

ITALY

L.I. - Standard. Friday, Feb. 11, 1944.  
Sun.

The latest from Italy tonight indicates that there has been a reversal of the tide -- <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ some small degree at least. Allied troops today returned to the attack, after beating back the most violent sort of German assaults. The Nazi drives were smashed by terrific artillery fire and heavy <sup>bombing</sup> ~~drives~~ from the air, whereupon British and American troops surged forward. <sup>TP</sup> Action by the British was at a place called Caraceto, which is also called Aprilia.

Today the Germans claimed the capture of Aprilia, a key road-junction in the beachhead south of Rome. And tonight's late bulletin uses these words: "British troops, again fighting in the area of the battle-scarred buildings of Caraceto -- Aprilia."

<sup>TP</sup> And that verbiage might seem to indicate that they had lost the place, and then had recaptured it.

We hear that the British attack, ~~which seems~~

~~to have recaptured the place,~~ was made under the  
most dramatic conditions, ~~--- conditions~~ ~~--- conditions~~ of weather.

They advanced through a virtual hurricane, which had  
raged all night. ~~The~~ <sup>a</sup> terrific gale had ~~uprooted~~ uprooted  
trees, and a deluge of rain had turned the plowed  
fields into oceans of mud.

All along, the weather has been a bedeviling  
factor in the battle of the beachhead -- with a  
special reference to Allied air power. Tonight's late  
news makes mention of bombing planes adding their high  
explosive to <sup>the</sup> barrages of shells hurled by the guns.

And yet previously the word had been that murky skies  
and fog and rain were impeding the overwhelming power  
of Allied aviation.

Yesterday, on the contrary, the fleets of Allied  
planes were able to go all out in support of the beachhead,  
bombing and strafing Nazi military positions and road


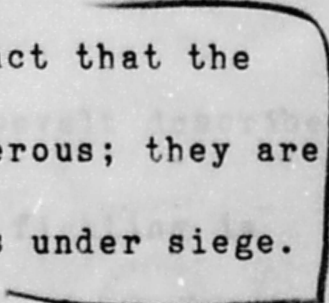
junctions. ~~Even the full force of heavy bombers was on the job of hitting the enemy battlefront, and the all out massing of air power on the front was in itself an indication of the gravity of affairs. The last time the whole air fleet went into action to support the ground forces was at Salerno, when things were so serious there.~~

<sup>IP</sup> It's a confused and alternat<sup>ng</sup> picture of weather and air power, now ~~going~~ good, now bad -- with fickle chang<sup>es</sup> of the sky.

And, here's the latest -- ~~It is~~ raining again on the beachhead and impeding the flight of the war planes.

ITALY

There is no discounting the fact that the position of the Allied forces is dangerous; they are on the defensive and the beachhead is under siege. One dispatch from Allied headquarters in Algiers quotes informants from the scene of fighting as declaring that the beachhead below Rome may now



become a liability, instead of an asset.

Today in Washington President Roosevelt described the situation as- very tense. He said the fighting is exceedingly heavy, and things were in the balance. He <sup>however</sup> pointed out that we still control the sea, and our sky formations control the air, though they right now are handicapped by that old demon, the weather. And so, said the Commander-in-Chief, we are praying for clear skies around Rome.

Bruxvick yesterday, some American flyers did not see a single enemy plane. Only a few Nazis appeared, and most of them took a look at the mass of American fighters and turned away.

In the line of anti-aircraft, the Germans tried a surprise. They withheld their anti-air guns until the American bombers were right over the city, and then the ground crews turned loose with one simultaneous blast.

The surprise had little success.

## AIR WAR

In the bombing of Naziland today, the City of Frankfort was the target once again. That great aircraft and chemical center was smashed for the fourth time in two weeks. It was a daylight assault by a huge armada of Flying Fortresses, escorted by fighters - a thick swarm of fighters, <sup>a record number</sup> ~~hundreds~~ of them, <sup>^</sup> Maybe that is why the Nazi fighters were conspicuous by their absence.

In contrast to the great air battles that attended the bombing of Brunswick yesterday, some American flyers did not see a single enemy plane. Only a few Nazis appeared, and most of them took a look at the maze of American fighters and turned away.

In the line of anti-aircraft, the Germans tried a surprise. They withheld their ack ack guns until the American bombers were right over the city, and then the ground crews turned loose with one simultaneous blast.

*The surprise had little success, apparently.*

ADD AIR WAR

At the same time, other fleets of American bombers hit those mystery targets along the coast of northern France.

In all the operations of the day five bombers and fifteen fighters were lost on our side, while over Germany alone thirty-seven Nazi planes were shot down.

