

The latest giant rain of fire from the sky has hit Japan's number two city - Osaka. That happened today. Three hundred B-29's, based on our Pacific island airbases, hurled tons of incendiary bombs on a war center crammed with plants producing armament and munitions.

Osaka is one of those Jap cities that consist of many square miles of flimsy wooden houses, <sup>tinder wood,</sup> ~~timber wood,~~ stuff ready to flare with flame. ~~flammable~~ ~~flammable~~

~~flammable~~ Twenty three hundred tons of fire bombs were hurled into a ten square mile factory section today. and the Superforts are using a new and secret type of incendiary missile, fire bombs that spread with more blazing fury than any known hitherto in this war. So you can imagine the tempest of flame in Osaka.

The Superfortresses ~~fleet~~ in striking to burn out the factory centers in Japan. Tokyo, the metropolis, was hit on Saturday, and on Monday the B-29's bombed Nagoya, which ranks in Japan as number

three. And now, Osaka, the second largest. So in three successive raids, Japan's three largest cities have been devastated by fire raids - the modern aerial version of putting a place to the torch.

SUBSTITUTE IWO JIMA

Off the shore of Iwo Jima, two small islands have been seized by the Marines -- Kama and Kangoku. They <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ mere bits of rock sticking above the water, but they have been a nuisance, Japs have been established on Kama and Kangoku, and from those rocks have been shooting at the Americans on Iwo. Now they have been cleared out, the tiny bits of stone occupied by the Marines -- stopping the mortar fire.

On Iwo <sup>Island</sup> itself, the Marines made little if any progress today -- a stalemate. But that was because the Leathernecks were ordered to slow down their attacks and thereby avoid casualties.

The Jap garrison, pressed back to the northern tip of the island, continues to resist fiercely, with heavy fire of rifles, machine guns and mortars. And the difficulty of the task of conquering the island is indicated by word that the Marines had sealed up a hundred and fifteen caves in which the Japs held out grimly to the inevitable end.

FOLLOW PHILIPPINES.

~~On Luzon~~, MacArthur's troops have seized the city of Batangas, *on*  
*Luzon. Batangas is*  
~~which is~~ the capital of a Province, and ~~is~~ fifty six miles south  
of Manila.

## PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, American troops are advancing rapidly on the island of Mindanao. From the captured city of Zamboanga, they are pushing up the peninsula. The Japs have not been able to organize effective opposition and are taking to the hills of the wild inland country of Mindanao.

The MacArthur plan is to use the Zamboanga peninsula as a base for operations against the Japs in the Dutch East Indies. Its extreme tip is only two hundred and fifteen miles from the Borneo coast, and airfields <sup>that</sup> of the island of Mindanao on ~~the~~ peninsula ~~are~~ within easy striking distance of the Borneo oil fields.





Military events in Burma inevitably suggest that familiar strain - "On the road to Mandalay" for British and Indian troops have now driven to Mandalay, and are fighting a battle inside the city of

Romance, striving to capture its principal stronghold - Fort Dufferin.

But the news today reminds us pointedly of the fact that Mandalay means more than Kipling verses, with - "a Burma girl awaiting". The military bulletin tells of the capture of - the sacred hill. That's a section

of Mandalay, a hill on which stand many ~~gorgeous and glittering~~ <sup>Burmese pagodas,</sup> ~~pagodas.~~ <sup>I stood on that hill years ago and believe the pagodas there are all white - not like the golden Arabian pagoda</sup> All of which recalls the fact that Mandalay is one of the

great centers of the Buddhist religion. <sup>In Mandalay and its suburbs there are literally thousands of pagodas. It is the ambition of every Burmese to build</sup> The European war has accustomed us to think of venerable religious

edifices in the turmoil of war - the ancient Benedictine Monastery of Monte Casino destroyed. the medieval cathedral of Cologne damaged.

And the same story is repeated in the realm of another great creed of mankind - in Burma, the land of pagodas. The most sacred shrines of Buddhism are now caught in the maelstrom of battle.

Today's dispatch announces the conquest of the sacred hill at Mandalay, its great pagodas captured from the Japs. The last to be taken was one that the enemy had turned into a powerful strong point - a gorgeous Buddhist shrine where a Jap garrison set up machine gun

in the heart of Mandalay.

20

pagoda. TP

5

nests for a stand to the death. The news tells how British Indian troops laid siege to the pagoda. They had to bore through concrete walls three feet thick. And finally they got to the top of the pagoda, smashed holes in the roof and through these holes dropped high explosive charges into the shrine, blasting and wiping out the Japs inside.

Thus the fury of modern war shatters the holy places dedicated to Buddha, the light of Asia, who twenty-five hundred years ago taught the doctrine of the Eternal <sup>peace and quiet</sup> ~~space and quiet~~ of Nirvana.

There is one Buddhist structure in Mandalay that I hope escapes. It's a monastery, all made of delicately carved teak — one of the structures of the world that travellers never forget — as you ~~never forget~~ never forget the Taj Mahal, the Hall of Knights in Stockholm, ~~and~~ the Cathedral in Milan, San Sofia in Istanbul, the Alhambra at Granada, and many more. But that home of the yellow robed punggis of Mandalay is the most fragill building of great beauty in all the world.

Dave Webster, will you take over  
for a moment while I check the news from Europe



WESTERN FRONT

News from the western front is still focussed on that bridgehead across the Rhine; and Berlin tells of a new American crossing.

This is described as having been made at a point nine miles north of Remagen, where the Americans got across first, the Ludendorf bridge.

