

WAR

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~~Today~~ <sup>today</sup> In Europe Allied bombers ~~continued~~ <sup>continued</sup> the work of last night and yesterday. During the daylight hours, war planes hurled new destruction on the French invasion coast, and last night British R A F bombers hit a rail junction fifteen miles southwest of Paris - a center of key importance for Nazi transportation in France. All of which evil havoc followed yesterday's stupendous bombing of Berlin by heavy American air forces.

It was revealed today that the Germans lost a hundred and seventy-six planes in yesterday's colossal smash at the Nazi capital. Flying Fortresses and Liberators shot down ninety-three, while American fighters destroyed eighty-three. The total of a hundred and seventy-six is the third largest ever scored against the enemy. The record number of German planes shot down was ~~three~~ <sup>three</sup> hundred and seven in the great Schweinfurt raid last summer.

In yesterday's assault, we lost sixty-eight bombers and eleven fighters. And today we hear that some flying Fortresses had to make emergency landings in Sweden. Earlier in the day, three were reported by Stockholm, and later on - another. This last one

made a pancake landing and burned, but of all of its crew members escaped safely - ten of them. In fact, of the forty airmen in the four bombers that landed in Sweden, only one was injured - and he slightly.

Tonight Berlin is still burning - after yesterday's assault.

Reports from Stockholm tell that whole neighborhoods of the Nazi capital were swept by flames all day today. We hear that three Flying Fortresses with full bomb loads crashed in the middle of Berlin, causing what the Swedish report describes as - "incredible devastation".

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A Stockholm report estimates that as many as sixteen-hundred heavy bombers and fighters took part in the attack, and that in Berlin four thousand people were killed, and <sup>that</sup> today thousands of terrorized inhabitants are fleeing from the city.

The Berlin population has already declined from five million to two million, and is <sup>rapidly</sup> growing less as the Allied strategy of obliteration approaches the goal.

## RUSSIA

The Soviet news tonight is from the Ukraine, where Red troops have captured more than two hundred towns - as they drive forward on a curving front of two hundred miles. The Russians are hammering at the huge salient which the Germans maintain in the bend of the Dnieper, where five-hundred-thousand Nazis are in what has long been threatening to turn into a trap.

Today's news pictures the Russians as striking for a breakthrough to Roumania.

Today's Soviet military successes were accomplished in the face of the worst kind of weather. Southern Russia is having a soggy Spring thaw - with the Steppes turned into seas of black mud.

## ITALY

The war in Italy is still tied up by the weather. On the Casino front was a flare of sharp fighting today, as Fifth Army troops pushed forward a bit in the shattered town, of which they now occupy a third. The Germans responded with a <sup>heavy</sup> fury of artillery fire. But on a large scale, military operations were impossible - because of rains that keep the Rapido river in a state of violent flood and have turned its valley into a strip of almost impassable morass. Elsewhere in the mountains along the Southern front, heavy snows are reported - Italy having a cold and very wet Spring.

From the beachhead near Rome, there is little news, the mere report of a couple of minor German attacks. There too the ground is boggy - the flat beachhead cut up by rushing rivers of water.

In spite of the weather, however, the Fifteenth Air Force was in operation today in a smashing way. Big bombers flew all the way to the French naval base at Toulon, now in Nazi hands. And Liberators in heavy strength attacked the freight yards at Florence, and airfields North of Rome. This latter item probably accounts for a noisy Nazi statement that Rome has been bombed again.

From Switzerland we have accounts of another kind of trouble for the Nazis - labor trouble. A huge strike is said to be on in Northern Italy. Six million workers out in many provinces. And, they are defying Nazi threats of brutal action if they do not return to work.

Representatives of the six million strikers are said to have presented demands to the German commander - demands for more food, <sup>and</sup> a cancellation of mobilization orders issued by the puppet fascist government; <sup>also</sup> The liberation of Italian workers taken to Germany; and so on. Switzerland says that the demands are such that the Nazi commander will not accept them. <sup>Also</sup> that the Germans are described as <sup>is</sup> setting up machine-gun nests in big cities and factories. anticipating that the strike may turn into violence.