RUSSIA

The Russians have captured another important town - Sheptovka, which is in the western Ukraine, near the old Polish border. Stalin announced the new victory today, and we are told that Soviet units are approaching final success in their battle against the Germans trapped in the bend of the Dnieper - the remnants of <sup>the</sup> ten crack Nazi divisions.





ADD RUSSIA

The latest from Moscow announces that the Soviet troops are within two miles of Korsun, which is in the very heart of the pocket where the Germans are trapped.

Of all the ships hit in the havoc at Pearl Harbor, the Oklahoma represented one of the heaviest blows suffered by the American fleet. Other battleships were struck by bombs and torpedoes, and *heavily damaged* - The Arizona was utterly destroyed; -- and, next to that came the Oklahoma. Battered by bombs and torpedoes, she turned over and lay on her side in the harbor, and you might have thought the Oklahoma would have been given up for lost. But no, the Navy salvage experts went to work, and tonight the *once capsized battleship* *under* Oklahoma sits in drydock; she is being repaired and will go to sea to fight the Germans.

OKLAHOMA

Here's electrical word -- the Oklahoma ~~is~~ *has been*  
~~afloated~~. That battleship ~~which~~ *that* capsized at Pearl  
Harbor has been raised and is in drydock for repairs.  
This was announced tonight by the Navy.

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And you might have thought the Oklahoma would have been  
given up for lost. But no, the Navy salvage experts  
went to work, and tonight the ~~Oklahoma~~ *once capsized battleship*, sits in drydock;  
~~she's being~~ *under* repaired and will go to sea to fight the Japs.

PACIFIC

*A dispatch*

~~The latest~~ from the Pacific states that

American warships are bombarding another Jap atoll in the Marshalls. Following the capture of Kwajalein,

~~the fleet is now~~ the Navy is in fast action.

The point that is now being bombarded is not named.

~~xxx~~ Tonight's late Navy bulletin merely describing it in these words:- "an important enemy-held atoll."

And, ~~x long range Navy planes have again~~  
~~bombard Wake Island.~~

ADD PACIFIC

The Japs on the island stronghold made no reply to the fire of the warships, indicating that they are in a pretty bad way. And tonight's dispatch tells us that units of the fleet are roaming about at will through the Marshall Islands, once so great a bastion of Japanese power.

Meanwhile the big bombers are ranging and bombing the enemy atolls. And the Navy tells us of another raid against Wake Island.

They had perished, as General MacArthur in his communique describes in the following words: "Death had come from starvation, disease, privation or injury, showing the utter collapse which is the end overreached the trapped enemy forces."

## NEW GUINEA

Not so many weeks ago the Japanese had a powerful defending force on the Huon Peninsula in New Guinea. What has happened to it -- in the face of the Allied drives? Today <sup>two</sup>~~to~~ encircling units of American and Australian troops joined forces west of the former enemy base of Saidor. Their advance had trapped what was left of the Japanese garrison on the Huon Peninsula, and along the trails they found twelve hundred dead Japs <sup>--- though</sup> ~~---~~ not casualties of battle. They had perished, as General MacArthur in his communique describes in the following words: "Death had come from starvation, disease, privations or injury," showing the utter collapse which in the end overwhelmed the trapped enemy forces."

PRISONERS

Today in Washington our official protest to Japan was made public - a protest against the Japanese atrocities. It was sent on January Twenty-Seventh, and transmitted by the Swiss Government to Tokyo.

The protest lists eighteen points, specific charges. These are of a wide range, but the ones to be noted particularly have to do with the *most savage of the* atrocities.

The "Inhuman cruelty", says the document - which goes on to give details of unspeakable horror.

*It presents*  
~~It gives us~~ the first official revelation that in one Japanese prison camp alone more than twenty-two thousand, two hundred prisoners of war died of mistreatment. The camp is in the Philippine Islands and among the men that died were twenty thousand Filipinos and twenty-two hundred Americans. This brutal record of barbarism and neglect was *accomplished* ~~compiled~~ by the Japs during the first few months of the war. How many

prisoners have perished since, is not stated.

The official protest tells how the Japs buried prisoners alive, beating them with shovels as they tried to rise from their graves. It <sup>relates</sup> ~~tells~~ how the Japs deliberately starved prisoners to death or killed them with bayonets or <sup>by</sup> decapitation.

The whole list is such that the recent disclosure of enemy atrocities would seem to be only a small fraction in the general picture of hideous barbarity.

The protest notes how scrupulously the United States has obeyed the laws of civilized warfare in the treatment of prisoners, and calls upon the Japs to do the same. And it also summons the Japanese government to punish those individuals who were responsible for the atrocities.

