

U. I. - Standard. Thursday, Nov. 23, 1944. Asbury Parks
(Substitute Lead Philippines) ^{Sumaco} Thanksgiving

The latest from the Philippines indicates that the whole Yamashita line is about to collapse. This follows today's American triumph--in crushing what they called, "The Limon Pocket". A stubborn force of Japs held out in the town of Limon, ^{on Leyte.} But now that stronghold has been wiped out -- smashed today.

The Limon pocket was an anchor for the Yamashita line, which the Japs established in Mountainous Country to defend their last base on Leyte Island, the port of Ormoc. The fall of the Limon Bastion leaves the Japanese defense front unhinged, and the possibility is that the whole thing will be rolled up by MacArthur's hard-striking troops.

Beyond the present Yamashita line the mountain country peters out, and turns into a fairly flat plain in front of Ormoc. The going on the level land should be much easier for the Americans though there are plenty of swamps to impede their progress.

The news of today's victory at Limon, follows much quieter tidings about thanksgiving day. Earlier word was that the troops out on Leyte had one thing to be thankful for--and it was the last thing you would imagine! →

~~out in the Philippine Invasion, the soldiers had one thing to be thankful for today - And it was the last thing you'd imagine.~~ The weather, the condition of the terrain.

Day after day, in the reports of the battle ^S ^{on} _A Leyte Island, we have been hearing of atrocious weather - ^a _A succession of typhoons that have virtually drowned out the battlefields.

And today the news was no different, a dispatch from the MacArthur Headquarters telling of heavy rain and deep soggy mud. But, for once, the soldiers could be thankful for that sort of thing - Because the skies were so wet and the mud so deep, that fighting had to be stopped in most places on Thanksgiving day. And the soldiers had time off for their ~~usual~~ traditional turkey dinners.

~~At only ^{one} place did operations go on - the Limon Pocket. There, the troops of the thirty second division moved forward slowly but steadily against the Japs in a trap and artillery kept on pounding the encircled enemy. ~~Secret~~~~

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(Romulo)

Here's a Thanksgiving Day letter-from the battle front in the Philippines, ~~It was sent me by a neighbor, up in dutchess~~ ^{Samone Quaker Hill}

~~to~~ ^{and War Cor-} ~~county,~~ Author [^] James R. Young, who has written so much and

~~so well about the far east. The letter is to him from an~~

~~old friend,~~ ^{From} Brigadier General Carlos Romulo, resident

Commissioner of The Philippine Commonwealth to the United-

States, who is now a Liaison Officer with General MacArthur

in the Battles on ^LLyte Island. The Letter is dated November

4th, and says - "Dear Jimmy. Last Night I ^{heard} ~~read~~ on the

radio president Roosevelt's proclamation of Thanksgiving

Day, and what memories it brought to me of my last Thanks-

giving Day in Pawling with the Youngs - ^{what a} ~~what a~~ contrast!

Here I am in ^a war ravaged town, destroyed by Japanese

brutality, sleeping in a fox-hole, ^{with} ~~since~~ the Japs raiding

us every night with their zeros. Snipers all around,

filth mud, smells, and K rations, since the day we landed

two weeks ago".

After which General Romulo goes on to disclose a thing unknown until now - that he was wounded in the landing on Leyte Island, hit in the jaw by a bomb fragment. He

tells how the air bomb exploded and a sentry nearby was wounded. General Romulo called a surgeon to treat the sentry, and the surgeon said, "First, General, let me dress your wound. "

Romulo asked - "What wound"?

Where upon the surgeon called his attention to the fact that blood was streaming from the right side of ^{his} jaw, which was ripped by a fragment of the bomb. In the excitement of the explosion, Romulo never realized that he had been wounded.

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(Japanese Reports)

Japan reports an American Naval strike at the Kurile Islands-That ^{long} strung-out Archipelago north of Japan.

Tokio states that American warships bombarded Matsuyama in the

Kuriles, hurling salvos of shells for twenty minutes. *Tonight*

Adm. Nimitz confirms this.

And, the Japs report new activity by the B-29s, saying

that a superfort flew over the Nagoya area. That's to the south-

west of Tokio. ^{Nagoya} ~~and~~ figured in the story of the first bombing

of Japan, the Doolittle Raid. At that time the Doolittle

Bombers hit targets in the Nagoya Area, and today we hear of

a B-29 winging over. Tokio states the ^{actual} ~~area~~ Giant was on a

reconnaissance flight, the Japs making no mention of bombing

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(Substitute lead Western Front)

Now the headline on the Western Front tonight is--Strasbourg.