Late news from Italy tells of a narrow escape by Fifth Army commander General Mark Clark. It happened right after the seizure of the beachhead below Rome, and has not been revealed, until now. In fact, we know about it only because of a ceremony of military decoration held at Naples today -- when General Clark bestowed silver stars on two naval officers, Lieutenant George Patterson of Macon, Georgia and Ensign Paul Benson of St. Louis, Missouri.

These two officers were in charge of the motor torpedo boat that took General Clark ashore to the newly invaded beachhead. The boat was speeding along and suddenly a German surface craft appeared -- and came dashing with blazing guns.

A shell scored a direct hit on the chart room where Lieutenant Patterson and Ensign Benson were directing the boat's course. Two sailors were killed and both officers were wounded. The Lieutenant despite grave injuries, continued to command the navigation, while the Ensign took over the wheel and did the steering. In that way, they handled the motor torpedo boat -- in an escape from the German craft that was attacking them ~~and~~ saving General Clark.

Today when the General presented them with decorations

Lieutenant Patterson was in a wheel chair and Ensign Benson was still limping.

And now for the wildest thriller <sup>of all</sup> ~~in the news~~ today -- a classic. One of those things that you might relate as an example of the incredible. An airman knocked unconscious in a disabled bomber, and the order comes -- bail out, and a comrade picks up the unconscious man and jumps out with him.

A marauder medium bomber was on an air raid against Nazi communications in Northern Italy -- when an anti-aircraft shell ripped out all of the controls. The Marauder went haywire.--

Naturally, with the controls shot out. The plane started up into a climb, and <sup>then</sup> plunged in a spin. <sup>But it</sup> ~~then~~ levelled off, long enough to permit the crew to bail out.

The pilot gave the order -- abandon ship. But there was one thing he didn't know. The waist-gunner was lying unconscious. He had been hit by flak and knocked out. Luckily for him, the tail gunner knew, and that tail gunner wasn't going to let his pal lie there to die in the crash of the disabled plane.

So he picked up his unconscious comrade, carried him to the escape hatch, and --still holding him, jumped. As the two went hurtling down through space together, the tail gunner pulled the rip-cord of his companion's parachute and let him go - to drift away.

Then, he opened his own chute and went floating to earth.

And that's about the most remarkable story of a fellow saving a pal that I've ever heard of! We haven't heard what happened to the unconscious gunner - what he thought when he regained consciousness in mid-air. But what a tale he'll have to tell.



In North Africa, a tense and dramatic trial is being held -- the treason trial of Pierre Pucheu, former minister of the interior of the collaborationist government at Vichy. The French Committee of Liberation has set out to prosecute French leaders who have supported the Nazis and the former Vichy minister of the interior is one of the first of these.

Pierre Pucheu, in his defense has been claiming that he went to North Africa at the invitation of General Giraud, then the head of the French North African Regime supporting the Allies against the Germans. So Giraud was called upon to testify, and appeared today.

He denied that he had invited the former Vichy minister to come to North Africa. Instead, Pucheu asked for permission to come, and pledged himself to engage in no political activities. Giraud said that back before the time of the Allied landings in North Africa Pucheu expressed the belief that the Vichy policy of "wait and see" had failed. Hence he wanted to get away.

In his testimony Giraud declared that in France, when the nation is liberated, there will be a need of trials of traitors. "I know", he cried, "that in France there are men who are servants

of Germany. There are men <sup>to</sup> ~~are~~ execute the orders of Germans to seize  
the wives of communists, and the daughters of generals." And then  
he added, "I speak with emotion."

Well might the General <sup>speaks</sup> ~~share~~ with emotion - for he was  
notified recently that his daughter had died in a German concentra-  
tion camp into which she was placed shortly after Giraud joined the  
Allies for the North African campaign.

Britain is having a big coal strike -- with forty thousand miners idle. In South Wales sixty pits were closed today, nearly half of the South Wales coal fields out of operation. And the strike is spreading. The cause of the labor dispute? Wages; with the miners demanding a complete overhaul of the wage system.

The island of Los Negros in the Admiralty group has now been completely conquered. ~~This~~<sup>So</sup> was announced tonight by General MacArthur's headquarters. That crack outfit, the First U.S. Cavalry, now mechanized, was the spear-head of the invasion. And tonight we hear that they have driven completely across the island of Los Negros -- completing the conquest, after desperate fighting.

