


The latest from MacArthur states:- "Our drive up the Leyte Valley continues unchecked". And reports from war correspondents indicate that the invasion of Leyte Island has now reached the stage of a little more than a mopping up operation.

Sporadic groups of Japs continue to put up a bitter resistance, but the enemy is being forced back against the west Coast. And the latest tonight pictures MacArthur troops as being within eight miles of that western shore line. When they ~~Americans have~~ ^{have} reached it, they will cut Leyte in two.

MacArthur informs us of Japanese attempts to reinforce the garrison of the island, ~~but~~ by moving troops across twenty-eight miles of water -- from the island of Cebu. These attempts have been smashed, with strafing planes and P T boats destroying or damaging twenty two barges and two luggers which were carrying enemy troops. This occurred off the little

~~XXXXXXXX~~ harbor of Ormoc on the west coast of Leyte -- which place is a Japanese base and is likely to be the scene of the final enemy stand on Leyte. It's a port likewise from which the ~~XXXXXX~~ remnants of the Jap garrison may try to escape.

Only a few thousand of the Japs remain.

Their original force having incurred some twenty-four thousand casualties. The latest American report 

~~etc. etc.~~

~~no attempt at an ~~and~~ overwater escape today ~~not~~~~
~~with the typhoon blowing. Only five thousand Japs~~
~~are left, the enemy having incurred ~~casualties to the~~~~
~~tune of twenty four thousand.~~ ~~TP~~ The latest American
report of losses gives the following figures: Seven
hundred and six killed, two hundred and seventy missing,
and twenty-two hundred and forty-five wounded. ^{TP} The
broad picture is that the battle for Leyte is rapidly
approaching a close, and General MacArthur jubilantly
announces that the impetus of the invasion will not
slacken. His forces will not relax their grip
until, as MacArthur says, "Bataan and Corregidor once
more rise into life."

Meanwhile there is a report that the Japs
have declared Martial law in ~~Manila~~ Manila. They
know the crisis has come for them in the Philippines,
and probably they are having increasing difficulties
with the Philippine resistance forces -- hence
martial law. ~~in Manila~~

CHINA

A new American commander arrived in China today, taking the place of General Stilwell, who has been recalled. He is Major General Wedemeyer, who hitherto has been Deputy Chief of Staff to Lord Louis Mountbatten in the Southeast Asia command. He now becomes Chief of Staff to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, succeeding Stilwell.

This news coincides with much discussion about the reason why Stilwell was taken so suddenly out of China. We hear ^{again today} that the whole thing goes back to an American-Chinese controversy about the way the China war has been going -- not so good. Today's news, for example, is that the Japs are now within seven miles of the key city of Kweilin, which was the site of ^a ~~the~~ great American air base that has now had to be abandoned. ~~What's the~~ trouble over there? Chiang Kai-Shek's Chinese have been complaining that they haven't received anything like adequate armament and supplies from the United States, to which there has been official American retort that

~~Chiang Kai-Shek's military efforts have been badly handled. Also -- there ^{has} been remonstrance about the feud existing between Chiang Kai Shek and the Communist forces in Northern China. We hear that Washington ~~demands~~ demanded a change -- a thoroughgoing reform of the Chiang Kai-Shek military and political set-up. That, we understand, was the reason for the big time missions to China of some weeks back. There was a lot of maneuvering, proposal and counter-proposal, and then Chiang ~~Kai Shek~~ announced that he would agree to the American demands on one condition -- that ~~General~~ Stilwell ~~be~~ recalled. This was a surprise, indeed, because~~

^{TR} The leadership of Vinegar Joe in China had been extolled to the skies. Chiang Kai-Shek, however, ~~made a series~~ ^{demanded} ~~of charges against Stilwell, claiming among other things that the American Lieutenant General had ~~disregarded~~ disobeyed orders. In the end, Stilwell was recalled, and today Major General Wedemeyer took his place at Chungking.~~

