

The story of the invasion of Iwo discloses a terrible moment of crisis -- when it looked as though the landing might be doomed. For a ghastly moment of uncertainty, it seemed as if the whole thing might be a failure -- the Marines driven off or destroyed.

This is related by Admiral John H. Hoover, who stated that the Japs at first thought the landing was a feint. They figured that the Marines pushing ashore on the southeast beach was not the real thing, and that the actual blow would fall somewhere else along the shore of the island. So the Marines met little opposition ■■ as they drove onto the beaches -- little until the Japs discovered their mistake.

Then they swung their guns into position and hurled a devastating fire. The Marines on shore were in a deadly position -- an impossible position, it seemed for a while.

"It was a serious moment", relates Admiral Hoover, "and for a while our position on the invasion

beach appeared to be doomed. But later that same day we discovered an area far to the south where we could penetrate through to the southern airfield, out of range of the heaviest Japanese gunfire. We kept feeding our men through this region, and it saved the day - but I can testify that it was touch and go for a while".

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And another picture is in terms of equipment. Marine Corps Combat Correspondent David Dempsey ~~et al~~

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The total has now risen to four thousand, five hundred and fifty-three, with three hundred and eighty-five killed. The figures are for the first fifty-six hours of fighting on Iwo - less than two and a half days. And they do not include the casualties sustained by the Marines in the landing - the men hit as the invasion boats went ashore under heavy fire.

~~Another picture of the inferno called Iwo Jima is in terms of equipment. Marine Corps combat~~

~~correspondent David Dempsey~~ describes the beach in these words: "A scene of indescribable wreckage - all of it ours. For two miles", he goes on, "there is a thick layer of debris and wrecked hulls of scores of boats". The result of a two day curtain of fire by Japanese artillery, rockets and heavy mortars.

Iwo
Added to the enemy fire on that infernal beach was the quality of the sand, deep coral sand, on which rolling equipment was bogged down, even the ~~the~~ almost ~~the~~ unconquerable ~~beach~~. The result was that little motorized equipment could be got into action. Artillery could not be landed for twenty-four hours.

The Commander of the Marine invasion, Lieutenant General Holland Smith, stated today that Iwo Jima was, what he called, "the most difficult problem with which the Marine corps has been confronted in a hundred and sixty-eight years". To which he added that the Marines would capture Iwo Jima, no matter what the cost.

The Japs have been making incessant counterattacks. These have been beaten off, but have slowed down the invasion to almost a halt. The island is so ~~the~~ small that there is no space to maneuver - no chance of ~~out~~-flanking tactics. Every thrust must be made by frontal attack. The weather is bad, rainy. And this has handicapped ~~ground~~^{air} support

by the bombers of the fleet. But there is warship support, lots of it, naval guns off the coast pouring a rain of shells into Japanese positions.

MACARTHUR

Another island captured in the Philippines, this one called Capul. It's an important bit of land in the Straits of San Bernadino, which it dominates. The Strait is part of the waterway through which American shipping on its way to Manila will have to pass. The MacArthur seizure of Capul Island is a step in the opening of the shipping lane to Manila ~~xxx~~ harbor. The Japs made little resistance, Capul Island falling easily.

PHILIPPINES

A news dispatch today from General MacArthur's headquarters in Manila uses the following ~~XXXXXX~~ phrase: "The Japanese were determined to die, the Americans determined to wipe them out", it says.

This applies to the last flare of fighting in the city, the virtual elimination of the remaining Japanese in the old Spanish section of Manila. The Japs fought to the end - even with spears. We are told of one entire enemy platoon in which only four men had rifles. The others made spears by attaching knife blades to long poles - and with these they fought it out.

PRISON SHIP

In Washington today, a Naval Officer related a story of that most tragic sort of horror - another case of a ship crammed with American prisoners attacked and sunk by Americans. Lieutenant George Petritz of Rockford, Illinois, a survivor of Bataan and Corregidor, told how the Japs crowded sixteen hundred Americans into a small, dirty vessel, jamming them into the holds in such brutal fashion that some died of suffocation. The Lieutenant thinks that ninety per cent would have perished in the holds of the ship - even if the vessel hadn't been sunk.