In Washington <sup>at that</sup> ~~there was a~~ surprise interview today, ~~newsmen~~ gathered at the office of the Secretary of the Navy - and ~~who should be there to talk to them, but~~ Admiral Nimitz, our Fleet commander in the Pacific. With Secretary Knox beside him, the Admiral disclosed some interesting things about our war against the Japs.

He stated that the Japanese naval base at Truk is now virtually useless to the enemy - thus accounting for the fact that when our carrier-based planes hit Truk so hard recently, they found none of the Japanese fleet in the harbor.

"We were not surprised," said the Admiral today, "but were disappointed - not to find any major Jap units."

And he went on to say that the enemy fleet is now virtually unable to use Truk, because of the inroads into Japanese shipping made by American Submarines, our subs out there sink ~~Jap~~ vessels, especially, tankers and supply ships, at such a rate that the enemy is unable to maintain a <sup>line</sup> ~~line~~ transport all the way to Truk - <sup>enough</sup> ~~enough~~ transport to keep a fleet there.

~~"I believe," explained Admiral Nimitz, "that the Japs were beginning to find the maintenance of a fleet at Truk very difficult, and perhaps they had decided to withdraw their major units long before we attacked."~~

~~And he added that the same thing probably applied to Saipan, another Japanese naval base in the Mariana group. An American task force hit Saipan a week after the blasting of Truk, and once again no Japanese capital ships were found.~~

Admiral Nimitz revealed that the strength of the United States Fleet now amounts to nine-hundred ships - all the way from battleships to Submarines. ~~And in that figure,~~ <sup>with</sup> many smaller types of combat craft ~~are~~ not included. ~~As compared with our present strength of nine hundred~~ <sup>And</sup> we began the war with three hundred and forty-four fighting ships.

We are now in a position to engage the Japanese fleet in a major action with a sound assurance of victory, said the Admiral; <sup>he</sup> but <sup>^</sup> added that he didn't believe the Japanese warships would come out and fight. He thinks the Japs will withhold their fleet in

reserve as long as they can.

~~As for future strategy, the Admiral pointed once again to the China coast. Previously he had stated that the enemy would be defeated from China, and today he argued that Japan would be bombed to wreckage by air squadrons flying from Chinese bases. Rather than by planes based on the carriers of task forces, which strategy, he explained in the following words:~~

"We have learned in Europe," said he, "that a great weight of explosive is necessary to produce a considerable effect on land objectives. Carrier planes, he added, " just do not carry this weight of explosives."

He went on to say that carriers ~~of~~ task forces would continue to hit the Far Eastern enemy, but the big blow to knock out Japan will come from China.

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~~The~~ bonus Bill was introduced into Congress today. - along  
~~the lines of what we heard last night.~~ Senators Johnson of Colorado  
and Reynolds of North Carolina entered a measure that would  
distribute thirty billion dollars among army and navy veterans as  
they are discharge<sup>d.</sup> The program provides that soldiers and sailors  
with service limited to this country would get thirty-five hundred  
dollars each. Overseas veterans, forty-five hundred. And for each  
wounded service man - five thousand dollars.

Senator Reynold<sup>s</sup> said he wanted our soldiers to be assured of  
the thirty billions "while," as he said, "we are giving billions  
away to other people."



At Camp Roberts, California, there was one astonished lady today - Marguerite Erickson, director of the Cafeteria of the service club. Her surprise was occasioned when a soldier walked up to the cafeteria food counter and said:

"Forty-eight hamburgers, please."

The lady director blinked, and asked:

"You're going to eat forty-eight hamburgers?"

"Not me by myself," the soldier explained reasonably, "you see I got three buddies waiting for me outside."

So there were four of them to eat "them forty-eight hamburgers;" a mere dozen apiece. Just a snack - after which, I suppose, they would go and get a square meal.

