

POLAND

Late developments have come flashing across the wire concerning the Russian Polish dispute. One exceedingly definite thing is a Moscow announcement in the following words: - "The territories of the western Ukraine have become a part of Soviet Russia, and the territories of western White Russia have become a part of Soviet White Russia." The point of it all is, of course, that what the Soviets call the "western Ukraine" and "western White Russia" are precisely the areas that the Soviets took from Poland under the terms of the Hitler-Stalin pact.

The Red army to be sure, has still to win these territories from Nazi Germany. Soviet forces have penetrated former Polish territory at one point, but the bulk of the disputed land remains in the possession of the Nazis. However, Moscow <sup>now</sup> takes the further ousting of the Nazis for granted.

Today's Moscow announcement of the formal inclusion within Russian boundaries of about half of what used to be Poland would certainly seem to be a thing to ~~exasperate~~ <sup>exaggerate</sup> the Russian-Polish dispute.

*R*  
But, then there's another Moscow move announced in a late dispatch tonight. The Soviets invite Poland to join and take part in the alliance recently formed between the Soviets and the Czechoslovaks. Moscow wants to make it a three way affair, with Poland as an equal partner. And that would seem to be a decided gesture of friendship.

In other words, Moscow announces the annexation of a large part of what used to be Poland and at the same time offers Poland an alliance. Which certainly is a contrast of opposites.

But there is a third factor, a sort of compromise, which obviously is designed as a harmonizing element. Moscow offers to let Poland get back some of the land seized when the Nazis and Russians divided up the Polish Republic. That is, the Soviets declare tonight that they are willing to establish what is called the Curzon Line, and that would give back to Poland ~~the~~ the sectors in which Poles form a majority of the population. And the Soviets indicate that the Poles could take East Prussia away from Germany, Poland to annex that part of Germany which has been the traditional spawning ground of Prussian militarists.

We hear that the governments of the United States and Great Britain look with favor upon the agreement that Moscow offers to the exiled Polish government, and would like to see the Poles accept it. We have no reaction as yet, from the Poles themselves.

■

## RUSSIA

The Russian army in the Ukraine was closing in tonight on a railroad junction forty-five miles southwest of Kirovograd. That indicates how rapidly the red army has advanced since the capture of the Kirovograd stronghold, <sup>the</sup> ~~this~~ fall of which was such a blow to nazi strategy. Moscow indicates that the Germans made a desperate defense of the city and eight thousand were killed, refusing to surrender.

Today's Russian advances mostly continue the story on previous days, the story of desperate peril to huge German forces in the bend of the Dnieper -- where they are threatened with encirclement and annihilation. The soviet command is systematically cutting the railroad lines of escape -- the plan being along the lines of a giant chess game played on a board marked by vital railroad lines.

The Germ<sup>s</sup> are not minimizing the situation one bit. All along they've been emphasizing their military troubles in Russia, and today gives us some more along that line, ~~xxx~~ with a prominent



German military expert declaring that the whole issue of the war may be decided by the present battles that are being waged in Russia.

In fact, the German tone is so lugubrious that London is becoming suspicious. Tonight's dispatch from the British capital describes the present twist of Hitler propaganda as -- "calamity howling".

London notes that the German military situation can hardly be as bad as the Germans are representing it -- especially to Swedish newspapermen. The Swedes are getting from Germany accounts of German military misfortune that London thinks are exaggerated. What's the big nazi idea?

London opinion surmises that German propaganda may be preparing the way for the news of a general German retreat, an evacuation of all nazi occupied territory in Russia and a withdrawal from the part of Poland, the Baltic states, Finland, and much of Roumania. Their calamity howling may be away of getting the germans ready for the bad news.

Or -- London thinks that the nazi exaggeration of defeats in Russia may be designed to produce over confidence in the allied countries, excessive optimism and a belief that the war in Europe will be over soon. <sup>Which</sup> ~~This~~ might lead to a slackening of the allied war effort. -- ~~according to nazi propaganda calculations, as surmised in London.~~

ITALY

In Italy the fifth army continues its grinding advance -- a thrust forward of two miles being the latest. Tonight allied troops have almost completely encircled the town of ~~Servaro~~<sup>Cervaro</sup> which is a powerful nazi fortress guarding the town of ~~Cassino~~<sup>C</sup> -- that key point along the road which extends northward across more open country to Rome. The two mile advance reported today necessitated the storming of three strategic ridges of hills. American tanks were prominent in the operation, and the armored forces are described as ready to dash through the gap, the moment a break in the nazi mountain line is effected.

