

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

In the Philippines, American land-based air power reached out for its longest blow thus far. Sallying from Philippine bases against Japanese ships in the Lingayan Gulf. The Lingayan Gulf is off northern Luzon. And is two hundred and fifty miles from newly invaded Mindoro Island and four hundred and fifty miles from conquered Leyte. That gives an idea of the length of the aerial penetration accomplished by MacArthur's planes. And it was a penetration in force --with swarms of planes striking in concerted action.

In Lingayan Gulf, the results were impressive. Eight enemy ships were sunk. These included three transports, two cargo vessels., and two warships -- destroyers. The aerial assault went on for two days, and was made by all types of planes - stepping up in a big way the Philippine based air war against the Japs on Luzon.

While this was going on, Japan itself was hit

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again -- with superfortresses making a fire attack on Tokyo.

Three B-29's unloaded cargoes of incendiary bombs on the Japanese capital. These were based on Saipan, while two others, which took off from China flew to the big Kagoshima naval base in southwestern Japan.

And, meanwhile, Iwo Jima was hit again. <sup>today</sup> That enemy base in the volcano islands was bombed for the twenty-fourth consecutive time.

At Pearl Harbor, Admiral Nimitz today issued a message for the New Year, in which he stated that we will have to invade Japan itself. The Admiral expressed the belief that the Japs will fight to the last ditch and peace will not come until American troops are in control of a decisive part of the home islands of Japan.

## WESTERN FRONT

The angle that captures one's attention most in the war news from the Western Front tonight is a thing that may not mean anything much -- or it may mean a great deal. While the battle of the bulge went on in Belgium and Luxembourg today, the enemy developed a lot of activity to the south -- in Alsace. The Germans launched a series of thrusts -- no single one of them very powerful, but all adding up to a considerable total of military activity.

The striking thing is this, as was quickly noted in the dispatches from the front -- the series of thrusts that the Germans made today were a good deal like what happened just before the big enemy offensive in Belgium and Luxembourg started rolling. The German drive there began with a lot of minor attacks all along the line. Nothing much was thought of these at first, and, then the series of small assaults coalesced into the big offensive. And that precedent was recalled vividly today when the enemy started pushing here and there in Alsace.

The troops of ~~General~~ General Patch's Seventh Army drew back at some points, in the neighborhood of the town of Bitche. Nothing serious -- the interesting angle being the surmise that maybe the Nazis are about to stage a push at the



southern end of the battleline. Their offensive stymied at the northern bulge, they might try down in the south.

One recalls that, in the previous world war, this was the strategy the Kaiser's Germans resorted to, when they made their final bid for victory. They launched a huge drive in the north, made impressive gains -- but were stopped there. After which they switched to the south, and made some more gains -- and were stopped once more. Whereupon Germany collapsed.

One does not know whether that example of World War Number One will be repeated all over again -- but the fact is that the German offensive in Belgium and Luxembourg looks more and more like a definite failure. The news, which is thirty-six hours old, pictures Patton's Armored Third Army hammering away at the dent they have driven in the enemy salient. The Americans around Bastogne have driven ahead for another four miles, and are now within eleven miles of the First Army to the north. That is, they are within eleven miles of cutting the salient in two.

Today's events were marked by enormous action in the air. The weather was clear and bright, the best flying



day since the German offensive began. And both sides threw into into the sky all the air power they had -- and we had much more.

The Nazi Luftwaffe was out, giving battle as best it could, and the latest news tonight is that Allied planes today flew a total of nearly seven thousand sorties.

There were furious air battles all along the front, and a hundred and ninety-five German planes were shot down. It was the tenth consecutive day of Allied air assaults against communications in the enemy salient, and one can't help feeling that in the end, the factor of air action should be decisive. The Allies being so much stronger in the sky.

RUSSIA

Moscow reports that two-thirds of Budapest had been captured.

Soviet troops today occupied more than two hundred blocks of the Hungarian capital, including the big railroad station in the eastern half of the city. And, a big industrial suburb has fallen. Soviet troops, with the advance of a mile, drove their way to within two and a half miles of the Hungarian Parliament Building on the Danube. The German garrison trapped in Budapest is fighting to the bitter end. And now a 1945 message from Standard of California.

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POLAND

The Polish dilemma has been developing for some time now -- ever since the Soviets broke relations with the exiled Polish regime in London, and formed a Polish committee of its own. This committee, stationed at the Polish city of Lublin, was accorded the administration of Polish territory conquered by the Red Army. Over this weekend of this new year, things came to ahead -- when the Lublin committee formally proclaimed itself the legal government of Poland, thereby declaring in effect that the exiled government in London has been ousted, and it is expected that the Lublin group will promptly follow up its proclamation by putting a formal okay on the Russian annexation of one-half of the territory of pre-war Poland.

Today the exiled government responded with a denunciation of the Lublin committee, declaring that the Soviet sponsored group was abolishing democratic liberties. That put the question straight up to Great Britain and the United States. Great Britain acted first, with a dispatch earlier in the day telling us that London does not recognize the Lublin committee as the government of Poland, and would continue its relations with



the exiled regime. And now Washington follows suit -- with the declaration made by Secretary of State Stettinius.

Both London and Washington hope that Soviet Russia will refrain from recognizing the Lublin committee as the Polish government. The statement made in England implies that hope -- expressing the belief that the whole question should be thrashed out by a meeting of the Big Three, the United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia. However, the expectation is that Moscow will go ahead on its own and that Soviet Russia will promptly recognize the Lublin group, which the Soviets themselves have sponsored. And Soviet recognition of the committee as the legal government of Poland will interpose still another difficulty in the relations between the three big Allies in this war.