## POLYGAMY

Today at Salt Lake City, ~~twenty~~<sup>fifty</sup> leaders of a Utah religious group were arrested on charges of advocating polygamy. Specifically they were accused of violating the Mann Act, the National Kidnapping Law and of sending obscene literature thru the mail - in their propaganda for plural marriages. The indictment list<sup>ed</sup> such acts as taking women across state lines, for polygamous unions. And one specific charge alleges that three members of the sect transported a fourteen year old girl from Utah to Arizona and of holding her as a plural wife. This - at a place in Arizona where the outfit maintains a group farm.

The religious group involved calls itself - "Fundamentalists." It has a membership of about two thousand, and is opposed by The Church of the Latter Day Saints - the Mormon Church. In times gone by, the Mormons themselves, of course, believed in polygamy - but the Doctrine of Plural marriage was abolished and outlawed by the Mormon Church fifty years ago.

The Utah Fundamentalists, however, cling to the old Polygamous idea, and they have been advancing the argument that the war, by

reducing the number of men, gives additional sanction to the theory of plural wives.

The number one leader among the twenty advocates of polygamy arrested today is a Patriach of seventy-one who is said to be the husband of four wives and the father of twenty children. This afternoon his response to arrest was a statement that he will take his case to the Supreme Court if necessary.

Here is further word on all this which is reported to be a U. S. Government campaign to suppress plural marriages. Not only is the Mormon Church against this polygamous outfit, but all those arrested today had been excommunicated by the Morkons for violation of the edict against polygamy. The Mormon Church in fact is collaborating with the F. B. I. in the drive against the polygamists. Some of those arrested have as many as six wives and thirty-three children.

Now here is Arizona Ben Slack who is a monogamist. Of wives he has merely one.

DANIELS

Today that much debated testimony was given before a sub-committee of the Senate. So what was it? During recent days, much rumpus has been raised because of the fact that the <sup>Senate</sup> sub-committee summoned Jonathan Daniels, a confidential assistant to the President; and, he refused to appear and give testimony. His contention was that it would not be in the public interest for a confidential assistant to make statements concerning confidential things he had done in behalf of the President.

The lawmakers did not agree, and Daniels was threatened with prosecution for being in contempt of the Senate. The storm looked as if it might develop into another big political tempest, but today it blew over, when the White House assistant gave in; - and gave the testimony required. So what did he have to say - after all the ~~in~~ ructions? The whole thing concerned the Administrator of the government agency for rural electrification - Harry Slattery, <sup>who</sup> ~~he~~ was asked to resign, but refused - saying he would not get out while under fire. Did President Roosevelt have anything to do with the attempt to oust Slattery? Yes - testified White House assistant

Jonathan Daniels today.

He told the sub-committee that the President believed that Slattery wasn't doing a good job and should be transferred to another post. So, on instructions from the White House, Daniels repeatedly tried to get Slattery to resign. And, moreover, he offered the electrification post ~~for~~<sup>to</sup> former Senator ~~W~~ Norris of Nebraska, and uncle Geroge said - no, he wouldn't take it.

There have been charges that the whole thing concerned a fourth term. (Electrification Administrator Slattery declared that he was asked to resign because the National Rural Electrification Cooperative association wanted him ousted. The Association has a lot of members - seven million votes affected, it was said. Hence the fourth term implication.

So today the Presidential assistant was asked: "Did you hear anyone in the White House discuss the political possibilities of the National Association?"

"No," he replied. He denied that he had ever heard the President mention any fourth term angle in the electrification row, and he added that, as a political machine the association was considered by the White House, to be, what he called - "a headache."

More bombs for the Japs in the Caroline Archipelago - with heavy blows hurled at two important bases. One, that key island of Ponape. Today's navy bulletin tells how long range army Liberators bombers dropped thirty tons of high explosives on the Japs in the Carolines, while in the Marshalls, which we dominate so effectively, another thirty-five tons of bombs hit the Japs on Atolls which they still occupy.

Moscow reveals that the Soviet government has sent a military Mission to Jugo Slavia, a mission that has already arrived at the headquarters of the Partisans. There, the Soviet officers are conferring with Marshal Tito, the Partisan chieftain.

At the same time, we hear of American military activity in the Balkans, with American ground forces opening an assault against islands along the Dalmatian coast. These islands are occupied by Nazi garrisons, and have previously been made the target of amphibious operations by the British - who invaded the island of Brac. And now the Americans are adding their own weight in drives against the Germans on the islands of Dalmatia.



