

but a very remote possibility

There is a possibility that the Japs may declare Manila an open city. We did that, and then the Japs ignored it. Now they have huge ~~xxxx~~ concentrations of ammunition, weapons and supplies at Manila.

The Tokyo radio admitted a good many of these facts today. It acknowledged that the Americans are pouring reinforcements ashore on the gulf coast in spite of strong Japanese attacks. And the Japanese add that in addition to a huge naval concentration in the Gulf of Lingayen, there are at least two American invasion fleets, powerful fleets, in the waters off Luzon. The Berlin radio says there were four invasion fleets in all.

The Tokyo radio says their planes had our Lingayen Gulf fleet under heavy attack. But our correspondents say the American fliers chased the Jap air force right out of the sky. ~~It~~ Our heavy bombers also struck again at Clark Field and all the other air fields in the Manila area. Premier Koiso, called an extraordinary meeting of the Tokyo Cabinet today. And no wonder.

GUERRILLAS FOLLOW LUZON FRONT

Another story from the field reports that one big help to the American invasion troops came from Filipino guerrillas. As a matter of fact, a high American officer had been among them for some months prior to the invasion, organizing the guerrillas. He estimated that no fewer than two million persons on the island of Luzon can be rated as active guerrillas. He says they are more cunning than those in any other part of the Philippines.

*And* They have secret radio stations and weather information stations. From these the American command receive<sup>s</sup> a constant stream of news about enemy movements. And remarkable enough, there is not one single instance of any guerrilla having been betrayed to the Japanese. It is estimated that in all the island of Luzon there are not more than tenthousand Philipinos really friendly to the Japs.

During the numerous air raids by our flyers on Japanese installations in the Philippines, many of *our lads* ~~them~~ were forced to bail out. *And a* remarkable number of

them were saved by guerrillas. In several instances the Philipinos almost literally snatched them from under the guns of the Jap troops.

~~All the guerrillas have also been useful in knocking out a number of Japanese communications.~~

ADD GUERRILLAS

Our men saw one token of the attitude of the Filipinois. As they approached a village near the Linguyan ~~and~~ beach they saw suddenly kites ~~kites~~ soaring into the air. At the tail of each kite was a placard with the words "No Japanese here".



*The B 29s*

~~Our Superforts~~ have made another attack on Singapore. This one ~~was~~ in daylight, and apparently a successful, one, because the Japanese themselves reported that their military installations <sup>were</sup> ~~have been~~ damaged. *They, they* announce scores of casualties, and ~~we may remember that the Japs are not inclined to exaggerate.~~

The raid was carried out by <sup>the</sup> ~~B-29s of the~~ Twentieth Bomber Command, based on India.

The Japs claim to have bagged two of the Superforts, but the Twentieth Bomber Command announced that all ~~of them had~~ returned safely to base.

However, General Arnold revealed that from the Tuesday raid on Tokyo, two of the giant bombers are missing, presumably through enemy action.

CHINA

One effect of the Philippine invasion upon the Japanese has been to make them hurry up with the building of new defenses on the coast of China. They are also pushing to complete ~~these~~ <sup>and</sup> repairs to the railroad ~~on the corridor which they now hold through the interior of~~ <sup>down through</sup> China to Singapore.

Major General ~~Albert~~ <sup>U.S.</sup> Wedemeyer of the ~~United~~ <sup>United</sup> States forces in the China theatre, told a reporter <sup>that</sup> the Japanese <sup>now</sup> are worrying about <sup>their</sup> relations with the Russians. Many <sup>here</sup> people ~~at home~~ <sup>think that</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>its</sup> optimism; but, Stalin has a game of his own to play in the Far East. So far he has rigorously observed his treaty with the Mikado. ~~But~~ <sup>that</sup> Wedemeyer adds <sup>the</sup> Japs are exceedingly worried about the increased <sup>speed</sup> ~~speed~~ of the American drive in the Pacific. <sup>and that</sup> <sup>^</sup> This worry may lead them to try to knock China out of the war, at once, by capturing Chungking and also Kunming.

Now H — tell us about  
Stan. of Cal.

The news from the Western Front tonight is that Uncle Sam's men have more than made a big dent in the northern side of that Belgian bulge. The capture of La Roche, a vital highway center, is evidence of this.

The Germans themselves admit that they have retired now some eighteen miles from the tip of the bulge. And they acknowledge further that they are giving up all the points they held west of the River Ourthe (Oort). American ~~an~~ artillery and aircraft, during this German retreat, rained shells and bombs on the backward moving Nazi troops.

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On the western sector, the British have advanced some four miles, capturing six villages, and cutting across the highway three miles southwest of La Roche.

