

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Just in from Admiral Nimitz:-- a bulletin stating that 2 of the 3 islands that we have invaded in the Gilbert group are now, in the Admiral's words: "securely in our hands." "Makin and Abemema. Though there is still bitter fighting on Tarawa."

"It isn't a rosy road to Tokyo," says Nimitz, "but, we face the future with complete confidence."

GILBERTS *Lead.*

Tonight we have the first graphic news, the first reporter-story with details - concerning the American invasion of the Gilbert Islands. United Press Correspondent Charles Arnot is with the soldiers who have been battling the Japs, and he tells us that the mass of warships and transports that launched the blow, was the greatest naval striking force ever assembled in the Pacific. The armada, says he, included the greatest number of aircraft carriers ever assembled on any ocean under any flag. ^π And in *that had been* the squadrons were battleships blasted at Pearl Harbor, sea giants that the Japs ^{had} crossed off the list as destroyed. Fully repaired, these Pearl Harbor battleships steamed in the great fleet that carried the invasion force to the Gilbert Islands.

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The U.P. Correspondent tells us what was in the minds of the soldiers, sailors and marines. They

expressed it by singing a song: "Good-bye mama, I'm off for Yokohama."

~~The invading force that landed on Makin Island was an outfit of former National Guardsmen, led by Major General Ralph Smith of Tucson, Arizona. With him was the son of President Roosevelt, Lieutenant Colonel James Roosevelt of the Marine Rangers.~~

~~states that the Leathernecks have consolidated their positions, and are making good progress. This progress is at the eastern end of Betio Island, which bit of land is part of the Tarawa atoll. Admiral Nimitze states that the capture of Betio is assured.~~

The assumption that the attack on the Gilberts is only a beginning and will be followed by an assault against the Marshall Islands to the north, was borne out further by the news today. Air action against the Marshalls continued, and that strongly suggests an aerial softening up preliminary to an invasion. The Japs on the Marshalls were bombed and strafed by planes based on carriers and by those long range army giants, the Liberators.

END GILBERTS - 4

The Tokyo reaction will be welcome news to the men of the United States fleet. For once they'll be inclined to cheer an announcement from the Jap capital. Tokyo gives a strong hint that the invasion of the Gilberts and the threat to the Marshalls constitutes a challenge that the Mikado's fleet may accept, and a decisive battle of the rival navies may come about, say the Japs. That's the sort of enemy talk which the Navy will really appreciate, if there is anything to it.

SOUTHWESTERN PACIFIC

From the southwestern Pacific, the news is a huge air blow. A hundred American heavy and medium bombers, Liberators and Mitchells, flew against the Japs on the southern coast of New Britain, on which ^{island} the great Japanese base of Rabaul is located. The American air squadrons hit the Gasmata area for the third successive day, hurling a hundred and forty-two tons of bombs - for the heaviest blow that has landed on the Japs in those parts to date.

Today's descriptions of last night's R.A.F. raid on Berlin give^s us one of the most vivid word pictures of the war of the air. Heavy clouds covered the German capital. But on the ground there was one explosion of such violence that its blinding brilliance shot through the murky atmosphere. Apparently it was an ammunition factory, and the pilot of a Lancaster describes what he saw as he flew through clouds and mist: "Everything suddenly went white," he says. "The brilliant ~~glow~~ stayed in the sky for a long time. Then it colored to a reddish glow, which went on as long as we were over the target. It was," he adds, "like a terrific sunset."

Berlin was virtually helpless against the stupendous raid. The weather was so bad that the Nazi fighters could not get off the ground. The anti-aircraft fire was intense, but it was shooting at random into the

heavy overcast. So the R.A.F. loss was lighter than usual. Probably a thousand planes took part. Twenty-six failed ^{ing} to return. ⁷⁷ Berlin was hit by twenty-five ~~thousand~~ hundred tons^s of bombs, which rained out of the sky at the rate of eighty-five tons a minute. ~~from eight o'clock until midnight.~~ And in spite of the weather, the returning fliers could see the glow of enormous fires for a distance of seventy miles. R.A.F. pilots were saying today that they did ^{not} believe ~~that~~ Berlin could hold out long under such punishment.

~~The latest, a dispatch from Stockholm, tells of tremendous damage in Berlin. The residences of Goebbels and von Ribbentrop were smashed, and other prominent buildings blasted into wreckage.~~

The latest is a Stockholm dispatch flashed across the wires tonight. It states that Hitler's own private residence in Berlin was completely destroyed. Also - the houses of Propaganda Minister Goebbels and Nazi Foreign Minister Ribbentrop. They were leveled - as were other prominent buildings in Berlin.

