before election day.

COMMENT ON ROOSEVELT

Comment on the Roosevelt acceptance was immediately requested today. His Republican rival, Governor Dewey of New York, said nothing. His previous rival, Wendell Willkie, explained: "Is that news?" The President's wife, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt thought it was news, that is, she hadn't known in advance what the President's answer would be. "He had never said anything to me about it", remarked Mrs. Roosevelt. And she added, "He doesn't tell me everything".

Well, there are many husbands who don't tell their wives everything - not even, I suppose, whether or not they'll accept the nomination to the Presidency of the United States.

BRIDES

We may have our complaints about rationing and price-fixing, but consider the situation over in what used to be called, "darkest Africa" - ~~and it still have a few characteristics on the dark side.~~

London flashes the word of a great celebration among the warriors of the Hawazma Halafa Tribe - in the Sudan. The Hawazma Halafas were rejoicing because of some price-fixing - ceiling lowered. An official decree reduced the cost of - wives. In the wild Sudan they have a system of price-control that pertains to brides, and prospective husbands uttered loud complaints that the figure was too high.

So now it has been cut - reduced to six pounds sterling for a first wife, and three pounds for a second wife. I don't quite understand why wifie number two should be only half as valuable as wifie number one. Maybe the idea is to encourage the purchase of second wives, by keeping the price low. Customs are strange among the Hawazma Halafas, and they had a big tribal celebration because of the reduction of the price of wives.

Hush what you give for a 2nd wife?

20 for the 1st. 10 for the second. And now

(Taken out of early L.S.)

scramble - with the delegates making their own choice. Indeed, we have what is called a reliable report - passed along by United Press correspondent Lyle Wilson. He says the Washington word is that Wallace ~~he~~ may ~~publicly~~ publicly withdraw, and that tonight or tomorrow he may issue an announcement taking himself out of the race.

ITALY

The going is still slow in Italy - as Allied troops push closer to the main line of German defense. At last reports the Allied troops were still within twenty miles of Florence - on the inland side of the fighting front.

And along the coast we are no closer to Leghorn than we were on Monday. That is, about ten miles away. However, American troops have been closing in on roads leading to Leghorn - which means a gradual flanking drive against that important harbor.