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It was revealed in Washington today that an American task force has bearded the Jap right in the middle of his lair - that middle being Truk, the Number One Nipponese naval base. The task force steamed boldly into the heart of enemy waters, went all the way to the vicinity of Truk - in an effort to bring the Japanese fleet out for battle.

This was disclosed today by Captain John H. Cassady, who commanded the aircraft carrier SARATOGA which flat-top was part of the task force. The idea was to lure the Japs out, so that the United States fleet could bring on a big naval battle. The task force was, in the words of Captain Cassady, "sent up on guinea pig runs on Truk to get the Japs to poke their noses out."

But it was no go. The Japs refused to poke their noses out. With American warships in the

vicinity of Truk - the enemy fleet refused to do anything about it and stuck behind its powerful harbor defenses.

## SHIP

There is nothing the Japs love better than easy game - like some poor little lonely cargo vessel steaming along unprotected in dangerous waters. That's the kind of pitiful, pathetic target a squadron of Japanese bombers had on the sea north of New Guinea, and the Jap warplanes roared out of the sun ~~and~~ <sup>to</sup> gave the helpless, puny tub everything they had. And were they surprised, when the sitting pigeon turned into a blazing death trap of anti-aircraft fire! Five of the bombers, caught in a hurricane of shells, were shot down - and the rest fled.

So what was that little freight ship?

Well, it really wasn't anything more than an oceanic tramp, but its cargo consisted of a complete anti-aircraft battery, and the guns had been set up on the deck. ~~That was~~ <sup>Just</sup> a convenient place to stow them; and they were ready ~~just~~ in case.

## RUSSIA

The late war news from Russia tells of two Armies joining forces. A Red Army column driving from Cherkassy today made contact with another Soviet force based on Kremenchug.

It is a significant ~~bit of strategy~~ that Cherkassy and Kremenchug are rated as--bridgeheads. That is--they are <sup>places where</sup> Soviet units ~~They~~ <sup>d</sup> battle their way across the river Dnieper--in the concerted series of drives against the Nazi Armies in the great bend of ~~that~~ river. The <sup>tro</sup>ops that established the bridgeheads kept ~~pushing~~ on in a converging movement <sup>s</sup> towards each other, <sup>and</sup> now have joined up <sup>r</sup> in that tremendous Russian Offensive which has caused the Nazi High Command to decide that the entire huge salient of the bend of the Dnieper will ~~be~~ have to be evacuated. So reports ~~today~~ informed us today.



## CZECH AIRMEN

Here's a story of four Czech war fliers who are credited with having shot down a hundred and fifty-four planes. The catch is that the four Czech air heroes were on the Nazi side, the planes were Russian, and nobody shot down anything.

In Czechoslovakia, Nazi puppet authorities formed an air force among the subjugated people to help the ~~Nazis~~ <sup>Germans</sup> in Russia. And now we hear that a number of anti-Nazi Czechs joined up for the purpose of getting away - flying over to join the Russians.

TP Four of them did, and <sup>today they tell how</sup> ~~sell they~~ to increase their opportunities for escape, they established themselves as air heroes of the Nazis. They flew out and came back with tall tales about the Soviet aircraft they had shot down. On one occasion, they took off on a bombing mission, dropped their bombs in the sea, and then shot each other's planes full of holes. Whereupon they flew

back and reported they had been in a tremendous air battle and shot down four Russians. In this way they ran their total up to a hundred and fifty-four - and then found the safe opportunity to desert to the Soviets.

ITALY

In Italy, two Allied columns about which we heard last night, have joined forces - Canadians from this side of the water and Indian troops from far off Hindustan. Last night they were pictured as driving to form a junction, and this they succeeded in doing - according to the bulletin issued today.

*TP*  
~~The two columns had bridgeheads north of the Moro River, and in a converging movement they drove toward each other, and joined their bridgeheads to form a single broad front north of the stream. ~~the~~~~

Germans made what today's dispatch calls "stormy resistance", and some of the fiercest fighting of the war in Italy occurred before the Canadians and Indians were able to complete their maneuver.