The war of the air is featured by a revelation today. In point of bombing attack, the target was sofia, capital of the satellite kingdom of Bulgaria. Flying fortresses and Liberators delivered the long range blow, just as they did yesterday -- when they assailed the harbor of Pola, the German submarine base on the <sup>Adriatic</sup>. The important disclosure is in the answer to the question -- from what bases did the big bombers fly to attack Pola yesterday

Ciano

The melodrama of Count Ciano has run its full course, if dispatches from Europe tonight be true. There seems to be no question about the ~~fact~~ item, which is officially announced by the German radio -- that Ciano, son-in-law of Mussolini, has been condemned to death by the fascists puppets of the nazis.

The German account ~~now~~ relates that Ciano was one of eighteen put on trial before a puppet court, and condemned; the eighteen consisting of members of the one-time fascist grand council at Rome. This, during the days of Mussolini glory, was the supreme governing body in Italy. And then, when disaster came, Mussolini was overthrown by a decision of the fascist grand council. The eighteen who have now been tried were the members who voted against the Duce and caused his downfall.

Fourteen were tried in absentia, they having escaped when the nazis took over so much of Italy. The four others were grand council members whom the nazis succeeded in arresting and turning over to the fascist puppets. One of them, Ciano; another, General



Di Bono, who was one of the original four leaders who led Mussolini's march on Rome, and who later was the fascist commander in chief in the war against Ethiopia. ~~He~~ <sup>He</sup> is too condemned.

From Switzerland come stories of an even more dramatic sort. These relate that Count Ciano escaped from imprisonment, and was shot. We are told that the son-in-law of the erstwhile Duce managed to get away and was at large for a while -- but then was hunted down by the Germans. And in a scuffle ~~he~~ was shot.

~~That is, one Swiss report announces that he was killed, but another states that he was only wounded and was taken back for ~~infliction~~ <sup>now</sup> of the death sentence pronounced against him. Still another Swiss <sup>And</sup> version claims that Ciano has already been executed,~~

The whole thing is a miserable commentary on the dregs into which italian fascism has sunk -- that black shirt regiment which was once so glittering and proud. The handsome young Ciano married Mussolini's daughter in a blaze of ceremony, and thereafter was regarded as something of the debonnaire crown prince of his father-in-law's swaggering regime. Mussolini's daughter Edda who

married Ciano, was her father's darling, and she was supposed to have ~~laid~~ <sup>paved</sup> the way for her aristocratic husband to climb to the top.

I wonder what kind of face Mussolini now, as a nazi stooge and fraud, puts on toward the execution of his son-in-law by the puppet regime of which the one-time dictator is now the phoney head?

ADD CIANO

Here's late word bearing on Mussolini's attitude toward the whole affair. There is a rumor that the erstwhile Mussolini himself was a witness at the trial and that he testified against his daughter's husband and the other defendants.

But the Budapest radio states that this has been what is called "denied authoritatively." Budapest explains that Mussolini was not at the trial -- was in no state of health to attend. He is said to be confined with illness to a villa in the Italian lake country.

## Southwestern Pacific

In the southwest pacific fighting on land has quieted down, with the emphasis placed on air action. A dispatch tonight tells of Allied planes assaulting a whole string of Japanese positions all the way from New Guinea to the great base at Rabaul. Allied bombs smashed Japanese island defenses on all sides of Rabaul.



## MARSHALLS

American air power continues to strike the Marshall Islands --  
That softening up process. This afternoon Washington announced  
more air raids against three atolls in the Marshalls - island  
strongholds of the Japs. Both Army and Navy planes struck  
explosive blows in this latest air offensive against the  
Marshalls.

