

In the Pacific, Admiral Nimitz is bringing the war closer to the Japanese homeland. Yesterday, large formations of our carrier-based planes attacked not only Formosa but also the island of Okinawa, which is even closer to Tokyo. For two days in succession now, an American task force has attacked those islands.

Okinawa is the principal island of the Ryukyu group, three hundred and sixty miles east of Formosa.

The Japanese say there were no fewer than four hundred American planes in the raids. Tokyo believes that this is preliminary to new landings by MacArthur in the Philippines. And the Japs say that not only Nimitz carrier-based planes were in on the raid, but also land-based B-29s.

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By the way, the B-29 raid on Nagoya yesterday appears to have been successful. As the big bombers left, the fliers observed huge fires from the Mikado's war plants -- smoke billowing up to twelve thousand feet.

The Japanese say four more B-29s, on reconnaissance were over Nagoya again today.

The Tokyo radio prophesies that the Japanese will soon be using rocket bombs against us in the Pacific. It quotes an enemy scientist as reporting the development of not only rockets but electric wave weapons which, it says, will be a decisive factor in the war of the Pacific.

BURMA

The capture of Wanting, on the Salween, in Burma, will enable the Allies to use that Ledo Road we've heard so much about. Fleets of new American trucks are mobilized at the foot of the Himalayas, all set to start at any moment, to rush supplies to China. The director of the newly created Chinese War Transport Board says the only delay now will be a few repairs to ~~the~~ this military road.

The Chinese on the Salween River fought for eight days to capture Wanting, and we hear they are chasing the remnants of the beaten Japanese toward the South.

PHILIPPINES FOLLOW PACIFIC

And here is a bit of encouragement from the Philippines. General MacArthur reports the sinking of fifteen Japanese ships in the Gulf of Lingayen and Subig Bay, on the western coast of the island of Luzon, at the upper end of the Bataan Peninsula. Lingayen is about eighty miles north of Subig. In addition to sinking the fifteen, MacArthur's planes damaged severely fifteen more. This haul includes twenty-five freighters and transports, a seaplane carrier, three naval escorts, and a coastal vessel.

AIRMEN

During an air raid on the Philippines, a big Liberator caught fire. Ten of the crew bailed out, into the sea. The Jap Zeros who had set the big bomber afire, machine-gunned the men in the water and killed two.

The survivors floated around in their Mae West life jackets, for hours until a Navy bomber dropped a rubber raft onto which the four climbed. The airmen soon were out of fresh water: The salt water spoiled all of their rations except a few cans of cheese on which they survived for eleven days. After that, they had nothing to eat but birds and fish, which they caught with their bare hands. One of them grabbed a three hundred pound bluefish, but couldn't haul it onto the raft because he was too weak.

These lads put in thirty-three days on that rubber raft, during which period they spotted no fewer than five enemy submarines, one of which came within fifty yards of them and failed to spot them.

On the thirty-third day, sighting an island four hundred miles from the point where they had bailed out, they were so weak it took them ten hours to paddle ashore. Then, with the aid of friendly natives they finally were returned to their own people.

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And now we return to our sponsor for a moment. Hugh, tell us about Stan. of Calif. before I go on with today's home news and news from Europe.

WESTERN FRONT

The American First Army ~~has been~~ on the march again. The German advance had left some of von Rundstedt's divisions exposed on the flanks of the bulge. Evidently, the enemy expected the blizzard weather, ~~which prevailed,~~ to protect them. But General Hodges attacked at ~~the crack of~~ dawn, through blinding snow, his doughboys dressed in white to make them invisible and achieved a complete surprise. It was the worst weather of the whole winter, but six spearheads advanced across the ravines of the Ardennes Forest, and penetrated the Nazi lines for a distance of three and a half to five miles.

They were attacking some of ^{Von Rundstedt's} ~~the finest of the~~ ^{best, who} German troops, and they, although taken by surprise, rallied quickly and fell back in good order.

According to reports from the front, our high command has hopes that this counterattack will be the decisive action in ^{the} ~~that~~ battle on the Western Front

One correspondent compares this operation to a familiar football play, the old stolen ball trick. Von Rundstedt had thrown a heavy counterattack against Patton's Third Army on the south flank of the bulge, and Hodges picked that moment to sneak up and attack on the north side and seize the initiative.

There was no concealing the fact that it is a terrifically tough battle. The ^{Americans} ~~rough~~ ^{are} fighting over ~~a~~ ^{some wild} ~~crazy-quilt~~ ^{of} hills, some of ~~them~~ fifteen hundred feet high, with narrow gorges and ravines. ~~These are~~ almost impassable for tanks.

The censorship at Allied headquarters is exceedingly cautious. But through it all we gather the admission that on the southern end of the line, in Alsace, the Seventh Army under General Patch, has given up its foothold in Germany ~~entirely~~ and in some places ^{has} retreated as far as the old Maginot Line. In fact, at one point

they have withdrawn ~~even~~ west of that line, and have given up the French frontier city of Wissembourg, the key to the Wissembourg Gap.

