

P.F. - Standard. Wednesday, April 19, 1944.
Bunoco.

INDIA

In India the British have broken the siege of Kohima.

We now learn that the stronghold was isolated for a week with an English regiment encircled and holding out against its incessant desperate assaults. This may turn out to have been one of those heroic defences, and now the garrison has been relieved.

Today, an imperial force with tanks broke through, eliminated a road block, and cleared a highway into Kohima. And tonight supplies are pouring in.

It is not believed, however, that the Japs will accept the decision. They are expected to launch new assaults in an attempt to re-establish the road block, and put Kohima under complete siege again.

At Imphal, the British successes continue. British Indian troops are forcing the Japs back through the hills in violent fighting. Mountbatten's headquarters reports the capture of three enemy defense positions.

And we have the opinion that the enemy Imphal reverses may throw back the whole expedition into India, hurling the invasion into reverse.

(end)

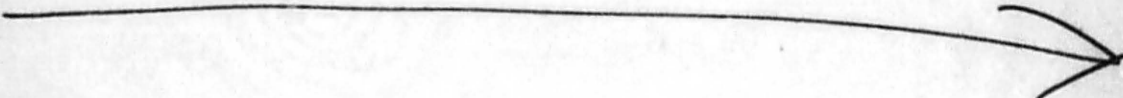
RETAKE

PEARL HARBOR

Today one of the most insistent of scandal stories was officially denied - that there was drunkenness at Pearl Harbor. Gossip has repeatedly stated that on the fateful morning of Sunday December seventh, many officers and men at the naval and air bases were suffering from the effects of high jinx the night before - and therefore were not on the alert when the Jap war planes came over.

Today's denial is from Admiral Hart, former commander of the ~~United States~~ Asiatic Fleet, who has been in the Pacific making an investigation of the circumstances surrounding the Jap sneak punch.

Admiral Hart has taken ^a huge masses of evidence, and now states that *all this* ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~is~~ emphatic in indicating that drunkenness played no part at Pearl Harbor and is no explanation of the inadequate and ineffective defense.



2 pearl harbor

And Admiral Hart likewise denies all stories that there was espionage and sabotage in Hawaii on December seventh. All sorts of rumors have circulated about hostile things done by the Hawaiian Japanese on the day of the surprise. Nothing to it, says the Admiral, and he adds:

"I think that, like any other important event, the attack on Pearl Harbor became well plastered with cock and bull stories."

(end)

AIR WAR

The air war over Europe certainly does seem to have

swung into a pre-invasion phase.)

Today, once again, a mighty force of American bombers

roared against Nazi Germany, an armada ~~is~~ consisting of a thousand

bombers escorted by a thousand fighters. These two thousand went

winging against the sources of Nazi air power. A major blow was

delivered against the city of Kassel - where the Germans have

some of their greatest plants for fighter-plane production. And

Kassel erupted with flame and smoke, ~~as the highest-explosive-block-~~

~~busters blew airplane factories into showers of debris, and as myriads~~

~~of incendiary bombs set raging tempests of flame.~~

Air opposition was light in some places, but at Kassel

there was a violent battle between the bombers and their escorts and

a swarm of Nazi fighters.

The waves of heavy bombers against Naziland were followed

by other bombing fleets, which flew against targets along the invasion

east. Tons of high explosive hit the elaborate fortifications ^{that} ~~which~~ the

Germans have built to resist the second front invasion.

~~Liberators of the Eighth Air Force hammered the area of Calais, while medium bombers smashed at the enemy along many miles of the coast.~~

— 0 —
And, the Russians today added their own contribution of explosives dropped from on high. A mass raid by long range Soviet bombers hit the Polish city of Lwow - one of the largest rail centers in Europe, and a hub of German war transportation.

— 0 —
So this was a day of continuous 'sky assault, and it followed a night of violent air action, *with,*

~~In the hours of darkness,~~ more than a thousand planes of the British RAF established ^{ing} an all-time record - hurling four-thousand, four-hundred-and-twenty tons of bombs; ~~THE~~ R. A. F. night fliers blasted targets all the way from Berlin to 2 railroad centers in France.

Add the day and night together, and we find that

during the past thirty-hours six-thousand,- five-hundred allied warplanes have spread devastation all the way from Poland to France, - dropping a thirty hour total of nine thousand, five hundred bombs.