-- It steamed out of Manila, and was attacked by American planes - the American flyers high overhead never guessing that there were American prisoners aboard. It was damaged by bombs, and some prisoners were killed. Thereupon the Japs evacuated all the Japanese aboard, they could easily have taken the Americans off the disabled craft, ^{Instead they} ~~but~~ made them stay in the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ suffocating holds.

The next day, American planes attacked the

ship again, and this time they sank it. Half of the prisoners, eight hundred, perished in the hold - the rest getting in the water and trying to swim ashore. Only two got ashore - the others recaptured by the Japs. The two who escaped were Lieutenant Petritz and an Army soldier. They were picked up and aided by Filipino insurgents.

This is the third case recently reported of prison ships sunk by Americans with a great loss of American lives. ~~In the first instance, only eighty-three out of seven hundred and fifty survived.~~
~~In the second only five out of eighteen hundred.~~
Those two ships were sunk by submarine - and now this latest air attack, from which two escaped.

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Now for our Stan. of Cal. message
and then more news.

WESTERN FRONT

The major action on the Western Front today was in the Saar - that rich basin of Nazi industry. General Patton's Third Army forced the Saar River at two points, scored ^{ing}~~ed~~ maximum gains of three miles on a fifty mile front - and captured eighteen German towns. There was little enemy opposition, the Nazis putting up no strong fight - as Patton's men swarmed across the Saar River in assault boats under cover of fog, and Third Army tanks drove for two miles to reach a key point - the junction of two rivers; the Saar and the Moselle.

BERCHTESGADEN

Here's an irony. An admission made by one of the American pilots who attacked Berchtesgaden, the site of Hitler's mountain retreat -- blasting railroad yards there. Major John L. Beck of Post Falls, Idaho, admits that he didn't know he was hitting Berchtesgaden -- never connected it with Hitler. To him the target was just some more railroad yards.

RUSSIA

On the Eastern Front, the crisis of battle is still along the sector southeast of Berlin. Today, Soviet tanks ripped into what is called - "The defense triangle." Points of this triangle are the fortress towns of Cottbus, Guben and Forst. Guben and Forst are under Russian artillery fire tonight, and Guben is under direct assault - the Russians driving to storm the place. The fortress of Cottbus, which is forty-seven miles southeast of Berlin, is directly threatened by the Russians - who are between eleven and fifteen miles away.

Soviet forces have reached the Neisse River, which is the last natural line of defense of the ~~xx~~ ~~strategic~~ strategic triangle - the triangle described as the gateway to Berlin from the southeast.

ADD RUSSIA

Stalin announces, on the twenty-seventh anniversary of the Red Army, that during the month of January, the Germans lost eight hundred thousand killed and three hundred and fifty thousand prisoners.

WAR CASUALTIES

American casualties of war passed the eight ~~thxxx~~ hundred thousand mark today - a dark figure for killed, wounded and missing in action. It's an increase of nearly nineteen thousand over last week's total. The figure of eight hundred thousand includes more than a hundred and seventy thousand killed, more than four hundred and sixty thousand wounded, More than sixty-four thousand prisoners, more than a hundred thousand missing.

The figures were disclosed today by Secretary of War Stimson, who added that the Allies have captured more than nine hundred thousand German prisoners in western Europe since D-Day. Add to these the Nazi captives taken in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, and the total comes to more than one million ~~and~~ one hundred thousand - prisoners alone.

WASHINGTON

Today in the capital city named after him, George Washington was defended ~~defended~~ against an imputation cast upon him by a process unheard of in the days of the father of his country. That is - a public opinion poll. They had no straw vote polls in those heroic times of valley forge and Yorktown. Nobody representing a big organization went around sampling public opinion. About the only thing they sampled in those brave days was the contents of a jug.

