

L.I. - Standard. Thursday, Dec. 14, 1944
Sumoto.

JAPAN

After the latest B-29 raids on the Japanese, the twentieth air force command sent out photographers. The pictures they took showed that the bombs from the superforts had damaged severely such vital machinery of the biggest Japanese aircraft factory at Matsukedi. One photograph alone gave proof of forty direct hits. Pilots reported that they had seen with the naked eye fires visible for a hundred miles around. This was the largest force of B-29s that the twentieth air force has yet sent out against the Japanese.

The Japanese today admitted the loss of five more Admirals. That makes no fewer than seventy-eight that our men have killed in the Pacific theatre since May seventeenth.

CHINA

The American chief of staff in China issued a warning today that the Japanese still threaten the headquarters of the U.S. Fourteenth Army Air Force at Kweichow . Although the Chinese High Command claims its troops are pursuing the Japanese towards the South in the Province of Kwangsi, the Japanese vanguards are still a menace.

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PHILIPPINES

The chorus of cheers when Ormeo fell was loud enough to give the impression that MacArthur's divisions had completely crushed the Japanese on Leyte. But this is not the fact. There are still many of the Mikado's troops on the Island. To be sure, they are running short of supplies but they are still strong enough to come back with a lot of fight.

The seventy-seventh division, under Major General Andrew Bruce, is driving northward against the main Japanese defense line in Western Leyte, and the thirty-second division under Major General Gill is fighting south to meet the seventy-seventh. If a spell of bad weather returns, it will drag out this campaign considerably.

Western Front

On the Western Front, we have pretty much the same story as ~~these of the last~~ *we have had these past* few days. Eisenhower's armies advance a few miles here and a few miles there, but nothing spectacular at any one point. The fifth armored division of the First Army drove through a breach in the German line and gained two miles. Other units of the first pushed ahead on the far side of the Moselle River and stormed the Siegfried Line, at a point where the forts lie completely underground. General Hodges' divisions are closing in on the town of Duren from two directions, West and North. Only a few Germans are left on the West bank of the Moselle River.

It is bitterly cold on that Western Front. Several days ago snow fell and the frost now has crusted the top of the snow and aggravated the sufferings of the wounded.

In Alsace, the seventh army reached the Rhine opposite the city of Karlsruhe, which the Royal Air Force bombed heavily in September, nineteen forty-two, leaving much of the place in flames. Another column of the seventh army pushed its way East

to Wissemburg, forty-two miles Northeast of Strasbourg. (It was there, in August, eighteen seventy, that the Crown Prince Frederick of Prussia won a crucial victory over the French under Marshal MacMahon, a victory that threw open Alsace to the advancing Prussian armies.)

ITALY

In Italy, the Nazi line is being slowly pushed back, but ² still unbroken. The Canadians and other troops of the British eighth army have settled themselves in a third bridgehead on the West bank of the Lamone River. They beat off a number of strong German counterattacks. The Germans now have one line of escape, the highway from Faenza to Bologna.

RUSSIA

On the Russian front, still no signs of that big winter offensive with which the Red Armies were going to start advancing on the heart of Germany. Instead of that we still hear about Budapest. The main ~~fall-out~~ assault on the Hungarian capital is imminent, just as it has been for weeks. However, Berlin today admitted that the pressure of Soviet heavy artillery, planes and tanks on the inner defenses of Budapest has increased. Moscow reports a battle going on six miles to the southwest, a battle of artillery and tanks which will settle the fate for the city.

Here the Germans have brought up great concentrations of heavy cannon and tanks in a desperate effort to stop the third army of the Ukraine from driving North on Budapest. If the Russians break the Germans there, they will have the city completely surrounded and ^{will have} cut off the only escape corridor left to the Germans.