Wedemeyer's
His arrival at the Chinese capital was without

the benefit of ceremony, most informal -- no brass band, no cheering throngs. Today's news dispatch describes Wedemeyer's reception as "austere." ~~The General was asked what he thought about the developments. He replied: "I don't know what it's all about yet. This came to me on Wednesday, and here I am."~~

After, all, said the President, Chiang Kai-shek is the head of the Chinese government and Commander in Chief of the Chinese army. And, with this in mind, the President said, we will see pretty much as if Great Britain's position is official in Washington when we see the President, it is listed in exactly. Is that case he would tell Prime Minister Churchill to read something like that and added that Chiang Kai-shek is the head of the government of personalities against the people. *but will you call over for a moment*

ADD CHINA

Here's the latest -- a statement by President Roosevelt. He confirms the fact that the recall of General Stilwell was because of differences between Stilwell and ~~Chiang Kai Shek~~ ^{the Generalissimo.} The President said that it all began some while ago, when the American Commander had a falling out with the Chinese war leader. And they simply couldn't get along together any more.

After all, said the President, Chiang Kai-Shek is the head of the Chinese government and Commander-in-Chief of the Chinese army. -- And with this reminder, the President said that it was pretty much as if Great Britain assigned an official to Washington whom he, the President, disliked intensely. In that case he would tell Prime Minister Churchill to send somebody else. And he added that ^{the} Chiang Kai-Shek - Stilwell feud was a matter of personalties ^{not} -- one of policies.

~~The President also disclosed that our Ambassador to China is resigning~~
I've only started it - but will you take over for a moment.

WESTERN FRONT

In Holland two British columns today drove to the River Maas. In the complexity of waterways that is Holland, the Maas is in such a position that ~~it is of key importance to~~ *it controls* the escape of the Germans in western Holland. Between ten and twenty thousand of these have already got across the stream, making an escape from a closing trap. And at last reports enemy fugitives were still trying to get ~~across~~ in frantic haste. A large force, however, still remains in the West Holland trap, and today's British push to the Maas brings their chief bridges for escape under artillery fire. The whole situation there is one of German collapse.

It's different, however, further south where Nazi armor near the city of Eindhoven has been launching desperate counter-attacks. ~~And~~ The British have joined the Americans in beating off the assaults ~~with~~ ~~of the better part~~ of two Panzer divisions. Seesaw fighting is going on, with one side surging forward and then the other. The bitter struggle is concentrated at

a tiny town which has changed hands four times in
twenty-four hours. The ~~last~~ word is that the ~~back of~~
the German assaults have gained no substantial space ~~or~~
↑ broken.
ground, but the Panzer attacks are still going on
~~without slackening.~~

And there is bitter fighting along the coast of
the North Sea, the estuary of the Schelde. There
Canadian troops have for days been trying to clear out
die-hard bands of Germans, and open the great port of
Antwerp. The latest news tells of a bitter fight for
a causeway, along which the Canadians advanced with
~~and sustained~~ heavy losses in the face of savage
German fire. ~~The Nazis in the sector along the mouth~~
of the Schelde have opened the dikes and flooded the
land, except for raised highways, [↑] causeways, And the
fighting is along these communication ~~lines~~ lines --
the toughest kind of going for the Canadians.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD AIR WAR

Once again tonight, bombers of the British R.A.F. are attacking the flaming city of Cologne. — ~~the~~ the seventh ^{consecutive} ~~continued~~ raid against the Rhineland metropolis which is the next objective for General Hodge's First Army. And the Air Ministry in London indicates that during the past four days, more than ~~th~~ ten thousand tons, well over twenty million pounds, of bombs, have ~~fallen~~ fallen upon Cologne, from which city an immense glow rises high into the sky tonight.

AIR WAR

In the war zone of the German Rheneland, an immense and baleful glow rises high into the sky tonight -- the burning city of Cologne. In the past fifty-six hours six giant bombing raids have hit that city on the Rhine, which is the next great objective for General Hodge's First Army. Last night the British R.A.F. hurled a thousand planes against Cologne, and four thousand, four hundred and eighty tons of bombs continue the policy of obliterating the city -- in which immense fires are burning tonight.