~~At one A.M. tonight, Stockholm time, there was~~
Still later word: - the
~~no communication between that city and the German~~
Berlin radio has just
~~capital. Telephone service between Stockholm and the~~
announced that the Nazi
~~Nazi big town was out at nine P.M. tonight, and was~~
Capitol was bombed again tonight!
~~still out at one, leading to the belief that the A.A.F.~~
~~was over Berlin again with another mighty air assault.~~

LEAD RUSSIA

The German drive that recaptured Jitomir from the Soviets is still driving back the soldiers of Russia. Moscow states that the Nazi counter-drive has now reached the vicinity of the town of Brussilov, which is halfway between Jitomir and the Ukrainian capital, Kiev. The Nazis are taking heavy losses, but are thrusting forward. And the Moscow bulletin states that Red Army units have abandoned a number of towns and villages. The Russian retirement was compelled by the pressure of huge forces of German tanks and infantry-massive reserves which the Nazis are tossing into the battle west of Kiev.

RUSSIA

On the other hand, the Soviets have scored successes in the area of Kremenchug, and reports from the front lines indicate that Russian drives thrusting from different directions have joined in the bend of the Dnieper-thereby establishing a solid front across the bend.

ITALY

The war in Italy is still at a virtual standstill with Allied troops bogged down in front of powerful German positions.

FASCIST ARRESTS

At Naples 2 more Fascists are under arrest named Guggenheim. The brothers Renato and Carlo Guggenheim are big-shot industrialists in Italy. They claim a distant relationship to the well-known Guggenheim family in the United States.

These two Fascists are charged with having been closely tied up with the Nazis occupying Italy.

Moreover, for a final dramatic touch, Renato Guggenheim is reported to have been seen telling the departing Nazis good-bye at one end of Naples, and then dashing to the other side of the ~~the~~ town to greet the Allied forces as they entered.

RETAKE

PATTON

It would appear that the soldier struck by Lieutenant General Patton in Sicily was Private Charles Herman Kuhl of Mishawaka, Indiana. Today the soldier's family revealed that they had received a letter in which he stated: "General Patton slapped my face yesterday and kicked me in the pants and cursed me."

The wife of Private Kuhl adds that she subsequently received a letter, in which her husband told of receiving apologies from General Patton.

The official version that flashes from North Africa is as follows: One day during the heat of the Sicilian campaign, Lieutenant General Patton, in command

of the United States Seventh Army invading the island, visited a hospital base for a comradely call on men wounded in battle. Old Blood and Guts talked to one injured soldier and then another, until finally ~~He~~ came to a patient who was in bed crying. The General asked him what was the matter, to which the patient responded with emotional distraction: "My nerves I guess. I can't stand those shells going over."

Whereupon Patton, noted for his hard boiled ways, shouted: "You're a yellow^{ow-}belly. Get out of this hospital and ^{go} back ~~up~~ to your unit at the front!"

The soldier was more terrified and distracted than ever, and the General struck him with the back of his hand and knocked off a helmet lining that he was wearing on his head. ^{Patton} ~~He~~ then ranted to the other soldiers, cursing cowards and mal^lingerers, after which he once more returned to the shell shocked patient and

struck him again with the back of his hand, shouting:

"In the last war we used to shoot people like you."

A nurse and the head surgeon tried vainly to intervene.

The nurse left in tears and the head surgeon also

walked out. ^{And} ~~The~~ General Patton left - without ever

inquiring about the real story of the soldier he had

struck.

It appears that this man had enlisted in the old regular army and had been through the thick of the Tunisian campaign and heavy fighting in Sicily. His nerves had been affected, and yet he had twice refused to leave his unit at the front - and had finally gone to the hospital only at the doctor's orders.

The affair was promptly brought to the attention of General Eisenhower, who took the most vigorous sort of action. He gave General Patton a merciless bawling out - "took the hide off him", is the expression that today's

official version gives. He informed Patton that if ~~the~~ he did not clear himself of the ugly incident, he would be relieved of his command. ^{— Eisenhower would "break him".} Whereupon Old Blood and Guts acted as drastically as he had in striking the soldier - but the other way around. He went to the hospital, and made a full apology to the soldier, the medical staff, and the other patients. He made a public apology to his own troops, as great a crowd as he could gather within hearing distance. His explanation was that a general in command ^{of a} ~~of a~~ campaign is under the most savage kind of nervous strain - he's on nerves' edge. Maybe you might think, that the General himself - in the tenseness of ~~x~~ the campaign, was a bit shell shocked.