~~So no wonder the dispatches from London say it looks like a serial prelude to "D" day "D" day meaning the zero hour for invasion. The Germans are of that opinion - more than ever. Last night we had them pictured as anticipating a second front assault probably in May, next month. Today the Nazi apprehension was expressed even more keenly - with an urgent alarm along two thousand miles of North European coast, all the way from Arctic Norway to the Spanish Border. Everywhere along that vast line, German commanders were ordered to be on the alert. They were told that the blow might fall, in the words of the German high command: "At any place and at any hour."~~

The Germans admit that they are afraid of a surprise, as is stated graphically in Berlin dispatches printed in a Stockholm newspaper, "The Allied success or failure is largely dependent upon their ability to achieve surprise," says the Berlin story.

And it adds that the time of landing is of less importance than the place - whether the Allies succeed in fooling the Germans regarding the point where the blow will fall.

~~This Nazi alarm is echoed by the cracked voice of a puppet in France - Laval. He gives the warning of a parachute invasion, saying that clouds of parachutes would descend in France ^{in order} to seek the cooperation of the anti-Nazi partisans among the French. To which the pro-Nazi puppet adds: "Civil war will break out in France." And that would certainly be disturbing to the German forces - confronted with a giant invasion on the coast.~~

(end)

office say must get this....

PLANES

~~The latest tonight is a~~ war Department confirmation of the

latest story about American paratroop planes being shot down by American

has just come through.
Only recently, we had the disclosure of twenty-three American

air transports shot down by mistake in the invasion of Sicily - four
hundred and ten men lost. And now, we are told of this other incident,

which occurred only three nights later. Ten American planes were shot
down, with a loss of forty-four men. And the War Department states the
belief that five of the planes were blasted by Allied gunfire.

Today a story to this general effect had been revealed by

columnist Drew Pearson.

(cont)



ADD PLANES

The Drew Pearson version was that twenty-one Allied transport planes were brought down by Allied guns with a loss of nearly four hundred lives. This does not necessarily conflict with War Department statement, which speaks only of American planes destroyed and leaves a possible implication that perhaps British aircraft too were victims of the mistake.

Pearson said that the planes, in his words, "were shot down by Naval gunners, probably a combination of American and British ships." The latest, however, is a statement by a spokesman of the Navy Department, who declares that no American Naval vessels were involved in the tragic accident of war.

The Army does not reveal officially the branch of the service to which the men who were lost belonged, but it is reported they were probably paratroopers.

There was an immediate reaction in Congress tonight, with new complaints about the withholding of news. Senators and Congressmen protested about the way the news of this latest mishap was held back ever since the beginning of the Sicilian campaign last Summer, nine months ago.

(end)

HITCHCOCK

Word from an air base in Britain tells us of the passing of one of the greatest figures in the world of sports --

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Hitchcock, jr. Tommy Hitchcock -- for years

~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~number~~ ~~one~~ ~~figure~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~hard~~ ~~riding~~ ~~game~~ ~~of~~ ~~polo.~~ ~~Whereas~~ ~~he~~ ~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~commander~~ ~~of~~ ~~a~~ ~~group~~ ~~of~~ ~~Mustang~~ ~~fighters~~ ~~based~~ ~~on~~ ~~Britain,~~ ~~and~~ ~~lost~~ ~~his~~ ~~life~~ ~~in~~ ~~an~~ ~~airplane~~ ~~accident.~~ His fame was world wide. You and I would think him too old for it. But off he

Tommy Hitchcock was already a star polo player when

at seventeen he tried to enlist in the United States Army air corps in the last war. He was turned down because he was too young -- but that didn't stop him. He joined the Lafayette Escadrille of American flyers in the French Army.

TP Twenty seven
years ago he flew in combat and shot down two German planes --

and then he, himself, was shot down behind the German lines, and

made a prisoner. But he was not long in captivity. He escaped. He

tumbled out of a train window, and got out of Germany, during World War one.

~~And now in World War Two, back in it again -- ~~and~~ in the air -- in command of fighters. Tommy Hitchcock, one of the finest men I ever knew.~~

went to this war. but

2 Hitchcock

In the years following the year, Tommy Hitchcock was world famous as a ten goal polo player -- one of the few. He held that high ten goal rank year after year.

All the while kept up with his flying, and during the war crisis was sent to England as assistant military attache of the American Embassy in London. But he wanted to be in the battle, which was not easy -- because he was forty-four. He said bitterly: "You kept me out last time because I was too young. Now you want to keep me out because I'm too old."

So they let him in, and he rose to the command of a group of Mustang fighters. And now after the perils of the battles of the air -- a fatal accident.

They just don't come any better than Tommy Hitchcock.

RUSSIA

In Russia heavy fighting still continues in front of

Sevastopol -- without much change being reported by Moscow. ~~In fact,~~

American correspondents in the Soviet capital noted that today was the first time since January 15th that a Moscow war bulletin failed to mention the capture of a single town on the eastern front.