At last reports, French Troops were in possession of the

Western Half of the City, with fierce fighting going on

around the famous cathedral of Strasbourg, one of the architect-

ural treasures of Europe. the 2-spire cathedral with According to all indications

Strasbourg will soon be captured, liberated--that city prominent

in history as the Capital of Alsace-Lorraine, the province for

which France has fought so long.

Today a french armored column under General ^{Jacques} Leclerc,

and attached to the American seventh army, stormed into

Strasbourg, after a swift drive of nineteen miles. ~~to french~~

~~sentiment, etc etc.~~

only one spire!

(Western Front)

~~The headline on the Western Front tonight is - Strasbourg.~~
~~That city is famous as the capital of Alsace-Lorraine,~~
~~the ~~Prussia~~ ^{Province} for which France has fought so hard. Today a french~~
~~armed column under General Leclerc and attached to the~~
~~American seventh army, after a swift drive of nineteen~~
~~miles, stormed into Strasbourg.~~ TP To French sentiment this
means much - French troops conquering the Capital of Alsace-
Lorraine.)

But Strasbourg tonight means more than sentiment - it
signifies a military factor of the greatest importance, one
that has to do with a hundred thousand German Troops that are
in danger of being trapped.

The Military facts are simple at the st southern end of the
battle line:-The River Rhine runs north and south, and
some distance to the west of the Rhine runs a parallel range
of mountains - The Vosges. The Germans have been holding the
steep ridges of the Vosges with considerable power and it
was supposed that they would try to make those mountains their
winter line. But both at the south and at the north of the
Vosges, there are gaps. The Belfort Gap is at the south,

Sheet two (Western Front)

and into that opening French Troops several days ago drove forward and reached the Rhine - taking the City of Mulhouse.

Up to the North of the String of Mountains, the opening through them is the Saverne Gap, and that ^{is} the route which Leclerc's Armored Column took today in a rapid advance against surprisingly light opposition. Driving through the Saverne Gap, they reached Strasbourg - on the Rhine.

The thing that makes the whole situation a trap for the Germans is this - By driving along the Rhine north from the Belfort Gap and Mulhouse, and South from the Saverne Gap and Strasbourg, the French and the Americans can cut in between the Vosges mountains and the Rhine - thereby coming around behind the Germans in the Vosges, and severing their line of retreat.

We hear that the enemy troops in the line of mountains numbers about a hundred thousand and of these one half are already in the trap - with the other half fleeing in desperate retreat. trying to get back across the Rhine before their escape routes are cut.

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Farther to the north on the third army front, General Patten's troops are driving on Saar Brucken, and are within twelve miles of that Capital City of the Rich Saar Basin - with its great coal mines.

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Still farther north, before Aachen, General Hodges' first army today scored an advance of two miles - against bitter opposition. German Counter-attacks had to be beaten off - and the same goes for the British up in Holland. They are advancing slowly through the mud.

The ~~General~~ Picture on the western front tonight remains the same as it has been for several days - only more-so.

In the north, where the Allies are on German Soil, the enemy resistance is fierce and stubborn; but to the south, where the battle line is still in France, the whole German front is in a state of collapse - in that sector south of Strasbourg, where the French and American Troops along the Rhine are drawing a net around German Forces in the Vosges.

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Hugh - your report from
Stan. A Cal., and then I have
more news.

(Casualties)

Washington gives out new figures for American Casualties thus far in world war number two. The total for the Army, Navy and Marine Corps is - five-hundred-and-twenty-eight-thousand, seven-hundred-and-ninety-five. This includes more than a-hundred-and-seventeen-thousand killed.

For the Army alone, the casualties are four-hundred-and-fifty-four-thousand eighty-eight-thousand killed, two-hundred-and-fifty-four-thousand wounded, fifty-six-thousand missing, fifty-five thousand prisoners of war. About half of the soldiers wounded have returned to duty - nearly a-hundred-and-twenty-one thousand.

(Eisenhower)

For the third time in a week, General Eisenhower appeals to the Home Front to increase production for war. On Thanksgiving-Day, He reminds us that the soldiers in Battles are , in Eisenhower's words - "Entitled to the constant assurance of your unflagging zeal in the cause for which they are offering their lives."

He emphasizes the need of the troops for more supplies.

"They need myriads of shells and tires and blankets and guns and planes," says he; - "A thousand things to enable them to keep up the incessant pressure. These they must get ," the General reminds us ~~from~~ "from the money you lend to the Government." And Eisenhower calls upon us to over-subscribe the War Loan.