Now in this modern era, however, a poll was held, and this question asked: who was the greater Washington or Lincoln? *Well, in this betweens-*

~~Grantland Rice, writing about who was the greatest heavyweight champion or the greatest ball player? The poll in question was the Gallup Oracle which goes in for presidential campaigns in particular, and almost anything else in general, between elections.~~

~~and the~~ *election -* Gallup poll ~~showed that~~ most Americans ~~thought~~ *wanted to vote*

for Lincoln ~~greater than Washington.~~ The doctor didn't

specify what the result was in Alabama or Mississippi. He merely gave general figures showing that forty-two per cent of the persons polled picked Lincoln as the greater American, while only twenty-two per cent selected Washington. As for the other thirty-six per cent, ~~I suppose they didn't want to commit themselves,~~ ~~or~~ maybe they picked Babe Ruth.

The results of the poll were made public only yesterday, the day before Washington's birthday, ~~and that~~ *all of which today* arouses the ire of Congressman Sol Bloom of New York, ~~who thinks it was not such a hot~~ *who objects. He says it's* ~~celebration for Washington's birthday,~~ hardly in the spirit of ~~hip hip hooray~~ *the day - -* ~~and he protests,~~ *- Sol to the defense* Not that Congressman Bloom doesn't think so well of Lincoln - far be it from the Congressman. He thinks that Lincoln, too, was great.

of Geo. Wash.!

So Let's pin the Congressman down, and put the straw vote bee on him. Let's demand sternly: "Congressman Bloom, who do you think was the greater - Washington or Lincoln?"

We have the Congressman's answer, which is as follows: "Never were men more divinely raised for their tasks than these two great national heroes!" He's for 'em both fifty-fifty.

FIGHT IN CONGRESS

Today's battle in Congress was nothing much - that is from a fistic point of view. But then the two gladiators were sixty-two and fifty-one years old, respectively, and that's a little beyond the combat age. The news dispatches are calling it more of a hair pulling match than a fist fight - which would indicate that the venerable gentlemen had at least some hair to pull.

The trouble began when Congressman Rankin of Mississippi charged that legislator Frank Hook of Michigan had associated with what Rankin called - "dirty communists". To which Hook responded that Rankin was - "a dirty liar". He said that, at least, The clerk's ~~xxx~~ record ^{also} indicates that some profanity was mixed in ~~x~~ with the epithet, but this Congressman Hook denies.

Profanity or no profanity, Rankin of Mississippi made threatening gestures and closed in - and some passes were made, which the newspapermen said could hardly be called punches. However, there ~~was~~ was hair-pulling -- until the agitated legislators

were separated.

The fistic encounter may not have amounted to much, but it was followed by talk of a motion to expel Congressman Hook from Congress. Southern members demanded disciplinary action, and announced that a resolution will be offered tomorrow to give the Michigan lawmaker a quick rush out of the legislative halls. ~~An expulsion, however, would require a two-thirds vote and it is entirely possible that tempers may ~~not~~ cool and the fracas may be written off as one of those things best forgotten.~~

From the other side come denunciations of Rankin as a Fascist and demands that he be expelled ~~in~~ from Congress.

The whole thing is a ~~sharp~~ sharp indication of a bitter cleavage in Congress between right wing and left wing elements.

PRISON BREAK

There is a twist of strange irony in the prison break at San Quentin, California, Today.

The attempt to escape was made by three death house convicts, one scheduled to be executed in the lethal gas chamber tomorrow.

They made an attack on guards shortly after the prison chaplains had conducted religious services, and then were quickly overpowered -- one shot by a guard, hit in the side. He was the one who was scheduled to go into the lethal gas chamber tomorrow - and the irony lies in the ~~possibility~~ possibility that, because of the attempted escape and because of his having been shot and wounded, the gas chamber execution may not be carried out according to schedule.

FU MANCHU

Here is another casualty of war - Dr. Fu Manchu. I suppose that everybody who goes in for thrillers, knows about the sinister oriental, that dark and mysterious evil Chinese, who for years has been a successful feature in books and magazines. But now - Dr. Fu Manchu is dead. That today was announced by his creator, Sax Rohmer. ~~The author, who has written one Fu Manchu tale after another, with unfailing shivers and horrors, has abolished his profitable creation. Sax Rohmer has killed Fu Manchu. Why? Because of the war.~~

~~Today he stated:~~ "Just when I had an excellent Hollywood contract lined up for a big Fu Manchu feature, ^{said Sax Rohmer.} I had to call it off," ^{insisted,} "The Chinese government ~~insisted,~~ raised the dickens. ~~They insisted, he goes on,~~ that Fu Manchu was influencing world opinion about the Chinese, and it was bad propoganda for an ally to be putting out".