Berlin states that our soldiers traversed the river in assault boats, and established a position on the opposite bank - for the purpose of throwing across another pontoon bridge. This is not confirmed by Allied Headquarters, but undoubtedly it is true - and would indicate that the bridgehead across the Rhine has been expanded to a width of fifteen miles.

As for depth, American troops are within two miles of the ~~great~~ super highway between Frankfurt and Cologne. A violent battle is going on, with the Germans making heavy counter attacks - as they try to check the drive to ~~the~~ super highway, the cutting of which would sever immediate communications between their northern and southern forces.

The battle of the bridgehead is being fought with one great handicap to the Americans - the weather, which is still bad. Dense low hanging clouds virtually tied allied aircraft to the ground



24  
today. However German planes were out - on what are called suicide missions. They were trying to bomb bridges across the Rhine - especially that all-important span at Remagen, the Ludendorf bridge, which the Germans so hesitatingly failed to blow up. Nazi planes came out of the dense clouds, and made swooping attacks on the bridge. They were beaten off by violet<sup>n</sup> gunfire. American fighter planes were tied down by the weather, but anti-aircraft artillery had been massed to guard the bridges. The weather making an air defense almost impossible, our commanders had done the logical thing; - <sup>they had</sup> ~~not~~ brought up every available anti-aircraft gun. Nearly fifty percent of the attacking planes have been shot down and in addition Nazi flyers have poor chances of safe landings in such weather. All of which leads to the phrase - suicide air attacks.

The latest tonight tells that the weather has improved along the western front and Allied planes are now back on the job -- doing their usual tactical task of supporting the ground troops with such great effect.

There is no confirmation of the rumor that German commander, Field Marshal Von Runstedt has been fired by Hitler. But the report persists and is amplified by the statement that Von Runstedt's place has been taken by Field Marshal Von Model.

*TP* Moscow announces street fighting at the great port of Danzig, with Red Army troops battling through blazing suburbs. The Germans are making a bitter stand at historic Danzig, but that city is doomed - and so are a hundred thousand German troops caught in a collapsing pocket in the Danzig area of the Baltic shore.

— o —  
Berlin reports that the Russians are increasing their pressure on the front of the Oder River nearest to Berlin. Berlin denies that the key fortress of Kuestrin has been completely occupied by the Russians, as Moscow announces jubilantly. Well, the Nazis may be hanging onto a few houses, but, the Soviets <sup>now</sup> have Kuestrin - the capture of which was <sup>a</sup> necessary preliminary to a frontal drive on Berlin.

The road to the German capital will not be an easy one - Moscow warns us. Russian dispatches today declare that the Germans have converted the country between the Oder River and Berlin into one continuous fortress. The twenty-eight mile direct road from Kuestrin is described as a solid maze of concrete block-houses, pill boxes, dragons teeth defenses and endless lines of anti tank and anti-infantry obstacles. So states Moscow, which adds that the Germans

EASTERN FRONT 2

are now using a special water system for affording the approaches to their strongholds.

All of which leads <sup>say</sup> Moscow ~~that~~ that the last few miles on the road to Berlin will be the toughest for the Red Army, the toughest on the long march all the way from Stalingrad.



## NAVAL APPROPRIATIONS.

President Roosevelt disclosed today that the navy will need nearly twenty four billion dollars for the war against Japan during the next fiscal year. The figure, though stupendous, is almost five billion dollars less than the money the navy is using up during the present fiscal year.

The significant thing is a <sup>disclosure</sup> ~~disclosure~~ of what our fleet commanders think about the prospects of the war in the Pacific. They want finances for full scale naval operations against Japan during the twelve months period that will end on June thirtieth of Nineteen Forty Six - the end of the next fiscal year. That is sixteen months from now, which indicates the navy's belief that the war against the Japs will be going at full blast until that time, at least.

## WALLACE

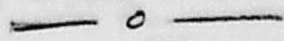
Henry A Wallace is an enthusiast who doesn't go in for half measures on a pet subject. When he went on a diplomatic trip to South America, he started in by learning Spanish. Later, being called upon to go to Russia, he learned Russian - which really does take enthusiasm. So what is Henry up to now?

As the new secretary of commerce, he appeared today before a senate sub-committee and painted a picture of the post-war future of Civil aviation. He stated that within two years after the defeat of Japan, commercial flying in this country should be able to provide a hundred and fifty thousand jobs and ten years later the number of jobs should increase to four hundred thousand. He estimated that, with a strong government program to back it, civil aviation should reach a revenue of one billion, seven hundred million dollars a year.

In other words the new secretary of commerce foresees a rosy future for commercial flying. Henry is enthusiastic about it, and today he told the senate committee - that he is going to learn to fly. He is going to take aviation lessons and become a pilot. Maybe he has an idea of getting one of these four hundred thousand jobs -

or maybe it's just enthusiasm.

The senate committee was a little less enthusiastic, and rejected an offer that Henry extended, he invited the legislators to join him in learning to fly. But they said - no. I don't know whether the senators were doubtful about their own skill at the controls - or maybe they figured the idea <sup>would</sup> ~~was~~ to ride in a plane with Henry flying it. Anyway, they prefer to have the four hundred thousand jobs and a civilian aviation revenue of one billion, seven hundred million dollars a year develop with less risks to their own necks.



And now, on ~~a~~ the wings of radio ~~lets fly a 1000 miles or so and~~ <sup>from Standard of</sup> ~~has~~ a final word ~~for this from our~~ <sup>California</sup> ~~oil sponsors. And e-l-u-t-e~~