

More American conquests in the Pacific - the Marshalls. The Navy today announced the seizure of four atolls and an island - drawing a distinction between those coral formations of reefs and lagoons and ~~regular bits~~ ^{the more ordinary kind} of oceanic land. The atolls have the usual complicated Micronesian names, and so has the island - the interesting part being that the capture of key strongholds like Kwajalein left the Japanese garrisons in other parts of the Marshalls isolated and helpless.

And today's news brings the number of atolls ^{in the Marshalls} taken up to a total of eighteen.

SOUTHWESTERN PACIFIC

The thundering work is being continued in the southwestern Pacific, where the Japs at Hansa Bay were hit. Hansa Bay is along the ^{New Guinea coast. We have} ~~coast. We~~ already smashed the Japanese base at Wewak, and you might think ^{that today's} ~~my~~ job was done by planes. Air power has been wrecking the Japs in those parts. **But**, the blow announced today was bolder still - a naval bombardment. A force of American destroyers steamed audaciously into Hansa Bay and [^] with salvoes of shell fire ripped the Japs on the shore.

HONOLULU

Today we have the following statement from Admiral Nimitz: "It is within Japanese capabilities to launch carrier borne air attacks and land commando or espionage raiders on Hawaii despite all precautions."

This word of warning was given in the matter of retaining modified martial law in Hawaii - Admiral Nimitz ^{telling us} ~~maintaining~~ that the present status must be continued for military reasons.

INDIA

In India, the two key points are still - Imphal and Kohima. At Imphal, capital of the Indian State of Manipur, the fighting is fierce, but it's described as being in a preliminary stage - with skirmishes of the Imperial forces against Japanese columns. ~~Three~~ columns are described as being southwest, southeast and northeast of Imphal. And those points of the compass make it clear that the three ~~Japanese~~ columns are closing in on Imphal, with the main assaults still to come.

A data saying he was...
The British only...
Mountbatten headquarters tells us that the principal ~~Japanese~~ forces are moving up through the hill country, and are preparing for a concerted attack.

At Kohima, the big supply base of northeastern India, the Japs are launching a series of powerful attacks. Tokyo has claimed the capture of Kohima, but a

communique from Mountbatten headquarters reveals that the

British Imperials still hold the town and are beating off

^{the} enemy ~~whose~~ attacks ^{are} described as increasingly heavy.

Still another account shows that parties of Japs have driven past Kohima, shoving on to the west, toward the Assam-Bengal Railroad. Apparently, they are headed for the railroad station at Dinapur, twenty-five miles west of Kohima.

Today Sec. Knox spoke optimistically about the Jap invasion of India, saying he was sure the British could handle it.

RUSSIA

The Russian news tonight is from the Crimea, that historic peninsula thrust far into the Black Sea. The big Soviet effort right now is to reconquer the Crimea, and large progress has already been made.

One route into the peninsula is via the narrow Isthmus of Perekop. ~~The main forces of the Germans, in their huge retreats, were pushed beyond the Isthmus, and that left their troops in the Crimea without land communication.~~ *driven* Now, The Red Army has ~~pushed down~~ through the bottleneck, and last reports show that the Russians have thrust for twenty-seven miles - that deep into the Crimea. The latest is that they have captured an important junction.

The other Russian line of attack is across the narrow strip of water that separates the peninsula from the Caucasus, and there Soviet troops have got across. Today Moscow announces the capture of Kerch,

the town on the Crimean side of the Strait.

Altogether - it looks as if it won't be long before the Russians have reconquered the Crimea, and for Hitler that will mean the loss of between a hundred and ten and a hundred and sixty-five thousand men.

~~Moscow estimates that this is the number of Germans who are trapped - about eleven divisions. It does not seem likely that many can get away by sea - not with the German loss of the last great port that they held on the Black Sea - Odessa.~~

ADD RUSSIA

The news from the Crimea touched off the biggest salvo of gunfire Moscow has ever known.

