

L.J.-Standard. Wed March 15, 1944
Sunoco. Cannon

MARRIAGE

The cables from England take time out from war news to flash us a story of matrimony-- which may be along the line of the old theory that marriage is a kind of war. It was, after a fashion, in the case of Mr. and Mrs. William Ray of the pleasant English town of Rochdale.

They were married only seven weeks ago, and today in court Mrs Ray demanded a separation, accusing Mr. Ray of giving her a thrashing. There is a common belief over here in this country, that in traditional England it is still legal for a man to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. So maybe Mr. Ray used a stick as thick as his wrist;-- or ~~maybe his hand~~ this British bridegroom's In court today his defence was an angry growl that he had got married because he wanted, what he called -- "Comfort and happiness." The implication being that life with Mrs Ray was neither comfortable nor happy.

All which sounds like some ordinary domestic discord, until we heard the ages of the bridegroom and bride, married seven weeks ago. He is ninety, and she is seventy-eight! To which I told this

story a moment ago to one of my
colleagues, who on ~~the~~ ^{This observation was} something is a
pessimist. ~~night~~ ⁱⁿ snap; "He lived ~~on~~ ⁱⁿ this earth for ninety years
and still thought he could find comfort and happiness in marriage?
---what an optimist!"

--oo--

Wed. Mar. 15 '44
Cleveland, Q.

ITALY

During the hours of darkness last night, British troops of the Fifth Army withdrew from their positions in the ruined town of Cassino. They had been holding about a third of the wreckage of buildings and streets, and now they pulled out-- which some Nazis in Cassino might have thought a retreat. If so, they were soon disillusioned. For at dawn began one of the greatest acts of military melodrama ever played.

As the glimmer of day appeared on the Italian countryside, there was a roar of motors-- and allied planes took to the sky in a great swarm, squadron after squadron. They flew to Cassino, giant flying fortresses and liberators, medium bombers, light bombers, bombers of every description. And thus began the greatest air bombing in the whole Mediterranean campaign.

Blot out the very ruins of Cassino--such was the order issued by the Allied command. Wipe out the stubborn Germans who with a myriad of gun posts in the wreckage had held up the Allied advance for weeks. Wipe them out by a sheer weight of high explosives! These commands were fulfilled today with a stupendous blasting that shook the very hills of the rugged Italian land.

Twenty-eight hundred tons of bombs were hurled upon the enemy in Cassino and the immediate country around. The town is a small place, just about one square mile. In that square mile of town alone, fourteen hundred tons of bombs were dropped. Which adds up to a record, a record for so much high explosive flung at so small

*I am in Cleveland
an area. And Cassino erupted with flame and smoke. Ohio, tonight, and
the papers here are playing up the fact that the ~~the~~
bombing of Cassino was led by a young Cleveland flier,
Dive Team. P That was act one, with act two following immediately --*

ground artillery. The moment the last plane had turned back from the record breaking bombing, American and British guns opened fire-- artillery shells hunting out whatever Germans might be left. For hours the shells of the cannon still further churned the tumbled wreckage of stone-- simply pulverizing the tumbled masses of masonry.

Then after the deluge of shells, dive bombers went into action-- swooping planes that sent screaming bombs into whatever sign of life they could spot. One American air force observer said:

"I don't see how they could find any targets."

Then lastly, the prolonged inferno of bombing and shelling was followed by an infantry advance -- troops on the ground moving

forward to capture the pulverized wreckage. And still they encountered resistance -- German gunners emerging from deep cellars and opening fire. ^{And,} They put up a desperate resistance, as ^{the} allied soldiers thrust forward. ^{So,} And once more there was air action, this time by strafing planes -- swarms of fighters sweeping ^{in to} ~~the remnants~~ who were machine-gunning the Nazis contesting the advance.