~~Of course, these reports have a rather dully repetitive sound. Not so many days ago, we heard positive and circumstantial stories that the Nazis had evacuated the Hungarian Capital after putting it to the torch. Tonight the siege still is going on,~~

GREENLAND

You might think the Germans had their hands full defending their country, but instead of that ^{here} they are trying to establish ~~more~~ weather stations on Greenland. Only two months ago, ^{the} ~~the~~ United States Coast Guard airplane on a routine mission scouting ice caught sight of a small ship and quantities of supplies on a Greenland beach. This was reported to the commander of the Task Unit assigned to prevent the Nazis from having access to Greenland. That commander ordered out a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker commanded by Lieutenant Curtis Howard of Cleveland, Ohio. When the icebreaker arrived at the spot, the Germans had already ^{made} ~~begun~~ ^{partial arrangements} to escape. But the coast guard men found on shore all the supplies and materials for building a weather station, including very fine radio and weather equipment. Also on the beach were two German technicians, shivering with cold and exhausted, and only too glad to be taken prisoner.

Later the observer on a coast guard plane thought he saw a peculiar looking iceberg. Flying closer, he saw a German trawler, so cleverly camouflaged that it was impossible to

detect except quite close up. The ship was completely frozen in. Some of the Germans who had been out on the ice were running back to their ship. The coast guard commander signalled, "don't scuttle or we will fire."

Thereupon the Americans mined the ice, set the trawler free, and captured the entire crew as well as supplies, supplies of excellent quality.

And, <sup>-o-
now</sup> Michael Wayne,
with a message from
Wash. D.C., speaking
for Stan. A Cal.

British labor leaders are still indignant about the goings-on in Greece, but Churchill stands pat. There were heated scenes on the floor of the House of Commons in London today. The labor benches shouted threats of strikes in Britain as protests against the Government's policy in Greece. They called it a policy of murder, and shouted the ugly word repeatedly.

The Prime Minister was unmoved. He countered the labor threats of strikes with a threat of going over the heads of the members to the public at large. "I gave a long account of this matter to the House the other day," said he, "and I may take occasion to give some further account to the country." But, for the time being, he had nothing to add to what he had said before, and he has kept the British dominions in close touch with what is going on in Greece.

ADD Greece.

The most blistering remarks about Churchill came from novelist H. G. Wells. He declared that Mr. Churchill had lost his head completely, and that his ideas were a pitiful jumble of incoherent nonsense. H. G. used these words: "a boy scout is better equipped." And then he added: "Mr. Churchill has served his purpose and it is high time he retire. In the midst of a still uncertain war," continued Wells, "this ineffable Prime Minister of ours has precipitated us into a class war and on the wrong side."

In Athens, meanwhile, the unofficial truce came to an end in the middle of the afternoon. The artillery of the ELAS began shelling the headquarters of the British High Command in the middle of the city. There was a report that the ~~ELAS~~ ^{Left Wing crowd} had decided to accept the terms offered by the British commander, but while that report was current, the shooting started up again.

STIMSON

The American casualty list since Pearl Harbor has grown to a total of five hundred and sixty-two thousand, four hundred and sixty-eight. That includes a hundred and twenty-two thousand, one hundred and sixty-four dead; three hundred and six thousand, eight hundred and fifty-four wounded; some seventy-two thousand missing; and sixty-one thousand prisoners of war. Of these far and away the heaviest proportion was borne by the ^{So} ~~ARMY~~, said war Secretary Stimson today.

And he also reported that the Germans have suffered even worse. Their casualties were seven thousand a day from November eighth to November thirtieth, and that does not include damage done behind the German lines by the Allied Air Forces. All this, he said, has deprived the Germans of any breathing space, and added to the strain on their reserves and resources.

HAS LEISH

The appointment of Peet Archibald MacLeish as assistant secretary of State hangs in the balance. For a while late this afternoon it looked as though it had gone through. The vote in the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations has been a see-saw affair all day. A handsome Majority of the committee voted for five of the appointments, Grew, Clayton, Rockefeller, Down and Bones. But the first vote went twelve to eight against Peet MacLeish. Twelve of the Senators could ^{not} see what he had on the ~~ball~~ as a professional writer of verse, ~~that~~ ^{that} entitled him to become a high ^{post} ~~officer~~ in the State Department.