Stalin has a way of saluting victories with salvos of cannon. And today there were twenty separate and individual blasts from two hundred and twenty-four guns.

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The Archbishop of Freiburg gives a definition of the Hitler - "superman." The definition is: "an animal in modern disguise." The results of the new German philosophy are described by the Pastoral Letter in these words: "They consist of forming streams of blood, prisons treaded on to the vestibles, herds of slaves thrown into misery, and the moral decay of a people who cry, lament and curse their masters as well as the scourge of God."

In all the confessions of Hitlerites, I have not noticed more clearly than the words described in the Pastoral Letter issued by the Archbishop of Freiburg.

ARCHBISHOP

From within Nazi Germany and its mystery of what is really going on, we have a flash of illumination today, with the report of a Pastoral Letter issued by the Catholic Archbishop of Freiburg. This is relayed via Stockholm, and amounts to one of the most savage denunciations of Naziism ever uttered.

TP The Archbishop of Freiburg gives a definition of the Hitler - "superman." The definition is: "An animal in modern disguise." And the results of the new German philosophy are described by the Pastoral Letter in these words: "They consist of foaming streams of blood, prisons crowded up to the roof/tiles, hordes of slaves thrown into misery, and the moral decay of a people who cry, lament and curse their masters as ~~Quata~~ the scourge of God."

In all the condemnations of Hitlerism, I know of nothing more fiercely true than the words ~~ascribed~~ *to* the Pastoral Letter issued by the Archbishop of Freiburg.

LEAD AIR WAR

Today's air assault against Nazi Germany brought about some of the fiercest sky fighting in the war. This is indicated by the losses. We sustained a near record - sixty-four bombers shot down, Flying Fortresses and Liberators. And - sixteen fighters. The Nazi losses were even more severe - a hundred and twenty-six planes.

The intensity of the sky fighting was very uneven. The American planes were blasting German aircraft factories, a continuation of the blow to knock out Nazi fighter strength. Two Wings of the giant assaulting force of two thousand bombers and fighters hit the aircraft factories at Oscherslebel and Bernburg. Over those two targets, a big air battle was fought on January Eleventh, and sixty American bombers were lost. That was bad.

Today the story over those two objectives

was different. Comparatively weak opposition, and few losses.

But there was still another target - ~~Rxxxxxxx~~ Rostock. And there the American bombing squadrons tangled with two hundred Nazi fighters in fierce combat, characterized by German suicide attacks. And that was a sector in which we sustained heavy losses.

Moreover, way to the east, the area of Stettin, was hit. And there the American air forces had a two-hour battle with a swarm of Nazis.

The official communique states: "Our fliers reported the enemy employed all types of ~~aircraft~~ single and twin-engined fighters in an unsuccessful attempt to turn the bombers from their objectives." In other words, we may have sustained losses, but a huge weight of bombs hit the German factories producing enemy fighter strength.

SELECTIVE SERVICE

Washington today issued a list of vital war production jobs that will defer men under twenty-six. The list is long and in much detail, but it omits a lot of categories in which men are being deferred right now. Perhaps only as many as fifteen percent of the deferrals now granted will still hold good -- for men under twenty-six.

Indiana's presidential choice. His name was entered in the primary ^{and a} ~~primary~~ campaign was made for him.

Next comes Governor Dewey of New York - whose name was not in the primary, and who protested he did not seek the Republican nomination. Last comes Wendell Willkie, whose name was entered - but who had withdrawn. His retirement after the Wisconsin primary was too late for his name to be taken out in Indiana - it was on the ballot. The voters understood and gave him comparatively few votes.

In Illinois, is the Republican primary.

LEAD POLITICS

The returns from the Indiana primary are exceedingly scattered. The vote in that mid-western state was light, because of the worst kind of weather. There weren't so many ballots to count, and yet we have only a fraction of them tabulated at this hour. They show Lieutenant Commander Stassen in the lead, as Indiana's presidential choice. His name was entered in the primary ^{and a} ~~was the~~ campaign was made for him.

