

MacArthur has put it over on the Japs again. He organized a surprise landing on Panay Island, an island whose name is associated with ~~the~~ dramatic sinking of Uncle Sam's ^{gunboat} ~~warship~~ Panay, by the Japs ^{several years ago.} ~~before we were actually at war.~~ The

~~Yanks of~~ The Fortieth Infantry Division of the Eighth Army landed at a place called Tigbauan, fourteen miles west of the island capital. ~~of~~

~~It~~ It was a typical operation, guns of a battle fleet ~~it~~ blasting the daylights out of the Japanese installations with the ~~the~~ support of a

MacArthur's men strong force of airplanes. ~~The Yanks~~ got their beach head with the loss of hardly a man, ^{then} drove inland along the coast, and in a few hours, ~~four~~ ^{they} miles inland captured two towns.

Panay is the sixth largest island in the Philippines. MacArthur's ~~Yanks~~ ^{men} already have a beach head of twenty eight square miles and are advancing fast upon the capital of the island. ^{TP} As for the battle of Luzon, the foot soldiers of the Forty-third

Division have captured Tanay twenty two miles to the south east of Manila and are less than a mile away from Pantay seventeen miles east. They ^{are} ~~have~~

~~definitely~~ broken ~~that~~ strong Japanese line called the Shambu Line, ^{by which they were trying to} ~~protecting the east~~ ^{side} of Luzon.

MacArthur has also occupied a ^{small} ~~little~~

island called Mamamaui, ~~a small spot~~ ~~xxxx~~ off the south coast of Mindanao, ~~but necessary to protect the Yanks on Mandanao.~~

PACIFIC

Our air attack on Japan has been stepped up again. Early this morning, some three hundred and fifty B-29s carried out another big attack on the heart of Nagoya, laying waste a large area of the city; more than two square miles. While the ashes were still smoldering, hundreds upon hundreds of our carrier planes attacked the aircraft plants on Shikoku Island and the factory district of Osaka

and Kobe, also Kure, one hundred and sixty miles west of Kobe.) Kobe is one of the most strongly fortified ~~places~~ *cities* on the Japanese mainland.

Only last Wednesday, more than three hundred B-29s hit Osaka, and on Saturday they paid a ruinous visit to Kobe.

The destruction at Nagoya is particularly important because it's there the Japs make almost fifty percent of their combat planes, and motors.

The Japs themselves announce that a large number of our medium bombers, probably Mitchell B-25s, attacked Hachijo in the Izu group of islands only a hundred and eighty miles ~~sak~~ south of Tokyo. ~~ixthix~~

The attack on Kure as described by Admiral ~~Chester W.~~ Nimitz was a particularly important job at the solar plexus of Japan. It is there that the Mikado's Navy has built its biggest naval base with an arsenal making aircraft engines ~~plants~~, also a big electric steel furnace, and an imperial navy yard.

~~If that be true, they must be operating from our
new air strips on Iwo Jima.~~

The enemy radio also reported that large numbers of American undersea boats are moving north through the East China Sea to join up with a task force.

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The Tokyo radio claims they've sunk one of our aircraft carriers, also one large vessel that could either be a carrier or a battleship, another that is either a battleship or cruiser, and two destroyers, -- plus damage to a carrier. Other reports from Tokyo carried the wild claim of damage to seven carriers and two unidentified ships. On this we hear nothing xx from our side. Except that our own subs have sunk fifteen more Jap vessels, raising our total bag since Pearl Harbor to one thousand and seventy-two. The latest haul included three destroyers, two Jap escort ships, one large cargo ship, and one big tanker. Our subs, we hear, have been sinking Jap ships at the rate of more than one a day.

It's all over on Iwo Jima tonight. That is, the Tokyo radio ~~admits~~ admits that the last Japanese fighter on the island has been wiped out. Thus ending the bloodiest toughest battle of the whole Pacific war.

There are a few left in Masabiki itself, and along the coast from Masabiki to Utsunomiya. With the exception of Fort Dufferin, in Masabiki, holding out.

Now H - lets hear from Stan. or Calif.

BURMA

The British seem to be getting in more and more of a hurry to mop up the Japs in Burma. The latest is that the Japs have only some fifty thousand troops left in Burma, most of them south of Mandalay now.

There are a few left in Mandalay itself, and along the road from Mandalay to Lashio. With the garrison, at Fort Dufferein, in Mandalay, holding out.

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WESTERN FRONT

Action, and lots of it, on the Western Front. With the First Army driving northward from ~~Rhin~~ Remagen, to a place called Obercassel, ten miles down the river - almost directly across the Rhine from Bonn. The drive into Obercassel was the aftermath of yesterday's battle when Hodges' northbound divisions broke through the German lines and the hills rimming the bridgehead on the north.

