

The possibility of a great naval battle in the Pacific is strengthened tonight by a statement from Admiral Nimitz, ~~who~~ definitely indicates that a giant naval clash may be in the offing - or may actually be in progress right now.

Admiral Nimitz states that the Japanese naval strength has been concentrated off the Philippines - between those islands and the Marianas, which the Americans have invaded. Our forces are looking for a fight, and the enemy position indicates that they may have their wish.

Admiral Nimitz puts it in these words: "The presence of strong Japanese units in the area west of the Marianas - possibly their entire fleet - indicates the possibility of a major sea engagement. Unfortunately he remarks, "we do not control their movements. If I did, then there would be a fight", he adds.

Referring to the big sea and air battle in which American flyers shot down three hundred Jap planes, the Admiral declares that, for the whole series

of operations around Saipan, the Japs may have lost as many as six hundred planes.

He points out the strategic importance of the Marianas - Saipan in Particular. Our invasion of Saipan is going along all right, although we are meeting heavy resistance. "The Japs there", says he, "are fighting with tooth and nail. We have killed a lot of ~~km~~ Japs, and we have had some losses", he adds.

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To the south, in New Guinea, ~~t~~he American conquest of Biak island is virtually complete. This is announced by General MacArthur's headquarters, with the word that American troops, supported by tanks and artillery, have taken the remaining two airdromes on Biak.

A late bulletin just in states that the American forces now hold the entire southern half of Saipan.

## LEAD CHINA

Vice-President Wallace arrived today at Chungking on his much heralded visit to China, and he is described as appearing a good deal like Santa Claus - with a plane full of gifts. He arrived with nearly a hundred packages, presents to Chinese universities and technical centers. The figurative Vice Presidential Christmas Tree was loaded with all sorts of things, including instructions on how to make a community refrigerator and a symphonic score of Gershwin's rhapsody in blue.

- The Vice-President arrived in Chungking in time to hear some bad news - the fall of Changsha.

~~continue with rest of story.~~



# CHINA

~~Vice President Wallace arrived today at~~

~~Chungking on his much heralded visit to China. He got there in time to hear bad news - the fall of Changsha.~~

TP The Japs have captured that rice bowl <sup>capital and vital</sup> ~~and rail~~ <sup>center,</sup> ~~city~~ which had ~~with~~ withstood three sieges in the past six years.

~~The enemy had a desperate battle on his hands, savage street fighting, with the Chinese garrison battling to the end. The final assault was launched on Sunday, with the most massive kind of artillery and air support - deluges of shells and bombs hurled upon Changsha. But it was only today that the final Chinese resistance was wiped out.~~

The Chinese report the Japs to be moving rapidly down the railroad to Canton - Changsha being a key point on the Canton-Hankow line. Fifty thousand enemy troops are in the drive, the design of which is to seize the entire railroad line to Canton, and thereby cut China in two.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD FOR BRITISH CABINET MINISTER

The statement in London - that the United States forced the war with Japan - has drawn a prompt retort. The declaration created a furore, and now we have an angry denial from Secretary of State Cordell Hull. He says - no, it's all wrong. We did not force the war with Japan.

The controverted statement was made by British Cabinet Minister, Captain Oliver Lyttleton, Minister of Production. He told the American Chamber of Commerce in the British capital that the Americans entered the war of their own free will, and deserve that much more gratitude from our Allies.

~~continue on to the end of the story.~~

## FOLLOW BRITISH CABINET MINISTER

The Secretary of State says the British Cabinet Minister is "entirely in error as to the facts". And the Secretary adds: "This government from the beginning to the end was actuated by the ~~single~~ single policy of self-defense against the rapidly increasing danger to this nation. The aid given to Great Britain and other countries who were resisting conquest was, he adds, "vital to the defense of the United States".

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Well, we've heard from the Pacific War. Now let's hear from Hugh James, and then we'll see how the Invasion has been going.

## FRANCE

The late afternoon bulletin from Allied headquarters states officially that American forces are now assaulting the defenses of Cherbourg - the fortifications that guard the city proper. Our troops are only three and a half miles away from Cherbourg, and can see the great port covered by a pall of smoke - as the Germans dynamite and destroy.

The advance today was of a whirlwind kind.

The Americans invaded so rapidly that they simply went

<sup>right</sup>  
by powerful German concrete fortifications. These

might have been able to hold up the push, but the Germans did ~~not~~ have time to man their forts - the American surge ~~xxxx~~ forward being so ~~xxxxx~~ speedy.

And, the artillery resistance was less than had been expected. (Cherbourg is defended by powerful guns, but these point toward the sea, against naval attack. The Germans seem to have been trying to swing these guns around to the land-side, but again haven't had time. So they are getting what they gave the French on the Maginot line - the guns of which pointed



East, the wrong way, with outflanking German forces coming in from the West.