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In Illinois, in the Republican primaries,

an overwhelming victory seems to be indicated for General MacArthur, who, however, ran against Bender.

Did you ever hear of Bender? I doubt it. Riley A.

Bender is described as a former prizefighter, who somehow or other was entered in the Illinois contest

for the Republican nomination. At last reports,

MacArthur was far in the lead, with Bender *— his only contender —* away back

there - shadow-boxing, apparently.

FOURTH TERM

The fourth term was endorsed tonight, by implication at least, by Senator Alben Barkley of Kentucky - who only a few weeks ago was in wild insurrection against the White House. All of which would seem to prove ~~perfect~~ the perfectly sound and familiar point that domestic fights need not last forever. Or - when family members have a battle, there is no good reason why they shouldn't stand shoulder to shoulder against the people next door.

~~Senator Barkley was the President's "Dear Alben" for those numerous years of New Deal love and affection. Then, because of the bitter quarrel over the tax bill, there was a rift. Or, as we say, in Dutchess County, a tift. But, because one Smith had a slight argument, there is no reason why any Smith should go over to the side of the Joneses. And so we find Senator Alben Barkley Smith true to his iternal~~

FOURTH TERM

~~enmity against the Jones family - that is, the~~
~~Republicans.~~

Senator Barkley, it is true, did not shout loudly - fourth term, with emphasis on the number four. He merely extolled the President's administration, and challenged the Republicans to give any indication if they could do any better. He is quite sure they couldn't, and therefore the Senator's Number is - four.

And another voice to the same effect is raised in New York City that of Edward V. Laughlin, leader of Tammany Hall, *who* stated that the President ~~himself~~ must run for a fourth term, regardless of his personal wishes. *(The* Tammany Hall *leader* ~~he~~ did not say whose personal wishes counted, but he confidentially predicted the reelection of the President in November.)

WALLACE

And now we have ~~xxxxxxx~~ Vice-President Wallace on a journey of state. He is to visit ~~Chungkingxxxx~~ Chungking on an official mission to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. It is to be an official trip, with the Vice-President carrying a message to the war leader of China.

All of which has large international meanings, global in scope - but the more petty minded are inclined to ask whether the vice-presidential journey in behalf of world cooperation may not have some connection with the smaller ~~and even miserable~~ affairs of American politics. One of the large questions about the Democratic convention, to be held this summer, is whether or not Henry Wallace will be renominated as President Roosevelt's running mate.

Those who accept the fourth term as a foregone conclusion, are not all so completely convinced that

Wallace will have the second place on the ticket.

And now he is going on a global mission - to Chungking

and Chiang Kai-shek. ~~Which~~ Which starts a new spin

in the brains of the politically minded, who wonder,

is the global mission the sign of another vice-

presidential term for Henry Wallace? Or - is it a sign

that Wallace is not to have another term? Meaning,

the difference between twiddle-dum and twiddle-dee,

or what ~~does it~~ **does it mean?**

NATURE

Nature is still up to her old antics - adding the misdeeds of the elements to the havoc of war.

Tonight, ~~was~~ up in the mountains of Colorado,

^{tho} thirty-two persons, including three babies, are ^{still} marooned on Berthoud Pass, ^{up at} ~~which is~~ twelve thousand feet, ^{but} ~~above~~ ^{now in a comfortable lodge} ~~see level~~ on the crest of the Continental Divide.

~~The~~ Motorists ~~who were~~ caught in the worst blizzard that Colorado has had in more than fifty years. ^{TP} One

automobile was ^{hit} ~~caught~~ by an avalanche, and in it were two women lieutenants - ^{one a} ~~of the~~ Waves, ~~and the~~ Spars.

^Q ~~One~~ swipe of the avalanche knocked the auto ~~off~~ the road and down a slope. It turned over six times, ~~and~~ finally crashed ^{ing} against a tree.