The vanguard of the Sevastopol assault is being led by Russian veterans who took part in the historic defense against the Germans two years ago. And one front line dispatch says "every clump of trees, every rise of terrain, every telegraph pole stirs deep memories of the two hundred and fifty day seige."

(end)

ODESSA

One of the weirdly dramatic angles of the war was

revealed today in a dispatch from the recaptured Russian city of

Odessa - the great port on the Black Sea. It tells of a city beneath a

city, a fortress beneath a fortress - an underground world, where a

Russian military force held out for two and a half years, the whole

period of the German occupation of Odessa. The story is sent along to

us by United Press Correspondent Harrison Salisbury, who, with other

newspapermen was taken on a tour of the catacombs of war.

Tunnels and caverns have been featured in a spectacular

way in the battle for Italy, mazes of underground passages left from

the days of antiquity in the middle ages. At Odessa, the spaces below

the earth are not nearly so old. They date back to Catherine the Great,

a hundred and fifty years ago. The city was built by order of that

legendary empress and to get stone for buildings they quarried underground,

cutting out great caves and long passages, in thick layers of limestone.

Thus were the catacombs of Odessa created, and promptly they were used

by smugglers - who hid down there and extended the labyrinth of tunnels.

In the Russian Revolution of Nineteen Seventeen, the caves below the city were convenient hiding places for the Bolsheviks - in their conspiracies to take power. In the present war, when the Germans besieged Odessa, Soviet military men hid great quantities of weapons and supplies in the catacombs - and a large force of Soviet troops took refuge there, when the Germans captured the town.

Today's account tells us that in the catacombs lived a partisan army of some ten thousand men - and three thousand other refugees. They had offices, printing presses, wireless sets, hospitals and food kitchens. At night, partisan soldiers sallied out above ground, for quick attacks against German patrols, ~~while women stole out to forage for food - renewing the supplies underground.~~

The most amazing part of the story is this:- The enemy garrison of Germans and Rumanians never dared to venture into the ^{real} caves, where the winding passages were such that one man with a tommy-gun could have held off a regiment. All the enemy forces did was to drop bundles of grenades into catacomb entrances now and then - and blow things up. The subterranean mazes had hundreds of entrances, and many of these the enemy soldiers never ^{did} ~~could~~ find.

We hear now ^{that} one of the most important of the secret ^{entrances} doors was in the kitchen of a workers' home, where a wooden ladder led down into a tunnel. Thousands of Russians knew the address, but the Nazis never found it out - until two days before the Red Army forces recaptured Odessa.

Two hundred German soldiers were ^{then} sent to seize the place. ^{Where}

The partisans swarmed out from down below, and gave battle. There was fierce fighting, with the enemy setting fire to houses in the neighborhood. They were still trying vainly to battle their way to the tunnel entrance, when they had to clear out - in the German evacuation of Odessa.

(end)

AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister of Australia arrived at San Francisco today -- enroute to Washington. Just what his mission to the National Capital may be is not disclosed. Prime Minister Curtin contented himself with routine observations including an expression of confidence in what he called "the Allied capacity to defeat Japan."

(end)

G.O.P.

^{G.O.P.}
To California goes the honor: -

~~The Republican Keynote will be Governor Earl Warren of~~

California. At the Republican National Convention in June, ^{Gov. Warren to} ~~he will~~

deliver that opening address which is supposed to set the key and

sound the note.

He →

Governor Warren was chosen at Chicago today by the

~~Republican committee making arrangements for the convention. That is~~

~~he was selected as temporary Chairman, which official traditionally~~

~~sounds the keynote.~~

~~The permanent Chairman will be Congressman Joe Martin of Massachusetts, Republican Leader in the House of Representatives. He officiated in that capacity four years ago, when Wendell Willkie was nominated, and now, once again he will be the convention chairman.~~

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PARTIES

It looks as if Hollywood's house of big parties will soon close down -- its magnificent revelries to discontinue. For tonight it was picketed by parties of neighbors, vigilantes, and right now the house of big parties is dark and quiet.

It's an expensive mansion way up in swanky Cold Water Canyon, which three weeks ago, was rented by Miss Toni Hughes -- and then the fun began. Miss Hughes, young and pretty, admits that she likes to entertain, and every night there were parties loud and gay.

In the house was a permanent bartender and, a professor who played the piano. And Toni's step-brother distributed calling cards with maps so that the multitudes of guests would have no trouble in finding the place.

It was much too noisy for the neighbors, and they were equally loud in complaint. A process server called on the mansion with a court order to stop the parties, but was met at the door by the cook, who carried an iron pot in her hand and told him he was trespassing. She brandished the pot in such fashion the process server departed in a hurry.