Summarizing the total of air action for the day, ^a tonight's news dispatch reports that every plane of the allied Mediterranean air force took part in today's assault against Cassino, with a record-breaking count of three thousand sorties -- a sortie being one flight by one plane. The previous record was registered in Tunis and again at Salerno -- two thousand sorties.

Today's drama of thundering explosion would seem to be the beginning of an all-out push. The first step -- the capture of Cassino -- which will open the way into broad valleys leading to Rome. The belief is that the fifth army troops will now drive northward toward the eternal city, in an effort to join up with the beach-
^{forces}
head south of Rome.

ADD ITALY

The lastest from Cassino -- word that Fifth Army troops have driven through most of the town, and that the castle on the slopes of Monte Cassino has been occupied by American troops -- though when night fell the Germans still held the blasted ruins of the famous Monastery. The dispatches express constant surprise at the fact that, even after the almost unearthly bombardment of Cassino, German gunners still survived and were able to put up a fight against the Allied troops who pushed forward to occupy the town.

Anglo

From the beachhead itself, little news comes through;--

but, much is surmised. What tidings we have make a mere brief statement of an advance by the British at their sector of the perimeter. Censorship has been clamped down heavily, and the guess is that the big drive from the beachhead may have begun --
the
a drive coordinated with *thundering events at Cassino.*

----0----

AIR WAR

Today's target for the American air force based on Britain was the city of Brunswick. And that continues the task of knocking out the German fighter plane force-- for Brunswick is a Number One center for the manufacture of Nazi fighters. A heavy force of flying fortresses and liberators hit the aviation factories, and huge fires were seen through breaks in the clouds.

The day was heavily overcast and the bombing was done with the aid of those new devices for aiming at an invisible objective.

Three bombers and five fighters were lost, while thirty-six Nazi planes were shot down by the fighters alone.^H Air battles were severe in spots, but only in spots. Large sections of the allied air-armada encountered little or no air opposition. Again it was a case of clouds -- the defending German fighter force being greatly handicapped by the lack of visibility. So much so that some allied pilots on returning described their flights with the contemptuous term they use for the uneventful: "Just a milk run," said they.

The Nazis retaliated with another raid on London tonight in which bombs were dropped on scattered sections of the British capital. As seems to be the case in many of these Nazi nuisance raids, London churches were hit hard. The London barrage was tremendous, and eleven of the raiders were shot down. In one place the Nazi crew bailed out of a plane that crashed in flames, and one German landed by parachute in the garden of Alfred Walker, a gunner home on leave from the war front. As the German got clear of his parachute, the Englishman confronted him with a fixed bayonet. The Nazi was confused and stammered "Is this London?" It was, and soon he was on his way to a prison camp.

And the latest is a dispatch that has just flashed from Britain. Three great formations of RAF planes were bombing Nazi Germany tonight. Observers on the channel coast reported that squadrons passed over, and said: "The biggest force of RAF planes heard over England in a long time."

-0-

ACE WILL FOLLOW AIR WAR

The American airmen based on Britain have a new ace today -- Lieutenant Robert Johnson of Lawton, Oklahoma. He forges ahead of the previous high scorer, Captain Walker Mahurin of Fort Wayne, Indiana.

When the squadrons of bombers and fighters took off to smash Brunswick today, Captain Mahurin had a score of twenty Nazi planes shot down. Lieutenant Johnson was one behind him, with nineteen.

In aerial combat today Johnson got three -- Captain Mahurin scored a blank. As the luck of combat went, he didn't bag a single Nazi--a goose egg for the day. And that put Johnson two ahead of him, with 22.

--0--

RUSSIA

The latest from Russia pictures a new big Soviet advance-thrust, straight at Rumania. Moscow reports that Red Army troops have forced a crossing of the Bug River on a front more than sixty-two miles long. They have scored an advance of nineteen miles, and are now within twenty-nine miles of the frontier of the Rumanian province of Bessarabia.