At the same time, Americans of the Third Army cut across another highway in the Bulge ten miles west of Bastogne. The effect of all this is that the

Germans still west of the River Ourthe (Oort) may soon be surrounded.

However, this is not to be looked upon as a major German disaster. Far from it. Von Rundstedt has simply pulled the main body of his troops back to ~~new~~ new positions -- and without great loss. Many Germans have been killed, to be sure, and the Allies have captured some sixteen thousand in eight days -- twenty-five thousand in all since the beginning of the break-through in December.

We are told today that the ~~the~~ fiercest fighting in the counter-drive has been done by the Second U.S. Armored Division, which still is advancing ~~xx~~ northeast of La Roche. ~~Huge~~ Huge piles of wrecked German equipment testify to the fury of that encounter. At least a thousand Germans have been killed by the Second, twenty-three Nazi tanks have been knocked out by them, and five hundred prisoners taken.

Our own losses? We haven't been told so far. And the Germans don't know either!



## STIMSON

When will we know our own losses in all this savage fighting in Belgium and Luxembourg? Secretary Stimson today said that the total casualties for all our forces, since Pearl Harbor, amounts to six hundred and forty-six thousand, three hundred and eighty. That includes some hundred and thirty-eight thousand killed, three hundred and seventy thousand wounded, ~~xi~~ sixty-three thousand prisoners of war, and seventy-three thousand missing. But all that is exclusive of what happened recently in Europe. The figures on that we may get in a week or so.

Secretary Stimson also told his press conference that several of our Army commanders were relieved of their commands, in the front line -- for failure to make good. But he didn't say just where this happened. He ~~xi~~ gives us no ~~details~~ details.

## RUSSIA

The heavy cannon of the Second Army of the Ukraine today poured shells into the city of Komarno, on the Danube; Komarno, on which so much depends for the Germans in their desperate effort to raise the siege of Budapest. The Russians evidently are aiming to surround Komarno, and have already cut all communications between there and Silesia.

According to Moscow, the Red Army attacks on Komarno have about destroyed all Nazi ~~hope~~ hope of breaking the Russian ring around Budapest, where the Reds have taken another hundred-and-fifty city blocks; and an important railway station.

The Germans are still throwing their panzers against the Russian line, trying to break through from the northwest. Yesterday the Russians destroyed forty-two tanks -- making a total of five hundred and fifty-five in nine days. In the hills west and northwest of Budapest, the German drive is also slackening off, partly because of huge snowdrifts.

ADD RUSSIA

The Germans have ~~xxxx~~ by no means given up hopes of raising the siege of Budapest. ~~It be~~  
~~sure they will be raising the siege of a heap of~~  
~~ruins. Nevertheless, they are determined and putting~~  
~~up a most powerful fight. They claim they are~~  
~~approaching the capital from the north and from the~~  
~~northwest.~~ And at one point are only six miles away.  
*But* ~~So far~~ they have <sup>not</sup> penetrated the Russian ring  
~~xxxx~~ around the Hungarian capital.

## POLAND

The Lublin provisional government of Poland has already commenced the job of splitting up the big Polish estates among the small farmers, -- about seven hundred of those great estates between the Bug and the Vistula Rivers. ~~Before the war some of Poland was owned by a comparatively few people.~~ They are planning on doing the same thing in East Prussia and in Pomerania and Silesia.

So far they haven't touched any of the acreage held by the Church, although some Poles want all that divided up too. It looks as though that ticklish question will be held over until after the war.

Many famous names are among those likely to be dispossessed. One of them, Count Albert Potocki, whose brother was Polish Ambassador to Washington when Germany invaded his country. The Potocki family ~~■~~ owned twenty-six thousand acres, now divided among eight hundred odd families. And the big country house has been turned into a sanitarium, so we are told.



SPELLMAN

There has naturally been much interest in this country over reports from Switzerland that Archbishop Spellman of New York is to become Papal Secretary of State, succeeding the late Cardinal Maglione (Mahleeohnee), who died a short while ago. The Swiss newspapers claim to have the facts, based on the belief that the Pontiff would like to have his long time friend act as his personal observer at the peace conference, to follow the war.

However, the Vatican today denied the story.

## MANPOWER

We need a law for full national service, conscription in a big way, and there is no escaping it. War Secretary Stimson made that plain today. By July First, the draft boards will have to induct something like three hundred and thirty thousand men from farms and factories. What that can do to the national food supply seems ominous, but the upper officials and higher officers of the armed forces are unanimous that it is quite essential.

During the first half of this year, the fighting forces will need nine hundred and two thousand more men. This was told to the House Committee on Military Affairs by an officer of Selective Service. The only way to get those nine hundred and two thousand men is to take some of those who have been deferred for war work and agriculture.