It remains to be seen what effect ~~will~~ the protest, based on arguments of international decency and humanity, will have on the Japs. One wishes that one might be optimistic

## DECORATION

Today a military decoration was conferred on a master of the Japanese art of swordsmanship, who used to be an ace at the Meiji University - in Tokyo. This master of the traditional war game of the Samurai was awarded the United States Navy Cross and also has been recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor. His name and rank - Major Gordon Warner of the Marines. The exploit for which he was decorated was performed on Bougainville Island - fighting against the Japs.

In Nineteen Thirty-Seven, Gordon Warner, former swimming star of the University of Southern California, was engaged by the Japs as an instructor of athletics at Meiji University. There he studied the ancient fencing game of the Samurai, and took a university degree in swordsmanship. He won a lot of prestige when he met the champion of the Japanese Navy in a bout with ~~xx~~ swords - and defeated him. For this a trophy,



in the form of a traditional Samurai blade, was presented to him by Japanese Prince Tokugawa.

All of which gives Major Gordon Warner quite a unique position in the Marines, and I dare say he has been telling the boys a lot about the tricks of the

Japanese when they charge with swords. Today's account

*however stressed*  
~~tells how he employed~~ his knowledge of ~~things~~ *the* Japanese language.

~~to good advantage in the fighting on Bougainville Island.~~

His outfit was up against some strong and well concealed enemy positions, and the idea was to draw the fire of the

<sup>S</sup>~~Japanese~~ - so as to reveal their positions. This Major

Warner did by shouting to the enemy soldiers in their own language. ~~As a former instructor and champion~~

~~swordsman at Meiji University, he spoke Japanese~~

~~fluently~~ and he knew the right insults. He ~~could~~ yelled

things in the Tokyo dialect that ~~would~~ made the Japs

burst with rage - the most opprobrious reflections on

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their ~~xxx~~ illustrious ancestors. And the infuriated Japs replied by shooting all the guns they had.

In this fashion they gave away their positions, whereupon Gordon Warner led a combat team which attacked them. ~~Their~~ <sup>And the</sup> previously well concealed positions - were wiped out. He was wounded in the action, and lost a leg - and today gained the Navy Cross. And Admiral Halsey has also recommended him for the Congressional Medal of Honor - that <sup>Samurai</sup> former ace of swordsmanship at Meiji University, Tokyo.

Out in the farming section of New Jersey, a group of Union officials are sorely perplexed. They have a problem on their hands, a problem which, at first glance, would seem to be apple pie for Union leaders. ~~It is~~ <sup>a</sup> matter of collecting union dues, ~~and you would think that the Secretary and Treasurer of any local would smile with expert knowledge.~~ The question at issue, however, has its peculiarities - because it's a <sup>puzzle</sup> ~~question~~ of collecting union dues from German prisoners of war.

At Bridgeton, New Jersey, ~~there~~ is the largest produce farm in the world, and working there are a hundred and sixty-five Nazi prisoners. They get wages, according to international law. Now, as it happens, the company that runs the farm has a contract with the Union, whereby the Union collects dues <sup>from all workers.</sup> ~~And that's the~~ <sup>And that</sup> ~~particular~~ labor organization is mighty particular on the subject. Last summer, <sup>e</sup> ~~that~~ same Union insisted

on collecting dues from regular army soldiers, who had been assigned to help bring in the crops. And now that same idea is being applied to the prisoners of war.

The trouble is - how <sup>can</sup> ~~could~~ the Union collect?

The prisoners of war get eighty cents a day - according to international law. The company, however, pays regular American wages for their work - fifty cents an hour. The United States Treasury collects the difference.

So who is to pay the dues of twenty-five cents a week?

The Treasury, out of its share of the wages paid?

That would put Uncle Sam in the position of paying

union dues. <sup>TP</sup> Or, should the prisoners of war be made to pay - out of their eighty cents a day? Their wages are according to international law, and if dues were deducted, might not this violate the Geneva Convention, or something?

Anyway, the Union officials can hardly go to

the Nazi prisoners to collect - because the captives of war work under military guard, and no civilian is allowed to approach them. <sup>It</sup> Today a Union official stated that the demand for dues would be enforced, but he did not say how. Which certainly would seem to be something new - a Union official in a quandary about how to collect union dues!

nominate Willkie for the presidency -- "too dumb," said he. So he thinks the Democrats should <sup>select</sup> nominate Willkie not for President, of course, but in second place.