Then a couple of Senators changed their minds and ~~in~~ the vote changed eleven to ten in his favor. Then there was another switch and early this evening the score was even, so the fate of Peet MacLeish still is in doubt.

^{death}
 The ~~suicide~~ of Lupe Velez tonight appears to be a

tragedy right out of the bygone romantics of the nineteenth century. As the facts have developed they indicate that it could have been averted by better understanding and sympathy between the two people most closely involved, the brilliant young Mexican actress herself and Harold Ramond whom she loved, the French actor supposed to have been born in Austria.

~~She got so much attention by the way in which she conducted~~

~~her relations in public that they overshadowed the fact that she~~

^{Lupe, a}
 was really a brilliant young actress, She earned herself the reputation of being the "Mexican Spitfire". Actually, as everybody I knew will testify, who has ever acted with her, she was what is known in the profession as a sound trouper. But her professional work did not absorb all of her exceeding vitality. She was the daughter of an opera singer and a colonel in the Mexican Army with all the conventional ideas of an army field officer. He put her to school in a Convent and she always expressed the utmost devotion to the dogmas and doctrines of her faith, although this didn't prevent her from filing three

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suits for divorce from the champion swimmer and Tarzan acting Johnny Weismuller. She made the third suit stick. ~~Almost every~~
Then there was
~~body knows about~~ her romance with Gary Cooper, noted for being as extremely silent as Lape Veles was the opposite.

Only a few weeks ago she told the world that she had found the perfect love in a French actor named Harold Ramond. "Harold," said she, "is the only man who can control me. When I try to handle him he tells me where to go." But that did not last long either. It was only last Saturday that Lape took the world into her confidence to announce that she had split with the Frenchman, told him to get out because she likes her dogs better. She said the quarrel was about the election. She preferred the dogs because they could not argue with her.

The Austrian-born French actor said tonight that he loved her very much and wanted to marry her but they could not agree upon a date.

She died of an intentional overdose of sleeping tablets, leaving a note for her Secretary and for Ramond. She asked the Secretary to say good-bye to all her friends and the American

press, who were always so nice to her.

She also left a note for Harold Ramond, a note exceedingly personal and touching. It ended with the words: "I see no other way out for me so good bye and good luck to you. Love, Impe."

Critics will point out that this pathetic and exceedingly human story illustrates that life some times imitates fiction.

~~Note: Election: Louis says the campaign did not occur, but has been promised.~~

~~Blasphemy:~~

Dec 14

Rocket.

The U.S.A. is in the rocket building race with other nations, for all it is worth. The Navy today announced that it is building a small warship carrying rockets instead of cannon, with two and a half times the fire power of a forty-five thousand ton battleship.

Navy engineers have also developed a five inch rocket, having as much explosive power as a hundred and fifty-five millimeter shell. And they have built a single-engined plane firing rockets; one salvo from which has a destructive power equal to that of a broadside from the five inch guns of a destroyer.

The navy is going to step up its rocket production three hundred per cent within the next few months.

All the recent publicity
~~The publicity of the rockets~~ has given many people exaggerated

ideas. They are writing letters to ask how they should proceed if they want to file a claim to land on the moon. The President of the United States rocket society declares that such a departure might be a reality within a generation. Of course, there is the little detail that human beings could not live upon the moon,

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owing to atmospheric conditions. Nevertheless, the president of the United States rocket society wrote to the commissioner of the United States Land Office asking him to answer that question about filing claims on the moon.

So the commissioner replied that any person wishing to do that must follow the provisions of the United States Homestead Law. Along with his application he must send an affidavit that he had personally examined the land and is well acquainted with its characteristics. He must also make ready to establish a permanent home upon his choice of land on the moon within six months after his entry is approved [^] and take his family with him.

Wayne!
-0-
Michael, how about taking your family to the Moon? Or have you a family?