Other units under General Hodges with tanks and infantry have been pushing along the Rhine.

What effect has the collapse of the Ludendorf bridge had? Well, our bridgehead is now nineteen miles wide and eight miles deep; and our fighting men control seven-and-a-half miles of that super-highway from Cologne to the Ruhr.

All this while General Patton, with his tanks, is bringing his encirclement of the Nazis in the Saar basin to a climax. Patton's armor rolled at ~~high~~ high

speed in a dozen different directions, cutting the Germans into five pockets. Right now they are only sixty miles from a junction with the French First Army, on the Rhine. Between a hundred-and-eighty-thousand and two-hundred-and-twenty-five thousand American fighting men, at the Front, are pounding away at the Germans, including seven tank divisions.

Patton's tanks and foot soldiers swept down on at least fifty more German towns today. The strategic purpose of Patton's operations now is to cut off the German bridges at Mainz, Worms, Ludwigshafen-Mannheim, Speier and Germersheim. The idea being to trap eighty thousand Germans who are in the Saar basin; then send tanks in to cut them to pieces. At Mainz alone are four big bridges. It's reported that the Germans have destroyed these, since a late bulletin reports that the advance guard of Patton's tanks are less than ten miles from Mainz. Mainz, on an elbow of the Rhine, at its confluence with the River Main, is easily cut off.

From there it is only a short distance to Frankfurt-on-Main, and the famous watering places in the Taunus Hills.

At Worms, there is a double track highway bridge and another for the railroad. Worms is an old German cathedral city where the Diet of the Holy Roman Empire used to convene sometimes.

As for the French First Army, it has been throwing a new armored division and a force of African soldiers at the Germans on the Alsace Plain. Headquarters announces that the Germans there are in full retreat toward the Rhine, in Alsace.

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Wissenbourg, a key fortress on the Siegfried Line, is liable to fall almost any hour. The Seventh Army under General Patch is outflanking the place from the northwest, and the Thirty-sixth division is attacking from the south.

All in all, this appears to have been a spectacular day on the Western Front, with our tanks rolling as fast and as far afield as they did through

France after the capture of St. Lo.

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The last nest of Nazis in Coblenz has been wiped out. The Third Army now has control of a hundred miles of the Rhine, from a point north of Coblenz all the way south to Bingen -- "Bingen, Bingen on the Rhine." One U.P. correspondent reports enthusiastically that it's entirely possible that all the German defenses west of the Rhine may collapse completely within the next ~~in~~ forty-eight hours.

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An order promulgated in Berlin tonight gives a hint of the state of mind in Germany, as a result of Allied victories and heavy bombing from vast air fleets. The Nazis have cancelled all army leaves and ordered compulsory registration of refugees. They also are urging civilians to inform the police ~~about~~ about all deserters from the army or from labor battalions.

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And this ~~is~~ is interesting:- The Berlin radio warns the people of the Reich not to rely any more

on the hope that they will be saved by quarrels
among the Allies!

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Stettin, now in its twelfth day, say they are still
holding a bridgehead, twenty-five miles beyond, on the
Oder River.

Zhukov has thrown three armies into this
battle, and Berlin admits he has denied their lines, and
that great batteries of Russian guns are bombarding Stettin
night and day, hundreds of big cannon keeping the
garrison under a non-stop fire.

Moscow reports that the Polish First and
Second Armies have joined up with Zhukov's First White
Russian Army.

As for the other great Baltic ports of Danzig
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EASTERN FRONT

Nothing dramatic from the Eastern Front tonight. The news in fact all comes from Berlin.

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As for the other great Baltic ports of Danzig and Gdynia, the Russians there are attacking with ten more armies, with the German navy joining in the battle,

standing off shore and shelling the Russians.

In the south, Konev's First Army of the Ukraine is attacking with greater violence in the southern part of Silesia. This is evidently an attempt to break through the mountain passes leading to Vienna.

PROPHECY

A colonel of the Red Army prophesied today that a simultaneous blow of stupendous force, a blow from many different directions, will be ~~xxxx~~ thrown against the Nazis by the Allies, soon. The end of which would be the joining of the Allied armies, somewhere in central Germany.

NURSES

War Secretary Stimson today asked again for more nurses -- this time asking for an Act of Congress to draft them. The House has passed a bill, and the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate today is hearing witnesses on the subject. The Secretary for War told the Senators that a serious shortage of military nurses exists now.

The House bill provides for the drafting of all unmarried nurses between the ages of twenty and forty-four; and all those married after March fifteenth.

FOOD

A committee of Senators to make a thorough investigation of the food situation. And the Senate was unanimous in voting to authorize this -- to look into every phase of production and distribution of food.