~~Navy Under-Secretary Band, in a speech at the~~

GREECE

Here is a late bulletin from Athens, just off the wire. The civil war in Greece is over. Leaders of the ELAS the left wing Greek rebels, signed a truce with the British Army.

ARGOS

~~If you see something red in the city of  
Los Angeles today it is not the Soviet flag, or a  
pair of red flannel unmentionables, but the face  
of a Los Angeles County Supervisor. And thereby  
hangs a tale.~~ *Early in the war,*

*X* After the Nazis had over<sup>r</sup>run Greece, the  
Los Angeles Board of Supervisors felt awfully  
sympathetic towards the ~~sup~~ <sup>op</sup>pressed Hellenes  
seven thousand miles away. Supervisor Gordon  
McDonough pointing with pride to the wealth of Los  
Angeles county ~~with its oil wells~~ <sup>with its oil wells</sup> and movies, offered a resolution  
that the county adopt the ~~ancient~~ ancient city of  
Argos, Greece. With this went an undertaking to  
help pay for the rebuilding of the city after the  
liberation of Greece.

All this was almost two years ago, and the  
liberation of Greece appeared to be fairly remote and  
the promise a pretty sound one. So ~~xxxx~~ all the  
other supervisors ~~agreed~~ <sup>agreed</sup> and the resolution was  
adopted unanimously.



Today, the Los Angeles County ~~Board~~ Board of supervisors had a shock. It was contained in a letter from ~~axixkixkixkixkixkixkix~~ the Greek Ambassador to Washington, His Excellency Cimon Dimantopolous. And this is what he said: I would like to know; <sup>and</sup> the people of Argos would like to know, when Los Angeles County, is going to start to rebuild the city of Argos.

There fell a moment of silence such as I am told is seldom heard in the city of the Angels. An exceedingly pregnant silence. Then somebody remembered that former Supervisor Gordon McDonough is now Representative Gordon McDonough in Congress. That was the solution. Solemnly the Board of Supervisors ordered that the letter from the Greek Ambassador ~~should~~ <sup>be</sup> referred to Representative Gordon ~~McDonough~~ L. McDonough, member of Congress.

~~when I grew up in Colorado, a~~  
~~stunt like that was called passing the buck.~~  
That's passing the buck.  
And now I'll pass the buck to  
you Hugh.

CHILDREN

*taken out of fam. 11 bo.*

The Yanks in the occupied areas in Europe are having considerable trouble with German children. Youngsters, twelve, thirteen and fourteen, full of the Hitler spirit have become quite a serious menace with their sabatoge tricks. They throw sand into gasoline tanks, steal American weapons and ammunition, and cut communications. In fact, the damage done by these baby battalions ~~ixxix~~ has become so great that American officers have been faced with the necessity of making their parents responsible for their acts. Already five boys between the ages of twelve and fourteen have been arrested and are being held for military investigation. With them is one seventeen year old girl. They are all members of the Hitler Youth organization.

## TREE

In the fair city of Los Angeles, a citizen named William Wallace wanted to make a happy Christmas for his family, just like millions of other fond fathers. And what would Christmas be without a Christmas tree?

William Wallace had none in his own grounds, so he went into Elysian Park and cut down a beauty, a twelve foot tree of the best imported balsam from Nova Scotia. To be sure, it was the property of the City of Los Angeles, but William Wallace brought it home and set it up in the parlor, even as you and I.

But the openness of the procedure got him into trouble, and today William Wallace had to explain it to the judge. With tears in his eyes he told His Honor that he wanted a Christmas tree for the middies. The judge was about to believe him, when along came a probation officer and snitched on William Wallace, told the court that his kiddies were working at a

Lockheed plane plant. To that the Judge's answer was - forty-seven dollars and a half fine, and thirty days in prison, sentence suspended. For the forty-seven and a half he could have bought himself quite a handsome tree, even one twelve feet tall.

And now Hugh .....



P.I. - Standard. Thursday, Jan. 11, 1945.  
Sumoos.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

What news from the Philippines? Well, on Luzon, our patrols, in two days have pushed ahead more than twenty miles. This news came this afternoon. By now they probably are even further ahead.

Also, the invasion forces are still being ~~ix~~ disembarked, by the thousands. Reporters say the men are in magnificent shape, and equipped with every <sup>thing.</sup>

MacArthur, as you have heard, now holds the Lingayen Airdrome. And the Sixth Army left flank has pushed to a depth of nine miles; so we learn from a late bulletin.

Why the feeble Jap resistance? Well, our people apparently have advanced so fast that some have had to be told to slow up. Getting ahead of their communications and supplies.