It looks like Tunisia all over again-where German resistance, after having been so strong and determined, collapsed with a sudden speed, when it was evident the battle was lost.

In fact, the Germans at Cherbourg were reminded today about Tunisia. Allied planes bombarded them with leaflets, bidding them to surrender or be wiped out; recalling to them how their forces in Tunisia had the good sense to surrender when they saw that further blood shed was useless.

ADD FRANCE

There is no escape for those Germans. They can't evacuate by sea because - for one thing - they haven't any ships. There are no useable vessels in the harbor. And even if they did have ships, the Allies are keeping the fort under tight blockade to prevent even small boats from getting through with a few Nazis.

FRENCH PATRIOTS (follow France)

There was mention today of a new Army, the name of which was puzzling at first - the French Army of the Interior. The Allied forces invading France consisted of Americans, British and Canadians, and we hadn't heard of any French Military Force that might deserve the name - Army of the Interior.

It turns out to be the underground, and, the partisan French Patriots who are fighting the Nazis behind the invasion lines. We hear that they are striking heavy blows at German railroad and highway communications, and now have expanded their systematic operations to within sixty miles of Paris. They are so well organized that they have given themselves the name of a regular military force - the Army of the Interior.

Along with this, we have some rather mysterious word from Spain - which tells of the sound of heavy bombardment in France, just across the Spanish border. The Spaniards along the frontier have been hearing a constant thundering that sounds like guns, ~~artillery~~ ~~fire - and not air bombing~~. And they can't figure what

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what it's all about. The Spanish border is a long way from the battlefields in Normandy, and the only surmise is that the Germans may be fighting with French anti-Nazi forces - in a battle so formidable that the Germans have to use artillery. ~~Maybe it's another case of that French Army of the Interior.~~



## FOLLOW WOODEN BULLETS

And apropos of secret weapons, here's a new kind of air ace. All of which develops out of that new kind of assault, that Nazi secret weapon - the rocket bomb, the robot plane. Or, as Americans in England are saying - the doodlebug. That's the name they have given to the weird projectile that comes whizzing across the Channel.

*fast - that* The defense against the doodle bug *has been* developing ~~is~~ a defense of anti-aircraft guns and fighter planes, ~~which~~ *ing* shoot down the rocket bombs; ~~The idea is to~~ *ing* explode them in the air. Although the doodlebug, upon being riddled by bullets, may take a plunge and explode on the ground - sometimes in open fields where no harm is done; but, *maybe right in a right* ~~also occasionally in~~ towns, *right* among houses.

The fighter planes have shot down a sufficient number for pilots to be chalking up records - aces.

And these are called doodlebug aces. The high score today belongs to Lieutenant Lewis Powers of

Albuquerque, New Mexico, a Mustang fighter pilot *who* ~~he~~ has shot down three of the ~~xxxxxxx~~ rocket bombs and participated with an R.A.F. plane in destroying

another. Which gives Lieutenant Powers a record of three and a half doodlebugs.

Today the nests of the peculiar insect took a powerful pasting. This occurred during air operations that set a record. The sky forces based on Britain are constantly being enlarged, and so it's no wonder that day after day we hear that the ~~size~~ <sup>ing at</sup> of the attacking sky fleet is greater than ever. Today the record breaking figure was twenty-five hundred and fifty - that many American bombers and fighters, ~~they~~ lashed ~~a series of~~ <sup>at</sup> targets, one of which was the doodlebug nests across the English Channel; ~~the main~~ <sup>It seems</sup> that ~~a doodlebug~~ <sup>center having</sup> ~~center has been discovered on the~~ coast between Calais and Abbeville, - ~~a set of the~~ rally ~~coastal slides from which the robot planes are~~ launched. These were given a heavy pasting.

In addition, powerful forces of today's record-breaking assault-fleet-of-the-air struck at oil refineries deep in Germany - those all-important plants where the Nazis refine natural oil and manufacture

synthetic oil. One returning pilot described the damage at the refineries in the following vivid words: "All Germany seemed on fire", said he. "Entire towns were obscured by smoke that reached the phenomenal height of more than fifteen thousand feet".

*Our losses, just announced, were*  
~~forty-seven bombers and seven fighters~~  
~~missing.~~  
~~We are not told as yet what our losses are.~~

*^* Sixteen big American bombers made forced landings in Sweden. They came down in the area of Malmoe. The largest number of American planes to make forced landings in Sweden on one day.