It has been inferred from what ~~the~~ Allied spokesmen said, that all this occurred several days ago, and was part of the operation to prepare for the attacks by Patton and Hodges on the bulge. *The word is that* ~~But~~ now the advance of the Germans in the Alsatian plains is being checked.

Here on the home front a loud complaint was expressed today about the character of the censorship. It was a complaint that the authorities are keeping the truth from us. Frederick C. Crawford of Cleveland, Ohio, former President of the National Association of Manufacturers, has just ^{returned} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ from a visit to all the liberated countries of Europe. Speaking at New York today ~~XXXXXX~~ he reported that American correspondents in France had told him that from what they had heard it appeared that Americans

must be told only polly-anna stuff and then he asked "why aren't the American people told the truth, why can't we be realistic." Then he pointed out "our people are at their best in adversity"; and so ~~we~~ say all of us.

One Nazi buzz bomb made quite a hit with a group of Uncle Sam's infantrymen -- eight men of the Second Signal Company of the Second Infantry Division.

These lads put in a full day hiding in the cellar of a house in Belgium -- a house occupied by the Germans. All day long nothing happened. Then along toward evening the boys crept out. And, just as they left the house, a V-One fell on it, blew it to smithereens, and killed the Germans.

After this, the Americans lost their way in a wood, and they might have wandered back into the German lines had it not been that more buzz bombs were roaring over their heads, their flaming tails lighting the way home for those eight signal corps men who like buzz bombs.

The Allied high command expects another blow on the Western Front from von Rundstedt. So we may judge from Secretary for War Stimson's remarks. The Secretary told reporters today that the German commander is keeping a big reserve near the place where he broke through recently. He thinks the Nazis will do anything to prevent Eisenhower from recovering any of the ground he has lost. ~~And~~ And that, said Mr. Stimson, is the real purpose of the German counter-attacks in the Saar.

As for those German claims of heavy U. S. casualties, with fifty thousand of our men captured, the War Secretary explained that it will be some time before we have the exact figures.

RUSSIA

In western Hungary, the Germans attempted a heavy counterattack against the Red armies, trying to drive ~~them~~ through to the rescue of the garrison in Budapest. So far the Russians have taken all the Nazis had, and have thrown them back. At the outset of the battle, they destroyed one hundred and seventy one ~~seventy-eight~~ German tanks and ~~fifty-eight~~ ^{seventy} planes. And Moscow claimed ³ ~~ed~~ that the Army of the Ukraine had ⁵ broken the back of that Nazi counterattack. However, not one but several tank battles are still going on southeast of the Danube, and there is evidence ^{that} ~~to believe~~ the Germans will try again and again to cut through the wall which the Red Army maintains west of Budapest, a wall, thirty-one miles wide, of Soviet soldiers. There are ~~over~~ eighty thousand Nazis left in the garrison of Budapest. While that was going on, the rest of the ^{hundreds} divisions in Budapest took ~~two hundred and seventy-seven~~ more blocks ~~away~~ from the Nazis. The city is in ruins and ^{tens of} ~~hundreds of~~ thousands of civilians have taken refuge in

the cellars, trying to avoid the cross-fire of Russian and German artillery. Even before the Red divisions had come close to the Hungarian capital, the Nazis shipped out all the food reserves. ^{So} The civilian population ^{is} ~~is~~ ^{reported to be} ~~consequently, is just~~ starving.

The Russians ^{now hold} ~~have~~ the city park of Pest, also the old city cemetery, and in Buda they have the base of their cogwheel railroad and have surrounded the garrison in the citadel.

ADD RUSSIA

The Moscow correspondent for the United Press stood on the bank of the Vistula today only three hundred yards from the German lines in the ruins of the city of Warsaw. He reports an enormous concentration of Russian and Polish divisions are all ready for the big mid-winter attack on the Nazi front in Poland. The battle of Warsaw will soon recommence, and will be one of the bloodiest we have ever heard of.

BRITAIN

John Bull and Uncle Sam are at it again. Last week it was those acid comments made by The Economist, a paper in London -- a Tory paper. Today there was more of it -- in the Tribune, a weekly magazine that speaks for the Left Wing.

If we can't stand some plain talk on international matters, we'd better go back into our hole until we are fit to enter the comity of nations, said this British Left Wing sheet. Then it went on to say that the blame for all the present misunderstanding is due to the secret diplomacy practiced between Roosevelt, Stalin and Churchill. The British paper adds: "We can now see that the truth was concealed from us not because it might be an advantage to the enemy, but because it was too disreputable to stand the light."

The London editor speaks of growing tired of the American commentators who speak about Yankee intervention in two world wars as evidence of altruism. "International cooperation," added the Tribune, "is not a gift of American magnanimity, but a necessity of world life."