Air action in the Mediterranean sector, struck at Nazi bases in Greece, with more than three hundred Flying Fortresses and Liberators

smashing bases in the vicinity of Athens. ~~The~~

*(The* ~~Nazis in that area are reported to have concentrated many units of air power, as protection against an expected invasion of the Balkans. All of which made the flying fields a string of major targets)~~ - targets

that were hit by what is described as "the heaviest air raid ever launched against the Balkans."



PATTON

Late today a Senate Subcommittee on ~~an~~ military affairs refused to O. K. the promotion of Lt. General

Patton. His rank of <sup>Lieut.</sup> ~~Br.~~ General is good only for the duration of the war, and the promotion turned down today concerned <sup>a permanent raise</sup> ~~the permanent rank~~ from Colonel to Major General, which would be good after the end of the war.

Technically the Subcommittee decided ~~to~~ <sup>merely to</sup> postpone action, on the promotion of the Seventh Army Commander who gained fame in the conquest of Sicily and then acquired notoriety in the striking of a shellshocked soldier.

This promotion was recommended by the War Department with Secretary of War Stimson admitting that General Patton had actually slapped two soldiers and verbally abused a third <sup>threateningly</sup> and with undue harshness," said the Secretary.

However, Senator Chandler of Kentucky states tonight that the action of the Subcommittee, in

rejecting the Patton promotion, was influenced by the possibility that the General may have figured in still ~~another~~ incidents. ) What sort of incidents?

Suspensions along that line are expressed today in the

Senate Debate with Langer of North Dakota asking a set of questions. ~~Senator Chandler~~ <sup>TP He</sup> wanted to know

about an alleged case of a soldier with swollen ankles.

<sup>he demanded,</sup>  
"When General Patton <sup>" " " " " "</sup>beated the soldier with swollen ankles whose leggings were off--did he pull out his

revolver?" And to that the Senator added the following

*astounding*

inquiry: "Is it true that eight soldiers near the

soldier slipped the safety catches on ~~the~~ their rifles

because Patton was so abusive <sup>to the soldier?"</sup> ~~xxxxxx~~ Which of course

raised the rather appalling suspicion that the eight

soldiers were of the mind to shoot the <sup>Lieut.</sup> ~~Gen.~~ General.

Another question propounded by the <sup>No. Dak.</sup> Senator gave

a hint of a bitter parody on General Patton's nickname,

"Old Blood and Guts." "Is it true, as letters from

soldiers indicate," ~~xxxxxx~~ demanded <sup>Sen.</sup> ~~Colonel~~ Langer,

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 "that the troops refer to him as--" Our blood and  
his guts?" <sup>(TP)</sup> Moreover, to complete the blistering  
 attack on the commander of the Seventh Army in the  
 conquest of Sicily, ~~the~~ <sup>Langer</sup> Senator gave voice to reports  
 published by columnist Drew Pearson--reports to the  
 effect that General Patton associated with pro-Vichy  
 Frenchmen. These accounts indicate that the United  
 States Army was unable to break up Patton's pro-Vichy  
 social circles and the British finally arrested one  
 member of the group who had been on intimate terms  
 with the German Armistice Commission in North Africa.)

And so the Subcommittee delayed action ~~on~~ the  
 promotion of General Patton. **But**, that wasn't all.  
 His name was on a list of recommended promotions,  
 and action on the whole list is delayed. Which  
 postpones the raising in rank of such officers as  
 General Wainwright, <sup>Bataan</sup> ~~Commander~~ <sup>now a prisoner</sup> of the Japs;  
 General Stilwell, United States  
 Commander in China; General Somervell, Army chief  
 of supplies; General McNarney who is being mentioned

PATTON--4

as acting chief of staff ~~when~~ <sup>if</sup> General Marshall takes  
command of the Second Front invasion; Generals  
Spaatz and Eaker, <sup>air</sup> commanders in Europe; and General  
Omar Bradley, one of our number-one commanders of  
ground ~~troops~~ <sup>troops</sup>. Their promotions are postponed as a  
result of ~~the~~ <sup>tonights'</sup> Senate Subcommittee action in delaying ~~the~~  
<sup>raising in rank</sup> ~~the promotion~~ of General Patton.