~~Sax Rohmer says he appealed to Chinese officials, but they were adamant. "No even", he adds,~~

The Chinese sent an official delegation to Hollywood to protest against the Fu Manchu picture, and that was that. "They got so tough about it," Sax Rohmer goes on, "that even magazine editors were getting cold feet."

So there was nothing else to do - except to bring the wicked oriental career of Dr. Fu Manchu to an end.

Author Sax Rohmer is sad about it all. He misses the profits, the royalties, because Fu Manchu always was a money-maker. And he needs the revenue - to finance a thing that has been his lifelong ambition. The ingenious creator of Dr. Fu Manchu has for years devoted himself to the solution of a great problem - working out a system to beat roulette. Yes, that same old idea - how to beat the roulette wheel. And he was depending on Fu Manchu. Just as we are depending - not on Fu Manchu, but on you, Hugh.

CURFEW

(Taken from early bc.)

There have been a lot of protests about the drinking curfew - ~~wails of anguish from night club operators, for example.~~ And today brings dignified objurgation - from the bartenders. They, of course, are deeply interested by the war-time regulation that will compel drinking places to close at midnight. If you are sorry for the customer in front of the bar, you'll weep for the bartender behind it. - ~~weeping in your beer would be appropriate.~~

The bartenders Union makes a plea to Mobilization Director Byrnes, That's a stately title, Mobilization Director, but then the Union has a stately name too - the bartenders International Ex League of America. ~~and, moreover, the International Bartenders are joined in their protest by the hotel restaurant employees International Alliance. Well, everything is international in these global days.~~

They ask for an hour of grace. That is, they implore mobilization Director Byrnes to extend

the curfew from Midnight until one A.M. An hour of grace - for whatever grace there may be ~~in~~ cocktails and highballs, whiskey and rum. We can't say what response the Mobilization Director will make to the Bartenders International League of America. It's likely to be a chilly no - frapped with a dash of grenadine.

Another complaint comes from an unexpected quarter - the Prohibition Party. The camel is grumbling. ~~From quarters affiliated with the Bartenders International League of America we've been hearing that the Byrne midnight curfew is an underhand prohibition trick intended as a sneak move toward another dry era. But the Prohibition Party is complaining - saying, not much and not soon enough.~~

Dry Chairman Edward E. Blake declared ⁱⁿ in Washington today that the drinking curfew was another case of what he called "Too little and too late." He deplored the fact that the curb on drinking is being

applied so late in the war. He thinks ~~they~~ should have had a curfew the moment the war began - if not sooner. ~~A curfew that would end drinking hours at midnight and begin them at about the same time.~~

The headquarters of anguish is, of course, night club New York, where the hot spots don't really begin to get warm until after midnight. ~~Some are closing, others are cutting down expenses, laying off employees. It is estimated that by Monday, because of the Byrnes curfew, some five thousand will be out of jobs - including numerous members of the bartenders International League of America.~~

The night club operators are making ~~the~~ cuts - in spite of contracts, contracts with entertainers, contracts with unions. The documents, it appears, have clauses providing that they can be cancelled in the event of what legal phraseology calls - "An act of God." And the night club operators are interpreting the Byrnes curfew as - "An act of God." The unions don't agree. They insist upon

their contracts, and say - "It's an act of Byrnes,"
and that Jimmy Byrnes is no deity,
~~To which the night club operators probably respond~~

~~well~~

Here is the latest, and it really is news.
New night club opens in New York. And it's a big
place, *lavish* and ornate, with gleaming decorations
and a great shiny bar. The brand new night club
opened last night in a big hotel, just in time for
the twelve o'clock curfew on Monday. Nothing like
picking the right moment. ~~Wait for the curfew, boys,~~
~~and open wide the festive doors.~~

*And now H - it's the right
moment for you.*