

P.J. - Standard. Friday, Dec. 8, 1944.
Sunoco.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD EARTHQUAKE

Late this evening the Japs finally admitted that the great earthquake did damage to a number of factories and homes. The violent shock hit the island of Honshu along a belt a hundred miles wide, south of Tokyo, the damage now conceded is placed at Osaka, the big city of war factories west of Tokyo. All this followed repeated statements during the day that not much damage had been done although the quake was described ~~the~~ by the Japs as exceedingly violent, ~~and it was~~ followed by a huge tidal wave, and landslides ^{at} ~~were caused in~~ various places.

QUAKE

The Japanese radio today ^{was} repeated~~y~~ over and over that the great earthquake had not done much damage - the violent shock that hit the Island of Honshu along a belt a hundred miles wide south of Tokyo. ^{no} ~~The Japs don't~~ mention ~~of~~ damage to Tokyo, ~~and insist, in one radio statement after another,~~ *They kept insisting on the radio* that no great havoc was wrought in the industrial cities to the south of the capital. ^{But tonight} ~~This in spite of~~ *they are admitting considerable* ~~their admission that the quake was exceedingly~~ *damage,* ~~violent, and was followed by a huge tidal wave, and that landslides were caused in various places.~~

The seismological indications on this side of the world were that the tremblor was even greater than the one that befell Japan in nineteen twenty-three - when a hundred thousand lives were lost in Yokohoma. A British Observatory registered a tremendous shock, so violent that for six hours afterward the whole earth was trembling.

British seismologists are of the opinion

that the center of the quake might have been the famous Tuscarora Deep, which lies off the Northeast coast of Honshu. That Tuscarora Deep is one of the prodigies of this earth, a stupendous cleft in the bed of the ocean - where depths of twenty-eight thousand feet have been registered. In other words, an oceanic chasm, the bottom of which is between five and six miles below the surface of the water. ~~Seismologists believe that Tuscarora Deep has been the cause of the many earthquakes that have shaken Japan - and probably it's the same story all over again in the case of this latest one.~~

By way of dramatic fitness, Japan was shaken on December seventh; - the third anniversary of Pearl Harbor bringing a great earthquake to the nation that did the deed of infamy.

~~And now a few good words from you, Hugh!~~

SUBSTITUTE PHILIPPINES

Late word from the Philippines tells us that troops of the American Seventy-seventh Division have now reached the outskirts of Ormoc. These are units which made the surprise landing on the other side of the island of Leyte, taking the Japs so much by surprise that there was no resistance when they drove ashore. The men of the Seventy-seventh kept going, and now, thirty hours later, they have reached their number one goal - The main Japanese base.

Moreover, American Ground Forces which have been fighting on Leyte all along, smashed forward today for a Junction with the new landing party. And at last reports they were only five miles away - that near to a joining of forces. And in between the two American Units a large force of Japs has been trapped.

More Jap ships have been sent to the bottom, and more planes shot down. American torpedo boats, hitting at Jap supply lines to Leyte, sank

SUBSTITUTE PHILIPPINES - 2

six vessels. And nineteen planes were marked down today to the credit of American Air Fighters. That raises the total to ninety-one -- in ~~the~~ air battles that occurred ^{ing} when the Japs hurled their planes at American ships after the ^{is latest} surprise landing. ~~had been~~ made.

SUPERFORTRESSES

A record breaking sea and air raid has hit the Japs on the Island of Iwo Jima, in the Volcano Group. B-29 Superfortresses and big Liberator Bombers struck from the air, while warships bombarded Iwo Jima from the sea. The Superfortresses carried the biggest bomb loads ever, much bigger than they have taken to Tokyo. The flight from their Saipan Base to Iwo Jima, a lot shorter, requiring less gas and thereby permitting more bombs - each Superfortress carrying as much perhaps as ten tons, which is the B-29 bomb capacity.

~~In terms of the total tonnage of bombs ~~xxx~~ dropped and the magnitude of the Air Forces involved, it was the greatest blow of the sky that the campaign in the Pacific has known thus far.~~

Why was all that explosive attention directed to Iwo Jima? Well, that island is the site of important Japanese Air Bases, and ~~N~~ lies

directly between Japan proper and the B-29 Base at Saipan. Because of this geographical fact, the Jap Air Forces on Iwo Jima have been able to do two things. One, send Fighter Planes to intercept the B-29's on their way up to Tokyo. Second, launch bombing raids against the Superfortress Base at Saipan. These bombing attacks have been of a nuisance variety - but a nuisance is something you want to get rid of.

Hence the record-breaking sea and air assault ~~which concentrated on stores of ammunition and gasoline, airplane hangars and repair shops. The purpose being - to knock out the enemy air base on the road from Saipan to Tokyo.~~

COCHRAN

The news brings along a military report from Burma, which is most interesting in the light of a prediction made some while ago. The forecast was given by one of the most remarkable and beguiling figures of this war - Colonel Philip Cochran, "Flip Corkin" of the comic strip, "Terry and the Pirates". - the brilliant young American officer who last spring led an air operation in Burma that was both a history-making military experiment and a daredevil adventure.