In the London Parliament today, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden continued the report to the Commons that he began yesterday - a report on the great conferences at Cairo and Teheran. He stated that no secret treaties or engagements had been formed among the four powers engaged in the conferences -- Great Britain, the United States, Soviet Russia and China. All was open and above board, with no secret commitments. <sup>So</sup> - stated Anthony Eden.

And ~~he~~ <sup>H</sup> gave the <sup>most emphatic</sup> ~~strongest~~ indication that the Teheran conference with Stalin pledged the strongest kind of British-American action in Europe - second front. And things are going to happen <sup>mightily soon.</sup> ~~in the very~~

~~near future.~~

~~"Military plans we laid down there -- at Teheran" <sup>said he,</sup> call for all our Allied resources in every~~

## FINLAND

It certainly sounds like an echo out of the past to find in today's news this item - "Finland pays up again." For years that northern Republic made an annual headline by putting cash on the line ~~with~~ when installments on its war debt fell due - all other nations having defaulted in making payments on the cash lent to them by the United States in the time of World War Number One. <sup>R</sup> Much of America's good-will toward Finland was based on the small Republic's fidelity in paying up. And, when Finland was attacked by the Soviets early during the European War, the United States granted a moratorium on the Finnish war debt. Later, Finland joined in the Nazi war against the Soviets, and got on the side of America's enemies. Nevertheless, last June the Finns resumed payments on their war debt to America, and today when another installment fell due -

Finland sent to the United States Treasury the amount due, ~~paying up~~ paying up. I guess you can call it an old Finnish custom.

PRESENTATION

L.T.:- And now I am asked to turn the microphone over for a moment to a delegation representing Motion Picture Daily, a publication that has to do not only with the movies, but also with radio.

--o--

C.W.:- Yes, Mr. Thomas, in behalf of Motion Picture Daily, we should like to tell of our annual poll of six hundred newspaper radio editors and columnists -- a poll including both the United States and Canada. These six hundred editors were asked to pick out champions in the various branches of the radio art. And this host of editors and columnists voted you tops in your field, on the air. The nation's leader.

--o--

L.T.:- Well, even six hundred distinguished editors and columnists could be wrong. But I'm not going to quarrel with them.

--o--

C.W.:- Well, in that case, since you don't object, mine is now the honor of presenting to you this scroll

in which Motion Picture Daily certifies that you are  
champion radio newsman for Nineteen Forty-three.

--o--

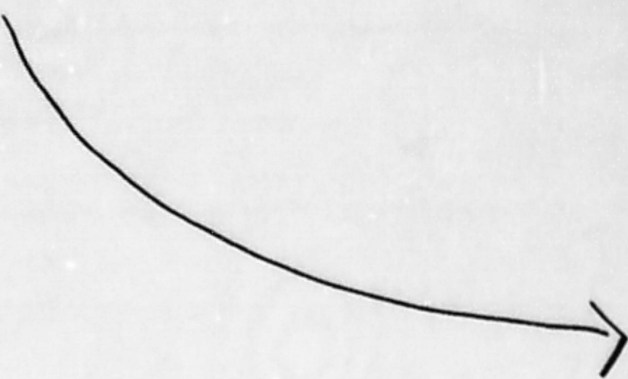
L.T.:- Thanks! And thanks again. *This* ~~all because it~~  
comes as a cheery send-off as I set forth on some  
travels -- heading west tomorrow. It's a good thing  
to push out across the country and get the feel of  
this entire continent occasionally; first-hand news  
of America in wartime; broadcasting from all sorts  
of places during a journey of ten or twelve thousand  
miles.

Tomorrow, an old friend, a famous war  
correspondent just back from Italy, will take my place  
for one night. You all know him, Quentin Reynolds.  
Then I'll pick up again the following night. But don't  
miss Quent. He's always like a refreshing breeze.