Another story in the news of the air war tells of the greatest example thus far of blind bombing, and at the same time-- precision bombing. An invisible target hit with pinpoint accuracy. The target was a section of one of the most remarkable pieces of engineering in the world -- a great German canal that runs all the way from Berlin to the Ruhr Valley, along the Rhine. The surprising feature of the canal is -- it runs over the rivers along the ~~Rhine~~ ^{wey,} It crosses the rivers by means of aqueducts, great pumps forcing

the water up the slopes. This canal between Berlin and the Ruhr is one of the most important lines of German military transport -- and the American bomber command in Britain decided to hit it and put it out of operation.

Offhand, you might have thought that one of the worst of days was selected for the assault -- a cloudy day, the sky blanketed by dense overcast. Yet a

powerful fleet of Liberators flew from Britain to a

blast a wall in
~~vulnerable section of~~ the canal, ~~When they got there~~
~~they couldn't see a thing, and they were required to~~
~~break out~~
~~blast a wall in the canal~~ -- the waterway being held at that point by massive stone barriers twenty feet high.

It was blind bombing all right, the projectiles aimed entirely by instrument -- and it was a masterpiece of pinpointing an invisible target.

~~Later~~ Reconnaissance pictures showed that the canal wall *was* hit squarely, the exploding bombs smashing open a breach eighty-five feet long. And the whole canal poured into the surrounding lowlands.

The waterway was emptied for a distance ~~of some~~^{of} three miles, and some thirty big barges and tugboats were left stranded on the muddy bottom. ~~The flood inundated a factory section, and it will take the Germans weeks, if not months, to repair the Berlin Ruhr waterway and put it into operation again as one of the great Nazi lines of military transport.~~

POLITICS

President Roosevelt has added still another political speech to his schedule -- a radio address from the White House on Thursday night. Along with this ~~word~~ we have the announcement that the President will not make appearances in Cleveland or Detroit. It had been rumored that he would make speeches in those two cities -- the Democratic leaders in Ohio and Michigan wanted him to. Instead, as a compromise, the President will give a radio campaign talk from the White House. ~~(In addition to this he has on schedule a speech in Boston, Saturday -- with electioneering appearances at various places in Connecticut and Massachusetts.)~~

Another item of political news comes from Minnesota, where a committee of Stassen Republicans ^{today} disavowed the recent action of Minnesota Senator Ball, who has come out in favor of a Fourth Term. Senator Ball was a prominent supporter of Commander Harold E. Stassen, former Governor of Minnesota, for the Republican nomination, and the question was whether he

represented any large section of the Stassen adherents when he declared for ~~President~~ Roosevelt. "No!" responds the committee of Stassen Republicans today. They declare that the Senator spoke only for himself, and *the Minnesotans* ~~they~~ urge the election of Governor Dewey.

THOUSAND DOLLAR CLUB

President Roosevelt disclosed late this afternoon that he ^{himself} is a member of the Thousand Dollar Club which organization has drawn some acid Republican criticism. That is -- the outfit, each member of which pays a Thousand Dollars to the Democratic Campaign Fund and in return gets some sort of special status. The President added that he was surprised to find himself a member of the club -- although he ~~himself~~ ^{had} made the suggestion for its formation. ^{TP} In talking to some people last summer he suggested why not start a hundred thousand dollar club. ^{Which was} ~~that drew a laugh,~~ ~~and~~ accompanied by the remark that no one would contribute that much. Then he suggested, well, why not a Ten Thousand Dollar Club? That also got a laugh. Whereupon the President said, how about a Thousand Dollar Club.

^{Today} ~~XXXXXX~~ he stated that he forgot about the whole thing and then some days ago ~~he~~ was surprised to receive a membership certificate. ^{TP} "What does the certificate entitle you to?" he was asked.

The President said he would have to find out, and he didn't explain whether or not he was contributing a Thousand Bucks.