During the past autumn I talked a lot with Colonel Philip Cochran, getting his story - an account of how he and his partner, Colonel John Alison, had directed an American task force of the air, which seized jungle clearings far inside of Jap-controlled Burma, coming in with gliders and quickly constructing flying fields for troop transports.

From these bases operated the jungle ground fighters commanded by that amazing Englishman, General Orde Charles Wingate, a singular genius of war.

Wingate's Raiders established roadblocks,

cut Jap communications and choked off the Jap supply line, tying the enemy into knots.

This occurred during the dry season last spring. Wingate was killed in an airplane crash, and when the monsoon rains came on, the Cochran-Alison American air task force evacuated Wingate's men.

It was a daring and successful experiment of sky power, and I asked Colonel Cochran how much had been actually accomplished by the airborne invasion. He replied that the air and jungle operation had choked off supplies for the Japs in northern Burma, so that these would now be left without provisions and munitions. Cochran thought that, in this situation, the Jap Command would not even try to defend northern Burma - and the Allies could walk right in with little or no opposition.

And now let's see what the news brings.

A dispatch from British headquarters for the India-Burma theatre states the indications are that the Japs are abandoning the northern half of Burma. "A

Chinese force pushing down the valley south of Bhamo

for the last three weeks" says the dispatch, "has been unopposed". ~~The British fourteenth Army, in taking the Chindwin River town of Kalewa, killed only five Japanese.~~

A still later dispatch: "Patrols of the thirty-sixth division have advanced nearly four miles in the Myitkina-Mandalay Railway corridor without meeting enemy opposition".

That's how the news bears out the prediction made by Colonel ~~Philip~~ Cochran, and confirms the triumph scored by the air invasion -- which, by the way, was inspired by General Arnold, the American Air Force Commander, himself.

FOLLOW COCHRAN

The latest news tonight makes the Cochran forecast more striking still - a bulletin stating that in Northern Burma advancing Chinese Forces are now within eight miles of the Burma Road. The dispatch makes the comment that the whole Burma Road should be cleared - within the next few weeks - though it will take a couple of months to put the damaged highway into shape for traffic.

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Hugh - tell us about Stan,
of Calif. while I run thru the
rest of the news.

ADD WESTERN FRONT

Here's a striking statement - A declaration that General Patton's Third Army, in its great rush through France, could have gone right on to Berlin, without stoppking, if it had been supplied with sufficient gasoline. So says Frederick C. Crawford, Chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers - who has just returned from a visit to the fighting fronts.

WESTERN FRONT

More bridgeheads across the Saar River - that's the news from the Western Front today. We are told that American Troops, forcing new crossings in the stream, were supported by what are called "Giant Howitzers". Covered by the ponderous shellfire of these, the Americans pushed over in assault boats. In one place they crossed a railroad bridge.

The Germans are falling back in the Saar Valley all along the line, but it's a hard fighting retreat. At the Northern End of General Patton's Front, the Americans today had to beat off violent counterattacks by tanks and infantry - a five hour battle eight miles inside ~~of~~ the German Frontier.

Farther back, at a point ~~which~~ Patton's Third Army by-passed two months ago - a German Fortress was captured today. Near Metz, Fort Driant, which was headlined in the news when American Troops failed to take it by ~~st~~orm: Fort Driant, defended so stubbornly then, has been holding out until now--- for those two months. Today the Fort surrendered.

RUSSIA

In Hungary, Soviet Armies continue their progress - with Berlin announcing that a Red Army Tank Force has smashed through for eighteen miles northeast of Budapest. Along Lake Balaton, the water barrier before Vienna, the Russians today pushed their way around the southwestern tip. They are skirting the Lake, on their way to Vienna.

GREECE

The civil strife in Greece went on unabated today - in spite of the reports of negotiations for a settlement. We hear that representatives of the revolting left wing **E**las got in touch with the Premier of the legal government, for the purpose of coming to an agreement to end the state of Civil War. We hear that only slight progress has been made. And, meanwhile, the bitter fighting continued today - between Left Wing Partisans of the **E**las on the one side and *the* Greek Government and British Troops on the other.

All day long, British Paratroopers skirmished their way across the housetops in Athens, clearing out hidden snipers. Fighter planes and fighter bombers raked **E**las positions with bullets and high explosive. Once again the Acropolis was the scene of fighting, and the Parthenon - that great monument of classical antiquity - is mentioned repeatedly in the bulletins of the Civil War. A

couple of miles from the Parthenon, British Cannon,

twenty-five pounders, shelled an Elas position near a hospital, where the left wingers were firing with a mortar.