2 parties

3 Two policemen were assigned to watch the house, whereupon Toni, a gracious hostess at all times, -- invited them in and treated them to drinks and thick steaks. She had quite a stock of the best cuts of sirloin, that has caused the O. P. A. to wonder -- how she managed to ~~save up~~ save up all those points. The O. P. A. is looking into that.

And, on top of it all, the neighbors banded together as vigilantes, to stop the influx of guests who were accustomed to stream to the house of big parties. And now, after a couple of days of picketing, not a whisper of revelry can be heard.

And now Roger, let's hear a whisper or two from you. Remember -- just a whisper.

ROME FOLLOW ITALY

Left out of late.
Apr. 19 - wed.

A formal declaration concerning the city of Rome was made today by President Roosevelt - Rome with its incalculable wealth of religious and cultural monuments, left from the days of classical antiquity and the middle ages. President Roosevelt replied to an appeal made by Irish Prime Minister de Valera, who addressed notes to both Berlin and Washington, asking that Rome be spared from the havoc and destruction of war.

The President's reply puts the whole thing squarely up to the Nazis. He states that the Germans are using Rome to the limit as a military center and that therefore they are responsible if harm comes to the city. Speaking of the Berlin government, the President states: "The fate of Rome rests in that quarter."

He reminds de Valera that all along the policy of our forces has been to spare the celebrated antiquities of Italy, striking at them only when the Nazis have forced the issue. And the same thing applies to Rome - it is up to the Germans.

~~Simultaneously with this the enemy issued another propaganda blast - saying once again that Rome has been declared an open city.~~

CHAPLAINS

In Naples today, a statement was made that the Protestant

Churches are not providing enough Chaplains to meet the needs of the Navy. This was said by the Chief Chaplain of the Fleet, Captain Robert D. Workman - who is a Presbyterian. He declared that in the quota for March there was a shortage of four hundred clergymen. All are Protestants, he said, and went on: "I don't think Protestant clergymen would remain complacently with their congregations at home, if they realized the needs of these men who have been under heavy shell fire."

This draws a prompt echo from New York, where Dr.

Ralph W. Sockman, Pastor of Christ Methodist Church, says - he ~~agrees~~ agrees. He declares that Protestant clergymen have failed to come forward in sufficient numbers as Navy chaplains, but he adds: "There just aren't enough of us to go around."

(end)

FILIBUSTER

Here In Washington, the Southern Senators are in training for an orational battle against the anti-Poll Tax Bill - that measure which would outlaw a Dixieland device ~~is~~ for maintaining white political supremacy. The Southerners plan to win - with words, innumerable ^{rolling} sentences, phrases and clauses, ~~countless~~ ^{sonorous} nouns, pronouns and adjectives. In other words, a filibuster, the same way they beat the anti-Poll Tax Bill last year - by talking it to death.

One of the Southern stalwarts is Senator Ellender of Louisiana. His state, it is true, has no Poll Tax, - but he is lined up with his Southern comrades for the filibuster. And today he promised prodigies of verbosity.

Senator Ellender says that, in his filibustering oration, he is going to give the Senate a complete history of voting rights in the United States - in a speech of at least a hundred-and-twenty-five hours of solid talking; that's more than five days.

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text

The Senator declares he already has four hundred pages of manuscript assembled, amounting to a hundred-and-eighty-two thousand, five hundred and fifty words - which it will take him thirty six hours to deliver. *And he adds, is* that only the background material. "It's practically all quotations and reference matter," *explains* the gentleman from Louisiana. *"And" he goes on,* "and" it will take more than twice thirty six hours to expand and comment on these quotations." After which he will add his own deductions, to the extent of a few hundred thousand more words - hour after hour, day after day.

"That" proclaimed the Senator today, "will be my first speech. And if they want to persist," ~~He~~ threatened, "I'll be ready to go into the second phase." In other words, there is no length of *le*quacity to which he won't go.

In addition to Senator Ellender, there are about two dozen other Southern Senators who are prepared to deliver orations just as extended - a few days each. *And* They are confident that, in the filibuster, they'll be able to talk the anti-Poll Tax Bill to death.

*And that ends my
lequacity for tonight, so
And now for a final oration
from H. in N.Y*

LEND-LEASE

The House of Representatives today voted its okay for Lend-Lease. By a vote of a hundred and thirty-four to a hundred and fourteen, the Congressmen authorized a one year extension of the Lend-Lease program. This followed a rejection of various amendments designed to require Congressional approval of post-war settlements.

One amendment was adopted. Sponsored by Congressman Wadsworth of New York, it stipulates that nothing in the renewal of Lend-Lease shall authorize the President to commit the United States with respect to post-war economic policy - except according to constitutional procedure.

(end)