The oil refinery assault may ~~very~~ well have been the most important air action of the day; but, the accent of drama was on the attack against the doodlebug nests. And just to complete the element of the picturesque, the planes that assailed the rocket-bomb-slides ran into still another secret weapon.

Something new was thrown up at them, a kind of missile they had never seen ~~before~~ before. Returning pilots describe it as a square projectile that looked something like a box. When it burst, the effect was



spectacular. The exploding box hurled long silvery strips - like gleaming ribbons. Apparently these strips were some kind of metal, and were designed to get tangled with the whirling propellers of the Allied planes. But, that is none too certain, because none of the silver ribbons got mixed up with propellers, ~~the pilots described the new Nazi secret weapon as~~  
~~"completely ineffectual."~~



ADD TO STORY HEADED FOLLOW WOODEN BULLETS

The latest repeats the assault against the Doodlebugs all over again. / A news dispatch tells us that American Flying Fortresses and Liberators bombed the bases for the robot planes ~~once again~~ this evening.

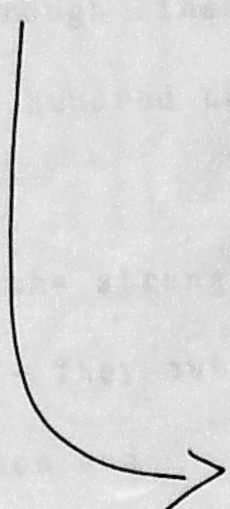
## FINLAND

Finland seems about to give up, with reports from Helsinki telling of the formation of what is called - "a peace cabinet"; ~~that is~~ - a new group of ministers ~~is being put~~ <sup>going</sup> into power for the purpose of concluding peace with Soviet Russia. <sup>Virtual</sup> ~~which could~~ ~~surrender~~ ~~amount to little more than a surrender.~~

The necessity of this is emphasized today by the fall of Viipuri. Moscow ~~has just~~ <sup>today</sup> announced <sup>ing</sup> the capture of that key city. ~~the gateway of Finland.~~

## ITALY

Here's a story about the war in Italy which may well point to the secret of Allied victory in Europe-in France as well as in Italy. It tells of a type of military operation that may turn out to be the real reason for the defeats of the German Armies, and may be the key factor in the final overthrow of Hitler. They call it an "operation strangle," with the strangling done by the air power.





A report today gives figures for the stranglehold. It states: "On February twenty-eighth, when the air operation began, the Germans had a well supplied Army in Italy, served by seven railroads - which brought in from eight to ten times the daily normal requirements that the Germans needed".

Those seven first class railroads were the first objectives - targets for the heavy bombers. "By March Twenty-Seventh", the report goes on, "no through line led to Rome, and the closest approach was a hundred and twenty-five miles away".

Then the lighter bombers continued the strangle, and here are the figures for what they did:- They cut or blocked a hundred and fifty-six rail lines and highways, destroyed or damaged two-hundred-and-ninety-three bridges, bottled up or partly blocked thirty-eight tunnels, and worked endless havoc among German trucks on roads, and boats carrying supplies along the shore.



How badly the German Army was strangled is indicated by a couple of incidents that are cited. On one German prisoner related that his unit, ordered to the Cassino front, had to march a hundred miles on foot. And another captive of war told the Americans that the German transport of munitions had been hit so hard that the Nazi artillery had only one round of shells for every hundred or two-hundred rounds fired by the Allied guns.

"The operation strangle," a thing that may choke the life out of Hitler's armies.

The picture of the war in Italy tonight presents the Germans in full retreat, streaming back to what is expected to be the next line-the line of Rimini, Florence and Pisa. The tide of war receding to Florence-that city of pictures, city of Michael Angelo and Leonardo Da Vinci.

## ELBA FOLLOW ITALY

The French have completed the conquest of Elba, the enemy surrendering. Today the Germans hoisted the white flag in the chief town of the island that was once Napoleon's place of exile.

Elba is filled with mementos of Napoleon, and we are told that these have been found to be undamaged not harmed by the fight for the island during the past few days. Napoleon's villa, with its many historic relics, is just as it was before. And its aged caretaker tells an amusing story:

When the Nazis grabbed Elba, after the fall of France, the high German officer had Napoleonic ideas. He moved into Napoleon's villa, and lived there. And he wanted to sleep in the same bed that the legended Emperor had occupied. Sleeping in Napoleon's bed, he might have had Napoleonic dreams-I suppose.

The caretaker had to say okay, but, he gave the Nazi another bed, comfortable enough, but with no historic significance whatever. The German officer never knew the difference, and thought he

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was sleeping in Napoleon's bed-and he might as well have been dreaming on a mattress fixed by his frau somewhere back in Germany--Picklesheim on the Rhine, maybe.

And here's Hugh-on-the-Hudson.