NAVY BATTLE

Here are the latest figures about Japanese losses in the great American Naval and Air ~~battle~~ ^{victory} ~~off~~ the Philippines:~The Navy has just announced that carrier-based-planes of the Third and Seventh American fleets have destroyed two-thousand-five-hundred-and-ninety-four ~~many~~ enemy planes in the air and on the ground during the past two months. In addition, two-hundred-and-two were damaged or probably destroyed. American losses were three hundred carrier based planes. The ~~xxx~~ ratio is nine Japs knocked out for every American plane lost. During the period covered by the report, ~~the~~ ^{the} great naval and air battle of the Philippines was won -- and the bulk) ~~main~~ of the enemy air losses were sustained while the Japs were taking their big licking.

I don't know, but this sounds like an all-time record -- ~~Nine~~ enemy planes shot down by one fighter pilot in a single air battle. Nine destroyed and two ^{more} probably destroyed -- in thirty-five minutes of action. It occurred during the early stage of the American sea and air victory off the Philippines, and the hero was Commander David McCampbell of Los Angeles. In rapid succession he shot down nine -- nine for sure, and two ^{more} probably ~~shot down~~. This raises Commander McCampbell's total to thirty and puts him in ~~the~~ tie for second place among American air aces -- a tie with Captain Don Gentilly, whose victories were scored in Europe. The top score ^{is} is still Major Richard Bong of Poplar, Wisconsin, who, during ^{recent} ~~the~~ air battles of the Philippines, shot down some more Japs and ran his own total up to thirty-three.

ADD ACE

McC Campbell

~~The~~ record breaking bag of nine shot down with two probables, was made when American carrier-based fighters assailed a formation of Jap planes that were coming in to bomb and torpedo American warships. MacCampbell was accompanied by six other fighters of his group. Five of the Americas went after the dive bombers and torpedo planes, while the other two assailed ~~the~~ Jap fighters, covering the attack. MacCampbell describes the events that ~~followed~~ followed as -- "fantastic". Later on, he told his commanding officer, "I know you won't believe it, but I shot down nine planes". None of them he explains needed a great deal of shooting. "Japanese planes," says MacCampbell, "burn as easily as they ever did. And these seemed to burst into flames as soon as they were hit."

FEET

Out in the sea battle area off the Philippines there's a Navy flier who looks down admiringly at his big brogues -- regular tugboats they are. And he's thanking his stars that his feet are so big. He is Ensign Carl Smith of Houston, Texas, who in the recent great sea and air engagements had one of the most fantastic adventures -- his life saved because of his big feet. *⌘* Flying a carrier-based-bomber, he got into an air fight, and his plane was badly shot up. The tail hook for making a landing on the carrier deck was knocked out -- also the radio and the bomb release. He still had his bomb aboard, and couldn't get rid of it. Or, in the words of Ensign Smith, "No hook, no radio, and a big bomb sticking to me like a leech -- ~~all~~ *all* very embarrassing," *said he.*

So all he could do was ~~to~~ bail out -- and that went wrong. As he jumped, his chute caught on the edge of the cockpit, and that was also embarrassing, but he

managed to kick himself clear. Down he plunged, ~~he~~ pulled ^{the} the ripcord; and ^{he} waited for the jerk on his shoulders when the ~~parachute~~ ^{would} opened. That yanking effect came promptly, but in a most astonishing way.

"I ^{got} ~~caught~~ it all right," relates Ensign Smith, "but it wasn't like the book said -- I was jerked by my feet!" And that left him the most surprised pilot in the Pacific -- parachuting down ~~and~~ suspended by his feet. The Ensign explains: "My harness had been yanked off my ~~shoulders~~, but it was miraculously caught around my large brogans."

He managed to reach up and get a grip on the parachute line, and give himself some extra support -- in addition to the foothold. In that way he came down on the water, and was picked up by a destroyer ten

minutes later, [^] saved by his big feet, *those No 12s.*

And now H - will you stride over here in your No. 12s.