To the south, along the Black Sea, Soviet troops are closing in on the port of Nikolaev, and the Germans there are threatened with another trap--such as was sprung on them at the important city of Kherson. They are trying to avoid the trap by getting out in time, with Moscow saying that the evacuation of Nikolaev has already begun.

★

--0--

The air blows against the Japs continue in the news tonight

- - with planes of the army, navy, and marines hitting a

whole string of bases in the Caroline Islands, including

Oroluk, ~~which is~~ only two-hundred-and-twenty-five miles

this side of the Japanese base at Truk.

And Wewak, in New Guinea, was blasted by another one hundred

and seventy-four tons of bombs. - - with eight Japanese planes

shot down.

The Swedish liner Gripsholm, with its cargo of Americans returning home from Nazi captivity, reached port at Jersey City this afternoon. The attitude of the Americans, diplomatic officials largely, was well expressed by one who said: "After fifteen months in detention, we are now able to appreciate in its full value and its true meaning the word - - Freedom."

-0-

40
Tonight we have the statement that the draft boards have been ordered to induct increasingly greater numbers of pre-Pearl Harbor fathers. This was stated by selective service director General Hershey, who explained that quotas have fallen one hundred thousand men short per month ever since October.

Previous to this he had told a Senate sub-committee that more men are to be drafted from industrial jobs -- between two hundred and two hundred and fifty thousand, workers from eighteen to twenty-six. Also -- more men are to be drafted from farms, but the selective service director gave no figure for this.

"We are now," said he, "where we feel we cannot defer men under twenty-six unless they are absolutely indispensable."

SOLDIER VOTE

The soldier vote compromise was passed by the lower house of Congress today -- after the Senate had okayed it yesterday.

The House vote was two hundred and seventy-three to ^{one hundred and eleven} ~~seventeen~~, the majority being made up mostly of Republicans and southern Democrats, as was the case in the Senate vote yesterday.

The compromise combines the two notions ^{of} federal and state ballots for service men, with the state control element predominating. Soldiers and sailors in the United States ^{to} ~~would~~ get full state ballots for casting their vote next November. Federal ballots ^{to} ~~would~~ be issued only to soldiers and sailors overseas ~~-- who would get them~~ ^{would} only if they [^] failed to receive state ballots by October first. And -- only if their own particular states should okay the federal ballot.

The debate in the lower house today was lively, with adminis-
tration Democrats charging that -- "The Republicans are afraid that most of the soldiers will vote for President Roosevelt." So said, for example, Congressman Sabbath of Illinois. The Republicans, on their part, retorted that the simplified federal ballot as approved by the White House was, what they called, -- "a fourth term plan."

Yesterday in the Senate proceedings, Democratic leader,

FOLLOW SOLDIER VOTE

Late this afternoon ^{was}

Heres the latest ~~in~~ a telegram sent by President Roosevelt

to the governors of all states, ^{asking} ~~He asks~~ the governors whether,

in their opinion, the supplemental federal ballots provided by
the soldier vote compromise, would be acceptable under the laws

of their states. Perhaps on these replies
---o---
the President will base his final
decision to veto or not to veto.

NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY

The final results of yesterday's New Hampshire primaries give Willkie an edge. The whole thing is complicated by an intricate way of electing delegates, pledged and unpledged, delegates-at-large and district delegates. The results, however, boil down to this:-- that of eleven New Hampshire delegates to the Republican national convention, six are for Willkie. Two are for Gov. Dewey of New York and ^{three} ~~two~~ are neutral. Only five Dewey supporters ran for delegate-at-large -- and they did so without the consent of the New York governor.

The Willkie advocates hailed the primary as a victory ,while others observed that the Dewey delegates showed surprising strength. So there you are! Or, where are we?
--0--

FOURTH TERM

The great fourth term puzzle was given some illumination today in a form that might be expressed in terms of - yes and no, maybe so, or perhaps not. This inside dope, so positive and definite, comes from Thomas Rhea, a prominent Kentucky Democrat, who was a delegate to the nineteen-forty Democratic convention which nominated President Roosevelt for a third term.