~~EO Denver Colo 2207 Jan 10 1944~~

Lowell Thomas

~~Headquarters Camp Hale Colo~~

~~(Lead)~~

*high up among the peaks*  
I'm ~~in the mountains~~ of Colorado tonight -- my old home

state, ~~and have been~~ seeing sights that recall the ~~times when we~~ *old days when as*  
*a youngster I used to roam the Rockies,*  
~~gangs of kids used to go tramping and climbing in the steep~~

~~country. And what glorious country it is. The railroad trip along,~~

from California via Salt Lake City, ~~is~~ *is* a thing to deepen one's

appreciation of the fact that this country of ours, among its

other great qualities, has some of the most stupendous mountain

scenes on earth.

Riding the Denver and Rio Grande which plunges through

*on our way here*  
the heart of the mountains, we feasted our eyes on snowy peaks,

and thrilled at the breathless dash through canyons, tunnels,

gulches, and along mountain streams. It made ~~me~~ *me* feel ~~that~~ *again that*

*that all of us have who*  
special pride of the west, ~~which is one of the fine elements in~~  
*have ever lived out here,*  
~~the morale of American patriotism~~

And now let's see what our  
American panorama looks  
like tonight from this ~~perch~~ *Eagles*  
*stone* where I am, at an altitude of  
nearly 10,000 feet here in the Rockies.

CONGRESS

The second session of the seventy-eighth congress convened at noon today, and ~~was promptly in-formed of something unusual;~~ the president will not read his annual state-of-the-union message in person.

Ever since the beginning of the war the president has made it a point to present his regular messages in person. This time, however, the clerk will read it, -- because of the illness from which the president is now recovering. He has got <sup>ten</sup> over the mild case of the flu, <sup>that he has had,</sup> but the White House doctor, Admiral McIntyre, wants him to take it easy -- lest the grippe return.

<sup>it seems to be</sup> ~~The new congress is~~ faced with a whole lot of trouble <sup>- handling</sup> questions <sup>that</sup> ~~and which~~ are likely to provoke legislative battles. And the word from Washington is that the storms are likely to break right away, with a noisy row on the subject of pork.

Instead of the danger of a pork shortage, the peril to the nation now is an over abundance of hogs on the farms. For one reason or other, an embarrassing surplus has developed out of the previous

scarcity. The farm block in congress wants the O.P.A. to take the ceiling off pork, so that the surplus can be disposed of. They want a ration holiday.

This is opposed by the O.P.A., which insists that the best way ~~to dispose of the over abundance of hogs on the farms~~ is to issue extra points for pork. ~~This does not by any means, meet the demands of the farm legislators, and they promise to start a tempestuous uproar.~~

Senator Clyde Reed of Kansas stated today that an open battle could apparently not be avoided, because of what he called "the pig-headed bureaucratic theorists." Which might provoke the reflection that one should certainly not be pig-headed especially on the subject of <sup>pigs</sup> ~~hogs~~ and pork.



## SUBMARINES

A statement issued in Washington tonight informs us of the extent to which allied shipping losses were reduced during the past year. In Nineteen Forty - Three the sinkings were sixty percent less than in Nineteen Forty - Two. The last month of the year, December, was marked by a low figure for losses, and the submarine story for Nineteen Forty - Three can be summarized in these brief words: - the U-boat menace was definitely checked.

~~Note the Roosevelt piece is early while this submarine is late.~~

~~Tickets Chicago to New York arrived letter from Gordon says he is just back from flight to Alaska. He left Friday night we were in Chicago and got back January second.~~

~~Good night.~~

## ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt today requested the Army and Navy to keep Congressmen out of active service. The President gave the opinion that the Constitution makes it improper for national legislators to serve in the armed forces and at the same time keep their places in Congress.

All of which indicates that two Congressmen recently taken into the army will be discharged. They are Gore of Tennessee and Jackson of Washington, who waived their exemption as Congressmen and were drafted. This had a decided legislative importance because both are Democrats and their absence from Congress cut down the already slender Democratic majority in the lower House.

G. O. P.

Today we find another political paradox---the republicans upholding the term "New Deal."

This follows an opposite kind of paradox -- president Roosevelt tossing out those two familiar words "new deal." Just recently the president stated with vivid emphasis that the old nickname that he gave to this administration doesn't fit so well any longer and suggested another shibboleth -- "win the war."

But now the republicans, after battling so long and furiously against the new deal, don't want to let it go!  
Everything seems to be topsy-turvy these days!