The story became the common talk everywhere in the army in the Mediterranean theatre of war, and was kept out of the news - at the personal request of

General Eisenhower himself. He asked the war correspondents to ~~keep it out of their dispatches~~ *skip it - let it pass*

until some time when it could be more fittingly released -

General Eisenhower
~~and~~ explained that, in spite of the episode, he had not removed General Patton from his command, because Patton was so valuable as a battle commanding general. Nor had he formally reprimanded Patton, ¹ the merciless Eisenhower-bawling-out having been of an informal nature.

~~And so the whole thing was kept out of public note until now, though many knew about it. Today's story from North Africa explains that ~~xxxxxxx~~ the incident of the General and the shell shocked soldier ~~is~~ has now been disclosed because Radio Columnist Drew Pearson told about it on the air the other evening. ^R Altogether, it was one of those unfortunate things. The army has most rigid rules~~

regulating the relations between officers and soldiers. And, as things turn out, the apology that the Lieutenant General in command of an army during a campaign made to a single private and his own troops, is an indication that the military proprieties are being severely enforced.

~~The latest on the subject is severe criticism in Congress of General Patton, but it does not appear as if there would be any congressional inquiry, as had been suggested.~~

ADD PATTON

The moment the story broke in Washington, severe criticism of General Patton was expressed in Congress, but it does not appear as if there would be any congressional inquiry, as has been suggested.

Still later: - ~~The news wires~~ ^{tonight have been} ~~began to bring~~

^{carrying} stories to illustrate the fiery temper of the General, who certainly can be hot-headed at times. A radio correspondent in the Mediterranean theatre told how General Patton during the Sicilian campaign drove ~~to~~ ^{to} a military bridge, across which a Sicilian peasant was leading a heavily burdened mule. That made the General fume because the bridge was only for military transport. He flew off the handle and ordered one of his aides to shoot the mule, and ~~the~~ aide had to obey ^{as} says the radio correspondent. So the mule was shot, though fortunately not the peasant.

Another outburst of the Patton temper produced

an amusing twister. The General handed ~~out~~ a cussing out to a soldier-reporter because of a story he had written, a story stating that American soldiers took dives into fox holes for shelter when the ~~fire~~ ^{shooting} got too hot. The General gave the reporter the dickens for saying that, which irked the reporter all the more because he had a game leg. He was gimping with a bad knee which had been injured when he was in a fox hole and an American major jumped in and landed on top of him.

Today is the birthday of the SPARS of the Coast Guard, and that makes it appropriate to tell a Coast Guard hero story. ~~Which one?~~ Which one?

What exploit of valor? That question was answered today when I saw a news item in connection with the birthday of the SPARS. It related that Mrs. Edith Munro had enlisted in the Women's Auxiliary of the Coast Guard. And she is the mother of Doug Munro.

I knew about Doug Munro, had written his story in a book I ~~had~~ just turned out, a book called "These Men Shall Never Die." Doug Munro ranks as the Number One hero of the Coast Guard, and here's what he did.

At Guadalcanal, a detachment of marines, which had made a landing behind the Jap lines was in danger of ~~gi~~ being wiped out, and and Coast Guard boats were sent ^{to rescue} ~~to~~ the Leathernecks; ~~these~~ ^{The} boats ^{were} ~~in~~ commanded of Signalman Douglas Munro of South Clē Elum, Washington.

At the beachhead, under heavy fire, they began taking the marines aboard--a skeleton force of leathernecks holding off the Japs, while the other^s embarked.

The toughest job of all was to save their rear guard, as it came down to the boats in the fighting retreat. For the Japs had worked their way around onto a point of land, and were shooting at the ~~embarking~~ marines across a narrow stretch of water. There was no shelter to cover them from the hail of bullets. Or rather, there was--because Doug Munro put his own boat between the Jap machine guns and the embarking marines, the boat taking the blast of bullets. Two of his men were wounded and Doug Munro sank with a mortal injury.

He lay dying, but still conscious, and in his last breath he asked: "Did they get off?"

He was told--yes. Hearing that, Doug Munro smiled and died.

He was awarded a posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor, and now his mother has enlisted in the SPARS--taking her hero son's place in the Coast Guard.

And now Geo. it's up to you.