He was at the White House today and had a conference with the president. When he emerged the newsmen asked him about a fourth term, and the dialogue went as follows:

"The President says he does not want to be a candidate," declared the Kentuckyian.

"Did he tell you that?" asked a newsmen, sensing a hot headline.

"Now wait a minute," exclaimed the prominent Democrat, "I don't know that he said that." To which he added -- "My impression is that he would like to get out of the whole thing. But don't misquote me-- the president did not make that statement."

To which the echo responds faintly--"Yes and no, may be so, or, perhaps not."

TP And now ^{Bill may be} there's Hugh, who never fumbles. Give us something positive, something straight from the shoulder, with no

The number of men to be drafted from industrial jobs will amount to between two-hundred and two-hundred-and-fifty thousand. These are workers from eighteen to twenty-six, who are affected by the new tightening of draft regulations.

The figures were given today by Selective Service Director General ^{Gen. Hershey} Hershey, who testified before a Senate sub-committee. He added that more men would be drafted from farms, but gave no figure for this.

"We are at a point now," said he, "where we feel we cannot defer men under twenty-six, ^{unless} as they are absolutely indispensable."

FORD

The Ford Motor Company appealed today to the governor of Michigan, asking him to send state police to break a blockade staged by wildcat strikers. The Ford Company tells a story of how a number of workers were discharged -- with the full consent of their union. They retaliated by establishing a picket line to keep other workers from entering the River Rouge plant. ^{They} ~~and~~ blockaded roads with cars, roads leading to the River Rouge plants. As a result, more than seven thousand workers on aircraft production failed to arrive on the job today.

The Ford Company claims that the local authorities at Dearborn have not done anything effective about the automobile blockade, and so an appeal has been made to the governor.

--p--

ACCIDENTS

One standard source of odd and amusing bits of news is always to be found in freak accidents, and each year the National Safety Council issues a list of curious twisters. This year, being wartime, includes a few things pertaining to the global conflict. For example, during army maneuvers in Tennessee, a tremendous thunder storm broke at night, while soldiers were in their sleeping bags. A bolt of lightning struck the zipper of one sleeping bag, and welded it all the way around - thereby sealing up the soldier who was inside. The zipper electrically welded, the astonished soldier could only howl for help - and they had to cut him out of the sleeping bag.

At Chicago something happened that I ~~had~~ often wanted to see, ~~in fact I dreamed of beholding that phenomenon.~~ An Australian sergeant went to a Chicago center for service men and decided to do some bowling

He picked the biggest ball he could find, took a mighty heave - aiming at the pins. Unfortunately, he couldn't get his fingers out of the bowling ball, and went along with it, sliding down the ~~alley~~ ^{alley. He} didn't get a strike. But he threw himself ~~for a split~~. Then there's the case of a horse in Detroit.

That city being the automobile capital of the world, the old nag ~~was completely used~~ ^{was accustomed} to motor traffic.

So imagine the surprise when dobbin ran away - dashing down the street in panic and terror. Why was he frightened? ~~The horse~~ ^{He} had seen another horse, wartime and automobile shortages having brought back some horse drawn traffic.

But not all the freak accidents have an angle of war. Here's one that could have happened any time. In Canada, a cattle train was rattling across the western prairies when a steer in one of the cars stuck a horn out between the slats. The horn happened

Senator Barkley of Kentucky argued that the compromise adopted would not permit more soldiers to vote than the present law does. Today in the lower house, another Democratic leader, Congressman Worley of Texas, declared the opposite opinion. He contended that the compromise bill would enable more soldiers to vote.

This particular dispute is of key importance-- because President Roosevelt has announced that he will slap on a veto if he believes the bill passed by Congress will not give the soldiers and sailors a greater, not a lesser, chance to vote.

--0--