There is no denying there is a decidedly unhealthy situation growing up between us at this crucial stage in this most terrible of all wars.

Prof Pearson wrote to the effect that the difference of opinion between President Roosevelt and the British government over the amount of food to be sent to the Italians. Pearson, in his column, published a memorandum from Downing Street to Washington, a memorandum in which the British were supposed to have said that the failure of the United States to adopt the British position would have far-reaching consequences for the whole settlement of Europe.

Secretary Stettinius didn't like that, said its publication was unauthorized and most regrettable. And he added that he was investigating to find out how the contents of the memorandum leaked out.

But the main burden of the Secretary's

Present relations between our British cousins and ourselves evoked a statement from Secretary of State Stettinius today. The Secretary was rather nettled by a Drew Pearson story to the effect that there was a difference of opinion between President Roosevelt and the British government over the amount of food to be sent to the Italians. Pearson, in his column, published a memorandum from Downing Street to Washington, a memorandum in which the British were supposed to have said that the failure of the United States to adopt the British position would have far reaching consequences for the whole settlement of Europe.

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STETTINIUS FOLLOW BRITAIN - 2

announcement today was that the United States and Britain basically agree and are both anxious to help the Italian people to begin reconstruction.

They also add that
The Senator says
that these men should be used in the
family lines, and it would be the best.

Senator Ellinger, a member of the Senate War
Investigation Committee, has been studying the manpower
situation for a long time. He thinks that the new
program being by Mobilization Director Brown will have
a good effect. Other critics point out that, for one thing,
the kind of people now employed in horse racing will be
of no use in other war effort areas or any
of industries, or in fact, anywhere in the world except
around horses.

MANPOWER

The blame for the shortage of manpower belongs at least partly to the Army and Navy, says ~~United States~~ Senator ~~Harley~~ ^{Then he adds that} Kilgore of West Virginia. [^] The high command has flagrantly misused men already in uniform. Lots of them, fit for combat duty, ~~are~~ doing non-combatant work. ^{The Senator says} ~~This~~ [^] those not fit for combat should be used in the supply lines, and at bases here and abroad.

Senator Kilgore, as a member of the Senate War Investigation Committee, has been studying the manpower situation for a long time. He doubts that the new ~~measures taken by Mobilization Director Byrnes will have much effect. Other critics point out that, for one thing, the kind of people now employed in horse racing will be of precious little use in either the armed forces or any war industries, or, in fact, anywhere in the world except around horses.~~

PETRILLO

The taxpayers of Chicago learned today that for twelve years they have been paying the salaries of two detectives whose only work was to serve as bodyguards for James Caesar Petrillo, President of the American Federation of Musicians. Petrillo obtained his bodyguard, at the public expense, in Nineteen Thirty-Two. It has been no secret that he had this escort, but until today we did not know that it was on the cuff, so to speak, the public cuff.

However, it ^{is} too late for the people of Chicago to protest, should they so feel inclined, since this only comes to light because the Chicago Police Commissioner has taken Petrillo's protectors away from him, ~~ordered~~^{ordered} them to report back ~~for~~^{to} work.

MURDER

Forty years ago, a schoolmaster named Walter O. Smith, at Fairmount, West Virginia, thrashed one of his pupils, a boy named Male. The boy's father went to the school and protested, whereupon, so he said, the schoolmaster attacked him. *The latter father* had a grubbing hoe in his hand at the time and defended himself, the result of the encounter being the death of the schoolmaster.

Last week a seventy-three year old resident of Sauvales Island, off the coast of Oregon, went to the sheriff and said he was Benjamin Franklin Male, the man who had killed that school teacher forty years ago. He said his reason for confessing was, that at the age of seventy-three he wanted to end his remaining years in the West Virginia hills, where he was born.

The Oregon sheriff did not arrest him; *he simply* put him on his honor to go back to West Virginia all alone. The sheriff's report took the West Virginia law authorities by surprise. The original indictment had

been lost, so a grand jury was impanelled to return a new one. The seventy-three year old Benjamin Franklin

Male last night said good-bye to his friends and neighbors on the island ^{Off our west Coast} and will board a train for West Virginia tomorrow.

CHAPLIN

In the Chaplin case, a hung jury! The seven women and five men in the box just could not agree. It is interesting to learn that on every ballot the voting was seven to five in favor of Chaplin; still more interesting that of the seven women, six were for Chaplin all along.

The lawyer for Miss Barry ^{is} ~~was~~ furious, ^{— says he'll} ~~but said he would~~ ask for a new trial. He talked about the women on the jury as throwing rocks at the baby. ^P One juror told

reporters that Chaplin came within an ace of losing when his lawyer compared him to ^{the Savior!} ~~Jesus Christ~~.

And now, Hugh, something to calm us down — I hope!