At the same time, a resolution was offered in the House providing for a similar investigation by Representatives.

Last Friday, the President told us that we must be prepared to tighten our belts -- for a long time to come, so we can feed the people of Europe. Republican congressmen are now suggesting that the President clarify his policy so they may decide whether to support him. Lemké of North Dakota was of the opinion that the people around the President are ~~mis~~ misinforming him. Others asked why, instead of cutting down on those at home, why Uncle Sam doesn't buy some of the food surpluses piled up in South America and send ^{them} ~~it~~ to Europe.

The American Meat Institute at Chicago issued a statement today that before the crisis is over,

members of the armed services will feel the pinch as well as civilians. In many parts of the country, said the Institute, the shortage of meats almost amounts to a famine. And, the Meat Institute blames the government; saying it's partly due to price controls which do not take into consideration the prices paid for livestock, also regulations that discourage feeders from fattening cattle; all of which has brought about an uncontrolled, extensive black market in all kinds of meat.

From London we hear today that the British are about to cut the meat rations so that every person will have only one portion of meat a week.

STRIKE

There seems to be a difference of opinion over the progress of that strike in Hollywood. The pickets declare the studios could not last another week. The producers retorted that this ~~was~~^{is} obviously rubbish, because they are still "shooting."

~~Of course~~ The strikers are at a disadvantage because it's really a strike against another union, *hence* consequently, a great many of the studio employees are not with them. The producers today did ^{not} have to answer their own telephones, because the office workers came back to their jobs, also the press agents, three hundred of them, and story writers. But the Screen Writers Guild are going to take a ~~f~~ vote late tonight to decide whether or not they will join the walkout. Secret ballots are coming in by mail.

CRIME

The law enforcing authorities expect a formidable crime wave after the war. Attorney General Biddle reported to Congress today that the Department of Justice is making plans to expand the federal prisoners and improve their facilities so as to take care of the increase of prisoners which are expected.

Well, the latest is that the Liquor Control

Commission, in the State of Michigan, has followed

Mayor La Guardia's lead in giving Michigan a one-hour

prohibition in 1934.

War Mobilization Director Byrnes states today

that the government has refused the midnight curfew

without the support of local officials. Nevertheless,

he stands by his original request.

has it in curfew for us

CURFEW

Yesterday afternoon, as I expect you've heard, Mayor LaGuardia said he had decided that a midnight curfew was a public nuisance, causing a transportation problem, headaches to the police, and general disorder. And then he announced that the New York police would do nothing to those who keep open until one a.m.

Well, the latest is that the Liquor Control Commission, in the State of Michigan, has followed Mayor La Guardia's lead -- giving Michigan a one-hour extension in time.

War Mobilization Director Byrnes states today that the government can not enforce the midnight curfew without the support of local officials. Nevertheless, he stands pat, on his original request.

now H - curfew for us!

PHILIPPINES

Near Manila the Sixth and Forty-third Divisions have been ^{meeting} ~~meeting~~ some stiff resistance. For almost a month the Japs have been holding the so-called Shimbur Line, east of Manila. MacArthur's men have driven deep wedges into it, and have pushed around the southern flank of the enemy, but still the Nips hold on.

The Sierra Madre range where this fighting has been going on has little, if any, strategic importance. But the Japs are stubborn -- evidently determined to die.

PHILIPPINES.

A late Bulletin from MacArthur announces that

he has carried out another amphibious operation.

This time ~~the tanks have~~^{we've} landed on the island of Panay
in the Philippines.

MOTHER

A singularly grim tragedy of war-times occurred yesterday at Salem, Massachusetts. For months a thirty-seven year old woman has been worrying about the safety of her eighteen year old son, a seaman in Uncle Sam's Navy. Her worry rose to the pitch where she drowned herself in the harbor. Almost an hour later, her son telephoned from New York, saying that he was on leave, on his way home.

CAPISTRANO

Almost everybody on the Pacific Coast knows the song When the Swallows Come Back to Capistrano. ^{well,} ~~that~~ that old California legend was verified again today. ~~Yes~~ This was St. Joseph's Day and hundreds of the little birds came swooping down at dawn and started rebuilding the nests they left last summer.

It is a picturesque legend and more than a legend because this has happened every March nineteenth within the memory of the oldest priest. ~~and devoted to the Holy Spirit~~ In fact, since the intrepid Franciscans first established that famous mission and made it an outpost of civilization in the west, one of the great way stations in the highway known as El Camino Real, the highway of the King.

The Monks of Capistrano greeted the arrival of the swallows with their usual thanksgiving service, for the coming of the birds means the salvation of the crops in Orange County California.