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(Canada)

There was drama today in the Canadian House of Commons, when defense minister McNoughton addressed the House on the bitterly debated question of Conscription for over-seas war duty. For weeks, the question had been growing more and more tense,. The previous defense minister, Halston, resigned in protest against the policy of sending only volunteers to fight in the ~~Battles~~ overseas. And on Tuesday we heard how a group of high Canadian Army Commanders had registered their own protest and demanded that Canadians be drafted for the war - just as Americans are.

The word was that the Mackenzie - King government faced a grave crisis and so today the Canadian Parliament was tense + as Minister of Defense McNoughton began his discussion of the question of conscription for war. What would he say? What would he propose - if anything?

The answer came soon. After outlining the situation, Defense Minister McNoughton announced that the Mackenzie - King Government has issued an order, decreasing the conscription of Canadian Home Troops for the fighting over-seas.

And that brings a radical turn in the dispute that has agitated the Dominion ~~since~~^{since} the beginning of the war. The Mackenzie-King decision to invoke conscription for over-seas is, however, not any drastic, hundred-per-cent affair. The cabinet order announced at Ottawa today, limits the number of men to be drafted to sixteen thousand, and it is explicitly pointed out that overseas means - Europe only. However, it is a definite turn, and is likely to have a decided bearing on the possibility, which has been talked about a good deal - that the Mackenzie - King Government might be over-thrown.

In fact, the Canadian prime minister today asked Parliament for a vote of confidence - calling for a parliamentary okay ~~of~~ the Mackenzie-King Government. The voting is expected to be held in the course of the next several days- and will obviously be based on the new order for a limited conscription for overseas war duty. There ^{is}~~is~~ likely to be ^a strenuous parliamentary fight, as is evidenced by the latest, an opposition demand that the Mackenzie - King Cabinet resign and be replaced by a government altogether in favor of overseas conscription without any limitation.

(Survivors)

Here is a new kind of wound - Incurred when an American Airman punched a shark in the nose. The word comes from Italy and tells of three Navy Fliers who were forced down in the Mediterranean and drifted for six days without food or water on a rubber raft. They were finally picked up by an Italian Fishing Boat, and came back Okay, save for the wound sustained by one in taking a swing at a shark.

They were drifting on the Mediterranean when along came one of those evil prowlers of the deep, the traditional dread of seafaring men. And the Shark kept nosing about the raft, coming close with sinister menaces. They did what they could to drive off the monster - swinging at the Shark with oars. But the Shark just hung around and that was when machinists' Mate Israel Avidoff of Roxbury, Massachusetts, got real mad. ^{TR} Izzy seems to be pugilistically inclined, because, when the Shark came nosing in again he took a swing at it with his fist - hitting the Shark in the teeth. He did that literally, and Sharks teeth are nothing to use as a punching bag. As a result, Izzy had a badly lacerated fist - having sustained one of the most peculiar wounds reported in this war.

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Lowell Thomas

AsburyPark NJ

(Strike)

The telephone strike is off-- it comes to an end with a sudden order issued by the head of the Union in OHIO.

The strike, of course, began in Ohio, and now Union President Robert Pollack calls upon the Ohio strikers to return to their switchboards.

The walkout in other cities was a sympathy strike affair, and the Ohio Union leader asks that these be terminated too.

The explanation is given that the war labor board wants to settle the grievances that brought about the Ohio walkout -- grievances that concern such matters as cost of living bonuses. The Ohio Union president concedes that the W L B should have a chance. W L B officials think that the likelihood of a government seizure of the telephone had something to do with the sudden cancellation of the walkout.

The two big sympathy strikes today were in Washington and Detroit -- the political and industrial capitals of the *Nation*.

~~action~~ In Washington, Mrs Mary Gannon, President of the local union announces that she has ordered Washington telephone operators to return to their jobs immediately. And the latest is that the picket lines in Washington have dissolved.

Same thing in Detroit; and, in Chicago a full-fledged strike had been called.--But now that is cancelled. In other words, if the telephone operators obey the orders of their leaders the whole dangerous thing is at an end-- The strike which today seemed about to spread like wild-fire and become nationwide. It seemed if there would be a coast to coast tie-up of the long distance telephone. Ominous; a most perilous thing in war time,-- But now better judgment has prevailed.

One interesting thing about the strike was that it was almost one hundred percent feminine. Telephone operators, of course, are women, and the vast majority of the union officials whose names break in the news were either Miss or Mrs. Only at the very top of Union Leadership did men appear.

The prevalence of femininity added a piquant element of the uncertain. One wondered about a great strike, involving, nearly a hundred percent, the fair also the inevitable sex

sheet three (Strike)

-- incalculable to men anyway. But maybe not
to you, Hugh!

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