In many respects, the state of affairs in Athens is worse than it was yesterday, with British General Scobie issuing a statement that Partisans of the Elas had filtered back into sections out of which they had been cleared. Driven out by British Troops, they sneaked back, and General Scobie today declared that what he called "unprovoked attacks" on British Troops were increasing.

~~The loss of life has been heavy among the troops of the Greek Government. These have lost six hundred killed, wounded or missing out of an original force of three thousand. The British losses, on the contrary, have been - very light. Five thousand of the Elas Left Wingers have been captured, and among those were a number of women~~ ^{who} ~~they~~ were armed and in the fight.

CHURCHILL

The British policy in Greece was okayed in Parliament today - Prime Minister Churchill winning a vote of confidence on the general issue of the way he is handling political matters in liberated countries of Europe. The vote of confidence was overwhelming, two hundred and seventy-nine to thirty.

This lopsided majority, however, is not as impressive an endorsement of policy as it sounds. Because it was admitted everywhere in the commons that almost nobody wanted to see Winston Churchill ousted and a general election brought on. ~~Some of those who voted confidence in the Prime Minister were critical of the British stand in liberated countries, and quite a few M.P.'s registered silent protest by not voting at all.~~

Churchill forced the vote of confidence, and defended his position with a ~~savage~~ lashing out against hostile opinion. He defended British armed support of the legal government of Greece against the ELAS ~~xxxxxxxx~~ and repeated the contention that

the ELAS outfit is a gang of mutineers resorting to violence to set up a Communist dictatorship. He claimed that during the German occupation of Greece, the ELAS organization helped the Nazis in fighting against patriot resistance groups of the non-Communist variety. And spoke scathingly of terrorists who are out to extirpate opposing elements of the population, by accusing them of having been collaborationists. For a climax, he blazed forth with this bitter statement: "Democracy is no harlot to be picked up on the street by a man with a tommy gun".

Churchill said that during his last Quebec Conference with President Roosevelt, he warned the President that the ELAS crowd in Greece, allied with the communists, would try to overthrow the legal Greek government as soon as the Nazis were chased out.

~~He took cognizance of the recent declaration made by the American State Department - that the people of liberated countries should be allowed to choose their own form of government without outside interference. This American stand has been placed in~~

~~direct opposition to the British claim that Britain has a right to a political voice in the countries that Britain has helped to liberate.~~ Churchill today tried to harmonize the two views by saying that he agreed that the liberated peoples should have the choice, but he said he wanted to be sure that it was the people and not some gang trying to ~~xi~~ seize power by violence.

~~In the case of Italy, Churchill today was in open opposition to the American declaration -- as foreign Secretary Anthony Eden had been before him. In the recent American declaration, Secretary of State Stettinius said openly that the United States had no objection to Count Sforza, the ~~xx~~ prominent anti-Fascist who for so long was in exile. Churchill today denied that the British government had cast a veto against the appointment of Count Sforza as Italian Foreign Minister, but he repeated that the British do not like him. He called Sforza - "an intriguer", and said: "All we have to say is that we do not trust the man, nor would we put the slightest confidence in any~~

~~government of which he is a dominant member".~~

~~Another country in which the British have intervened in support of the legal government against Left Wing insurrection, ^{is} ~~is~~ Belgium. Churchill said today that the ~~Briffi~~ British Army had taken action against the left ~~imm~~ elements in Belgium under direct orders from General Eisenhower.~~

All in all, the British Prime Minister takes an unyielding stand in the matter of British ~~mm~~ political intervention in the countries liberated by the western allies.

FOLLOW CHURCHILL

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The Churchill declarations were followed by quick developments in Washington - moves to harmonize American-British policies. In the future the two parties had better talk things over before they act - that was the gist of things said this afternoon by British Ambassador Lord Halifax.

~~He disclosed that, when the British took their stand against Count Sforza in Italy, the United States Government was not informed. Nor were the British informed when Secretary of State Stettinius made the recent American declaration.~~

~~Both sides are maintaining their respective stands, but they agreed that in the future they had better consult with each other before taking any stand at all.~~

COMMANDERS

Late today the House of Representatives voted to create new and higher ranks for our American Army and Navy Commanders -- the ranks of General of the Army and Admiral of the Fleet -- these to be on the level of the highest European Ranks. For Example -- British Field Marshal.

Four Army Commanders are to have that lofty status: General of the Army. They are ~~Chief~~ Chief of Staff General Marshal, Air Force Commander General Arnold, Supreme Allied Commander in Western Europe General Eisenhower, and Supreme Allied Commander in the Southwest Pacific General MacArthur. And four Navy Commanders are to have the rank of Admiral of the Fleet, Navy Commander Admiral King, Presidential Chief of Staff Admiral Leahy, Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Nimitz, and Third Fleet Commander Admiral Halsey.

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That's interesting news. And now H - what have you to add before we sign off?