## RAIL STRIKE

There was prompt Government action in the face of the great railroad strike that was voted today. In Washington tonight the National Mediation Board called upon the railroad unions to meet with railroad management in conference on Monday. How effective such a conference will be is doubtful in the face of the apparent probability that the railroad will be tied up by a walk-out unless the Administration concedes the union wage demand or unless the Government takes over the operation of the railroads of the nation. The strike was voted today--



~~A big railroad strike was voted today -- to~~  
to begin December Thirtieth. This is announced by the Union officials of the five operating railroad brotherhoods -- the men who run the trains.

The railroad men have been demanding an increase of wages, and the War Labor Board granted them a raise of four cents an hour. This was rejected by the brotherhoods, and then the three-hundred-and-fifty thousand Union members were polled on the xx subject of a strike. The Union officials announced today that ninety-seven percent cast their ballots in favor of a walkout. ~~--- this to begin at six a.m. Eastern Wartime, on December Thirtieth.~~

~~Any big railroad strike is of the most ominous portent for this nation in wartime, rail transportation being so vitally needed for the shuttling of armament and troops.~~

NIMRODS

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At Hillsboro, Illinois, there are four mighty  
coon hunters - Harry Klepper, Bob Howard, and Earl and  
Roy Kinsella. They sallied out into the frosty woods  
last night - with their coon hunting dog, a hound famous  
all through the county for chasing the ~~snappy~~<sup>elusive</sup> racoon  
up a tree. The four hunters and the dog scouted around  
in the zero weather, looking for a coon to tree. But  
they never found one, and were getting tired ~~but the~~<sup>when</sup>  
~~dog got tired first~~ Something happened to that coon  
hunting hound, ~~and~~ He suddenly turned on the four  
hunters and drove them up a tree. There they stayed  
3/2 until dawn, just like four coons - only much colder.

Coon dog trees hunters.

~~The nearly frozen hunters then spent the rest of the day~~

~~drawing out.~~ And now here's <sup>Yes, Ambro</sup> ~~Ambr~~ <sup>Minim</sup> ~~Ambr~~ who  
4 never goes out on a limb.

The Russian war news tonight concentrates on the two sectors that have been the scene of dominating action for ~~two~~ days - the Russian <sup>salient</sup> ~~sector~~ in front of Kiev, and the great German bulge in the bend of the Dnieper. In the former, the heavy German attacks that have repeatedly gained ground have been <sup>reversed</sup> ~~reversed~~. And today the Red army reports gains instead of losses. Following the German capture of Radomisl, as announced yesterday, the Russians turned ~~to~~ ~~counter-thrust~~ and recaptured several towns.

The critical place for the German salient in the bend of the Dnieper is that town called Cherkassy, which the Red army captured day before yesterday, - threatening to cut in behind and encircle the huge German force in the Dnieper Bend. There the Nazis have reacted with heavy counter-thrusts, but these were beaten back, says Moscow,



and the Russians improved their positions.

Moscow has been saying for days that the Bend of the Dnieper is likely to turn into one huge <sup>and</sup> ~~big~~ disastrous trap for the Germans. And today ~~their~~ from Swedish sources we hear that the Hitler high command has ordered the evacuation of the Bend - get out while the getting out is good, if it still is.

While today's Moscow news confines itself to Kiev and the Dnieper, the German war dispatches ~~have~~ a lot more scope. Berlin tells in a confused way of intense Russian activity all along the line from Leningrad to the south, with the Russians on the offensive at many points.

Quite a few lines of business are having a boom, and right out in the front line of these is - the map business. ~~Which is no surprise hearing that the map makers are busier than they have ever been before, a regular cartographical bonanza.~~ <sup>TP</sup> In this country, since the outbreak of the European war, they have turned out fifty million maps.

~~"We have never seen anything like it," said a~~  
explained:-  
A Rand-McNally manager today, ~~"We are oversold on globes and atlases, and printed color-map sales have more than doubled since peace time."~~

~~He explained~~ that the boom follows the headlines, ~~with big war news urging people to procure maps.~~

And this is particularly true when a new theatre of American operations is opened. During the past few months, Italy has led on the sales list, and right now the talk of a second front invasion has pushed maps of Europe to

the head of the selling ~~column~~.