The Lieutenant of the Waves, Helen Durfee, was hurt seriously, and was critically in need of medical aid. So to the rescue went half a dozen ski troopers from Echo Lake. They battled their way through

giant snowdrifts, ~~to the lofty pass on the crest of the~~

~~Continental Divide. And they~~ ^{and} were ~~able~~ ^{able} to take

Lieutenant Helen Durfee out - on a stretcher. ~~It was~~

Quite an exploit ^{that!} ~~proving through the deepest of snow,~~

~~and tonight the Lieutenant is in a hospital.~~

~~The ski troopers likewise brought blankets and food to the other marooned motorists. And tonight we hear they are ~~quite comfortable~~ sheltered in a lodge up there on the snowbound Continental Divide.~~

~~To the south, in Arkansas, it was the case of a tornado, the old twisting devil of the south and southwest. The storm ~~swept here~~ ^{blasted} through five towns, three lives lost; ~~and~~ a hundred injured.~~

~~And farther to the south, ~~was~~ such farther, in Argentina, a disastrous flood hit the southern part of the Province of Buenos Aires. Violent rains caused ^{the} swelling ^{of} rivers, and streams were turned into torrents~~

Follow weather - Nature - 2,

And to the south, in Dixi^eland, that old demon, the weather, has been rampaging around in the most violent fashion. "Tornado" - that dread word in the south and southwest. In Arkansas, Alabama, ^{and} Oklahoma, tornado-winds and electrical storms and floods have been causing a loss of life totalling twenty-seven - at last reports. And countless people have been injured ~~and~~ made homeless. ^{TP} The Weather Bureau says - "tornadic storms", and adds a further technicality - "high pressure area." We are told that this high pressure area is tonight sweeping toward the Ohio Valley. ^{TP} From all the meteorological technicalities, we have the simple fact that severe ~~kind of~~ storm conditions have hit the area where the south and southwest join, and that the crisis of the tempest and flood is moving up the Ohio Valley.

FLYING STORIES

One of the great recent flying stories ^{was the} ~~is that~~

^{one}
^

of the gunner who fell from nineteen thousand feet, in the severed tail of a Flying Fortress. - ~~the tail had been ripped off, and he was in it and fell for that distance of nearly four miles~~ And all he got was a scratch on the chin! Today's news is that, after the dizzy adventure, this same gunner, Sergeant James Raley of Henderson, Kentucky, was in the hospital for two months - which hardly seems to fit the account of the mere scratch on the chin.

The whole thing goes to show how a story can be improved upon - though ^{there} ~~it~~ would seem mighty little reason to monkey around with so wild a thriller.

Sergeant Raley did incur a scratch on the chin, but he also sustained injuries to his back, that sent him to the hospital for two months - as a result of his four mile fall in the tail of the Flying Fortress,

an almost incredible drop that ended in a tree - where
was cushioned by the ~~tangle of twigs and~~ branches.

And here's another thriller of the air war,
which caused me to put in a telephone call today to the
Roxy Theatre in New York. I asked them about Sergeant
William Miller, who is now a tail gunner in a Marauder
bomber in Italy, and who is said to have worked at one
time at the Roxy. They told ~~him~~ me, yes, the Sergeant
had been employed at the theatre for nine years - as an
usher. He was, in fact, a star among the young fellows
in uniform who direct the patrons, an expert in the art
of handling crowds. All of which is the background for
a laugh in the heat of air battle.

Nazi fighters were attacking, and one got on
the tail of the Marauder - ~~that~~ ^{which} put it up to the tail
gunner, the former Roxy usher. ~~He aimed his gun~~

~~the~~ on-coming Nazi, and his companions heard him say -

"This way please," as if he were directing the ~~Nazi~~ ^{enemy plane.}

Just as he used to direct New York theatre crowds.

And he repeated - "This way please."

You'd almost think that the ^{hostile Jerry was} ~~many planes were~~

obeying, as it swerved into the right position. Whereupon

3 1/2 the gunner opened with a stream of bullets, and the Nazi

was shot down, plunging earthward. And I suppose the former Roxy usher

might well have echoed - "That way please!"

4 And Roger this way please.