## WRECK

There is still no explanation of the frightful train wreck in Utah over the weekend of the New Year. Along the shore of the Great Salt Lake, a passenger train crashed into the rear of another passenger train, which was standing on the rails. So violent was the impact that some of the cars were hurled from the tracks into the marshes of the Great Salt Lake. The latest figures for the number killed is forty-eight -- with seventy-nine seriously injured.

This afternoon railroad officials stated that the first train ran by red signals, torpedo warnings and flare signals.

In spite of all of these warnings, the train kept going, and plowed into the cars standing on the track. A formal inquiry ~~has~~ has been set for next Thursday, and meanwhile -- they don't know what caused the disaster. It was the worst railroad wreck of Nineteen Forty-four -- and it occurred just as the year was passing out.

SPIES PRECEDE BALLOON

Late this afternoon a spy story broke -- as sensational in some ways as the case of the Nazi saboteurs landed by submarine early in the war. This time, too, the spies were landed again by submarine, they went ashore on the coast of Maine, and now have been arrested by the F.B.I. One of them is an American, a former sailor of the United States Navy -- and that gives the whole thing a strange twist.

The American sent to spy for the Nazis is William Curtis Colpaugh, born at Niantic, Connecticut, the son of a native American father and a German mother born on the boat coming to the United States. Colpaugh studied at the Admiral Farragut Academy and also went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In Nineteen Forty-two, he violated Selective Service regulations by not reporting to his draft board, and was ~~arrested~~ arrested, but not prosecuted. He joined the Navy, but soon thereafter was discharged. Later Colpaugh sailed as a mess boy on the Swedish liner, GRIPSHOLM, which brought back Americans interned in Germany. At Lisbon, he deserted the GRIPSHOLM, went to the German consul there, and told him



SPIES ~~KELLEN~~ PRECEDE BALLOON

he wanted to join the German Army. He was sent to Germany, and there trained for espionage.

The other of the two arrested spies is Erich Gimpel, a German -- who worked for a German radio corporation in South America, in Peru, and was there arrested for being in contact with Nazi agents. Under a Pan-American agreement he was brought to the United States, and was interned in Texas.

Afterward, he was repatriated to Germany. There, he went into the service of German espionage -- and met the former sailor of the United States Navy, Colpaugh. The two trained for an espionage job in the United States.

A submarine took them to a point off the coast of Maine, and at night put them into a rubber boat, in which they paddled ashore -- landing at Hancock Point, Frenchman's Bay, Maine. This was on November Twenty-ninth, five weeks ago.

They made their way to Bangor, where they took a train to Boston -- later going to New York. They were in New York for two weeks, living in swanky style, stopping at the best hotels, frequenting fancy cocktail lounges. They had fifty thousand dollars, American money provided by Nazi espionage, and this enabled them to hang out in expensive places --

where they might have picked up bits of espionage information.

They were not provided with explosives for sabotage as were the saboteurs in the sensational case earlier in the war. They had ink for secret writing, and were to set up radio sets with which to contact the Nazis. J. Edgar Hoover, Chief of the F.B.I., states that they had not yet got in touch with their enemy employers, when they were arrested.

He does not explain how the F.B.I. picked up the trail of the two spies. J. Edgar Hoover merely tells us that they are in custody and have made full confessions -- in the sensational drama of espionage that includes the case of an American, a discharged Navy sailor, who deliberately offered his service in the betrayal of his country and was landed by a German submarine as a spy.

J. Edgar Hoover, in releasing the story, warns us that the Nazis are still interested in getting their agents into this country -- and, in rather cryptic fashion, he suggests a connection with the mysterious Japanese balloons that have been found in the west. In his resume of the spy story, he mentions the balloons.

## BALLON

The mystery of Japanese balloons landing in the western part of the United States, deepens tonight -- with the news telling of the discovery of still another gas bag, presumably Japanese. It was found at a point thirty-eight miles southeast of Portland, Oregon, near the town of Estacada -- which is the site of a big power plant. Secrecy is being maintained. The balloon mystery is in the hands of the Army, which is giving out little information about the why and the wherefore of the gas bags that have been found. Today's was number three.

The first was reported three weeks ago in Montana and was definitely identified as Japanese. There was a good deal of mystification about the whole thing, but we were told that the balloon was large enough to transport four or five men, and that it carried incendiary bombs. The ~~xxx~~ second was found last week at Tacoma, Washington, nothing such has been revealed about that one. We were not told whether or not it was Japanese. And the same thing goes for the story we have today. It is not stated whether the balloon found southwest of Portland was a Japanese contraption. However, it is



pointed out that Tokyo has announced that Jap  
submarines had recently approached the West Coast  
of the United States, and there is some supposition  
that Jap subs have been releasing balloons which would  
drift across the American coastline and maybe set fires.

## FOOTBALL

Every football fan knows now that California beat Tennessee, twenty-five to nothing - the Trojans winning their eighth straight Rose Bowl Game with a display of overwhelming power. And the results of the other bowl games in this country have been well advertised today. But how about the novelty, the Spaghetti Bowl?

At Florence, the Fifth Army team beat the Twelfth Air Force, twenty to nothing. The airmen were utterly unable to stop a dusky two hundred and thirty pound back from the ninety-second negro division John Moody of Freport, Florida, a former negro all-American football back at Morris Brown College, scored two touch downs, kicked two extra points, and roamed the field almost at will. He brought home the spaghetti.

And now with good wishes to all of you for the New Year, and ~~xx~~ so long until tomorrow.