Much of the business is done with the government, and that provides an interesting angle.

"Sometimes," said the Atlas manager, "we can guess from government orders where the next hot spot may be."

In many a line of business with ~~the~~ a war boom, it is feared that there will be a slump when peace comes back again. But the map-makers have no such

~~apprehensions,~~ <sup>— say the Hammond people,</sup> ~~Quite to the contrary — they believe that~~

~~the end of the war will hoist the map business for still~~

~~another boom. How come?~~ <sup>The big map man</sup> ~~The Rand-McNally manager~~ put it

in these words: "The minute the great powers have mapped the world's future, new presses will start rolling everywhere."

I'll bet he's right - just wait, <sup>(till)</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>for the</sup> peace conference ~~to come, and~~ starts <sup>to</sup> reshape nations, scramble borders, and fix and fiddle around with frontiers! ~~and~~ We certainly will be needing new maps.



respect. And," he went on, "it is going to take all our energies to fulfill the demands which will be made on us in the very near future."

With President Roosevelt returning to Washington, it is believed that plans signed and sealed at the conferences will be announced and put into effect - plans concerning the United Nations' military command, for example. These have been widely rumored for quite a while, and presumably include the appointment of General Marshall to the post of ~~the~~ commanding general of the Allied attack in western Europe. We hear that when he takes over that fighting job abroad, General Marshall will retain his post as army chief of staff - though he will transfer most of his staff duties to an acting chief. The acting chief will probably be Lieutenant General McNarney.



The date of President Roosevelt's return to Washington is a military secret, but the word around the national capital today was that the official announcement of the changes in military command will be made very soon.

JUGOSLAVIA

In the mountains of the Balkans, the Yugoslav Partisans under Marshall Tito report a striking success - in a drive that has smashed its way to the important port of Zara. The Partisans apparently were supported by Allied air power, and the Nazis suffered what the dispatch calls - "a heavy defeat with great losses."

London believes that Tito <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ launching a counter-attack against a German force, driving inland from Zara - because the latest news has been a consistent picture of powerful German units engaged in a sweep to force the Partisans from the seacoast back into the mountains.

when they grabbed Singapore.

General MacArthur tells us that an invasion force of the American Sixth Army landed on a peninsula ~~out~~ <sup>putting</sup> out from New Britain Island, a peninsula called Arawe. There was terrible fighting in which many of our soldiers made the ultimate ~~sacrifice~~ sacrifice. The spearhead of the invasion was a force of Commandoes. One of these <sup>was</sup> ambushed and almost half of them wiped out. However, as a consolation, the Japanese force that wiped them out was itself ~~annihilated~~ annihilated. It stirs us to learn that the soldiers of the Sixth Army who stormed ashore at Arawe were led by a group of fighting Texans. One of them carried that flag that means so much to the fellows of Texas, the Lone Star flag.

The upshot of it all is, so far, that the Sixth Army of the United States has a beachhead on New Britain,

a firm and solidly established beachhead, *270 miles from the Jap base at Rabaul.*

They have rubbed out all the Japs from the Arawe peninsula, and at latest reports they were still barging on, wiping out Niponese gun nests as they advanced.

It stands to reason that an invasion of this ~~xxx~~ magnitude -- and it is a major operation -- was launched by a big American naval task force.

Naturally, our high command does not tell us much *number of* about the aircraft carriers, battleships and cruisers *on the Arawe peninsula.* which protected that landing. But we are told positively that no warships and no planes were lost, ~~in that landing on the Arawe peninsula.~~

Of course this is only a beginning. It is the sort of beginning the Japs made two years ago when they started their steady crawl down the Malay peninsula, which ended in the capture of Singapore. We have that



beachhead <sup>at</sup> ~~on~~ Arawe ~~peninsula~~, and from there we

are going to the capture of Rabaul.

It will be a long hard fight, a bigger battle than we have yet attempted in the Pacific.