In Chicago the republican national committee has gathered for the purpose of selecting a city for the next republican national convention.

--- and the odds are on Chicago to be the G.O.P. choice.

all of which gave republican national chairman Harrison E.

Spangler a favorable occasion for delivering a loud blast against

the administration. And one line that he has taken is to refuse to

let <sup>the term</sup> "new deal" sink in<sup>^</sup> to oblivion.

"It is proposed" he <sup>declared,</sup> ~~said~~ "to drop the term "new deal"!"


<sup>Then he added that although</sup> ~~he said that~~ the familiar political expression <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ now an embarrassment, <sup>to those who were new dealers,</sup> ~~but~~ never-the-less it ~~would~~ <sup>will</sup> not die. "It will live

on" cried the G.O.P. chairman "as signifying a kind of government

the people of this country will not tolerate again."

All of which would make it appear that in the coming

campaign we'll <sup>be</sup> ~~hear~~ <sup>ing</sup> about the "new deal" not from the

~~administration,~~ but from the republicans. 



ADD G.O.P.

G.O.P. chairman Spangler had previously <sup>said</sup> ~~stated~~ that in the coming presidential election -- any republican could win.

~~And now lets listen to a  
closing word or two from  
Denver and S-l-u-t-m.~~

And now lets switch to  
Denver and see what  
Colorado's mile-high-capital  
has to say. And s-l-u-t-m.

BALCHEN - MACMILLAN

Recently we had a thrilling story, released by the Army, about a secret Nazi weather station on the west coast of Greenland. Two Danish hunters had come upon it by chance. In the fight that followed one of them was killed and the other captured. Then, the head of the German radio asked this Dane to help him with some exploration a bit farther north. The Dane took him up on it, and the two started up the coast by dog team. One day the Dane overpowered the German officer. Then he started south with him, heading for the nearest American Army base. Strapped to that dog sled the Dane hauled his captive some four hundred miles.

Whereupon you will recall how the legendary Colonel Bernt Balchen took a couple of planes and went north to bomb out the Nazi weather base. After which our people captured it. All this I related

at the time.

The day after that story came through I sent a message to Balchen whom I have known for many years and told him that I hoped to see him in Greenland before long, or somewhere. No sooner had I sent the message than lo and behold he turned up, looking more like one of his Viking forebearers than ever. Erik-the-Red couldn't have been any more picturesque than Bernt Balchen.

While we were together I asked him if he could confirm the curious story I had heard about the establishment of a certain new air base in Greenland. He assured me the tale was true.

This is it:- Commander Donald MacMillan, famous Arctic Explorer, is now in Washington concluding a most important job: making up an Eskimo dictionary for all our people who are moving through the Arctic.



MacMillan speaks Eskimo. Also he is putting some finishing touches to our maps of the little-known coasts of the Labrador, Baffinland, Ellesmereland and Greenland.

MacMillan has been flying back and forth to the Arctic during the war and on one of these journeys he turned up at Colonel <sup>Bernt</sup> Balchen's headquarters in Greenland. There he found our people, at no little expense, ~~were~~ blasting roads out of cliffs and making a tremendous airfield.

Much of Greenland is still ~~■~~ unexplored. It takes a long time to cover an island that's almost as big as a continent. But MacMillan knows parts of Greenland fairly intimately and he happened to know of an absolutely level expanse not so far distant, and he told Balchen it would make an ideal flying field, one that would cost Uncle Sam almost nothing.



Then, before the authorities could investigate, a young Air Force pilot on his way across Greenland, had a forced landing. Luck was with him, and he came down at that very same unmapped spot MacMillan had told about.

~~The name of the young airman was Lieutenant~~

~~Frago:~~ Our people have now transformed the spot into a field, and they have named it <sup>for the pilot, a lieutenant,</sup> ~~Frago Field,~~ <sup>who was forced down there,</sup>  
I'm all for <sup>the</sup> young Lieutenant. ~~Frago~~ But -

I think a protest is in order: Why not name the field for the man who really found it? The man who actually suggested that it be made into an air base? Meaning Commander MacMillan.

Our American explorers seldom get half the recognition they deserve. Just another respect in which we are different from our British cousins who know how to use their explorers - both in peace and war.