Will they? No, thinks the former Georgia Governor -- "they won't be smart enough. <sup>Too dumb also</sup> although --"

Roosevelt-Willkie ticket would be what he calls -- "a sure shot." Willkie, in his words -- "would sweep the country." as vice presidential candidate. I suppose

that the Democratic National Committee also believes that President Roosevelt will sweep the country

so they would vote for it -- and that would be sweeping

WILLKIE

Tonight the suggestion was made:-- for President and Vice President -- Roosevelt and Willkie. The statesman who advocates this combination is former Governor Rivers of Georgia, who is now National Democratic Committeeman for his state.

He predicted that the Republicans will not nominate Willkie for the presidency -- "too dumb," said he. So he thinks the Democrats should <sup>select</sup> ~~nominate~~ Willkie -- not for President, of course, but in second place.

Will they? No, thinks the former Georgia Governor sadly -- "they won't be smart enough." <sup>Too dumb also.</sup> ~~although~~

<sup>although - a</sup> Roosevelt-Willkie ticket would be what he calls --


"a sure shot." Willkie, in his words -- "would sweep <sup>TP</sup> the country," as vice presidential candidate. I suppose

that the Democratic National Committeeman also believes that President Roosevelt will sweep the country.

So they <sup>d</sup> ~~would~~ both do it -- and that would be sweeping indeed. <sup>TP</sup> after which we sweep on to you, Roger.

## CRASH

Tonight in the Mississippi River near Hughes, Arkansas, pieces of wreckage floated to the surface of the water, debris of the big airliner which took a mysterious plunge last night. Divers were at work during the day, in the hope of ~~xx~~ raising the plane. But it appears that the ponderous transport went to pieces when it hit the water. It lies in fragments on the bottom, with odd bits of plane <sup>and</sup> equipment floating to the top.



~~Tonight on the Mississippi River near Hughes, Arkansas divers are grimly working - descending into turbulent waters to raise a big airliner - the one that took a mysterious plunge last night.~~

# The transport plane was only a few minutes from its destination, the Memphis airport, and nobody can surmise why suddenly it came down in the river, with twenty-four persons aboard. ~~Today grappling hooks brought up a telltale evidence - the baggage door of the plane, <sup>a</sup> the door that had been ~~loose~~ loose. And now <sub>^</sub> the divers have taken over the job of bringing the doomed airliner to the surface - though some believe that it smashed to pieces when it hit the river and is now scattered over the bottom.~~

# This news of air travel disaster came<sup>s</sup> along ~~at the same time that~~ <sup>with</sup> another story of very different import. Figures released in Washington show that the



airline record for safety last year was the best since

Nineteen Thirty-Nine. This, in spite of some bad

accidents. A record number of people <sup>have been</sup> ~~traveled~~ <sup>ing</sup> by air. xx

One billion, six hundred and fifty million passenger

miles were flown - with a loss of twenty-three lives.

Or, it figures this way:- one and four-tenths

fatalities per one hundred million passenger miles.

## PIPELINE

There are new developments today in the matter of oil in the Near East. The United States and Great Britain are about to start discussions concerning the petroleum reserves in countries like Iran and Arabia.

This was stated today by Acting Secretary of State Stettinius, <sup>who said</sup> The conferences will <sup>deal with the</sup> ~~concern the~~

Anglo-American distribution of Near Eastern oil. The

Acting Secretary <sup>added</sup> ~~said~~ that Soviet Russia would not be included in the discussions, and this we hear is because the Russians do not own any of the <sup>Middle East</sup> ~~petroleum~~ reserves, <sup>which</sup> ~~they~~ are controlled by ~~the~~ British and American interests.

One theme of the talks will undoubtedly be the big pipeline that is scheduled to be built from Arabian oil deposits to the Mediterranean. This has been under attack in both the United States Congress and the British House of Parliament - and today it was defended by President Roosevelt. <sup>Today Pres. Roosevelt</sup> ~~He~~ stated that the hundred and

sixty-five million dollar pipeline would permit a lot of Near Eastern oil to get to the Mediterranean theatre of war, and ~~xxxxx~~ thus decrease the drain of oil from the United States. The President pointed to the fact that right now we are using up so much petroleum for war that we are depleting our reserves (reserves which will last from fifteen to twenty years, according to some experts and from twenty-five to thirty years, according to others. In this the President was answering complaints in Congress, complaints that we are sending too much oil to a theatre of war which could be better supplied from the Near Eastern petroleum deposits.)

The pipeline is to be financed and constructed by the United States Government, while American oil companies plan to build a twenty-five million dollar refinery in Arabia. These concerns - Standard of California and the Texas Company, hold large petroleum concessions in the old land of Araby.