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 Sprees. They were bothered by neither German fighters <sup>nor</sup> ~~or~~ flak from  
 the ground. This was because the Germans knew the American planes  
 were not bombers and could do Berlin little or no harm. Such is the  
 statement by Colonel Jack Jenkins, of Texas, who says: "they didn't  
 send any fighters against us because they are saving them, -- and  
 knew from detection devices that we were not bombers and could <sup>nt</sup> ~~not~~  
 do them any harm." *— so far as bombers were concerned,* "And, he adds, "if they had thrown up any flak  
 through the clouds they would have marked the city for any bombers  
 that might have been in the vicinity."

The American fighters, however, did encounter anti-aircraft  
 opposition, Not over Berlin, but as they flew to and from the city.  
 And because of this the American air force based on Britain has lost  
 its Ace -- Major Walter C. Beckham of Florida, our leading American  
 fighter pilot with a score of eighteen German planes shot down.

He led his squadron over a German military air base, where  
 the planes ran into a murderous hail of ground fire. What happened  
 is told by first Lieutenant George Perpente of Highland Park, New  
 Jersey. He was flying next to Major Beckham when he saw that Beckham's

plane was hit and smoking, whereupon the American Ace with a display of calmest courage, shot the following message to George Perpente, ordering him to assume command: "Take a course thirteen degrees, he called, and get the boys home," to which added, "I can't make it."

Lieutenant Perpente asked him -- what was wrong ?

To which he replied: "I can't make it, George, I've been hit."

Whereupon he left them, and was last seen banking upward in his smoking plane. Perhaps he ~~may have~~ got out by parachute -- they don't know.

ITALY

Tonight General Mark Clark, commander of the Fifth Army in Italy, sent a message to the army ~~of~~ on the <sup>Anzio</sup> beachhead, a message of congratulation. General Clark spoke of what he called - "The magnificent way in which our forces repelled the long enemy attack."

That summarizes the news of the day, which is - that the third major German offensive to wipe out the beachhead has been definitely defeated - a number one defensive success for our forces.

For several days, in ferocious assaults, the Germans drove forward, made gains and thrust salients into the Fifth Army lines. The Allied troops reacted, and proceeded to wipe out the enemy advances. And the word from the beachhead tonight is that the three crack Nazi divisions, which launched the offensive, are about back at the line from which they started. They have retired to their jumping off points, and in some places American troops have not only regained ground lost - but have made advances, driving further on. The latest - from the enemy radio at Rome, states that, under the cover of tremendous artillery fire, the Allies are launching a violent attack.

~~the~~ <sup>South of Rome</sup> fighting today <sup>the</sup> virtually the entire <sup>sky</sup> Mediterranean forces was

in action, <sup>everything liberators</sup> ~~from flying~~ Fortresses to <sup>A36's to P38's & Thunderbolts,</sup> ~~buzzing fighters~~. We are told that the cooperation of the air with the ground was record-breaking - the squadrons of the sky smashing the Germans incessantly all around the perimeter of the beachhead.

And heavy bombers raided Nazi communications in Rome, slugging at the railroad yards - bombing that Roman bottleneck of Italian transportation on which the Nazis must rely for supplying their forces to the South. The Roman railroad yards were plastered heavily with explosive and a big raid was hurled against the number-one flying-field north of Rome at Viterbo.

~~Italian war news is complicated tonight by Italian political news.~~

~~The key word is a familiar one - strikes. The Italian Communist and Socialist parties together with other factions opposed to the Regime of Badoglio~~

~~and Victor Emanuel have decreed a demonstration strike for tomorrow. It~~

~~is to be a ten-minute affair for purely political purposes and is ordered~~

~~for all Italian territories controlled by the Allies. The specific~~

~~target <sup>at</sup> which the strikes <sup>are aimed</sup> ~~is decreed~~ is British Prime premier Churchill~~

~~and his recent endorsement of <sup>the</sup> Badoglio <sup>and</sup> Victor-Emanuel government.~~

As is only to be expected the Allied military commanders have no