

PACIFIC

L. T. Semoco - Thurs NOV. 2, 1944

(No standard broadcast)

In the Philippines, MacArthur's men have fought their way to the north coast of Leyte. And, on the south coast, ~~R~~ Filipino guerrillas have taken the last two villages the Japs controlled there.

MacArthur has just announced that the two wings of General Kreuger's Sixth Army have joined forces to cut off the Japanese from every route by which they can escape, except one.

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A welter of conflicting stories came from the Tokio radio again today. One of them claimed that the Japanese had spotted a small task force of Uncle Sam's Navy, two hundred miles east of the island of Luzon, the main island. Both Tokio and Berlin broadcast sensational tales of the sinking or damage of fourteen United States warships -- including battleships -- by a new special attack corps of the Japanese air arm. The enemy propaganda claims that they are using a new weapon, a suicide plane, described as a V-1 with a pilot. These are supposed to be flying bombs with just enough

fuel to reach their targets and a suicide pilot aboard to make sure of accuracy. Our own High Command made no reply to all this, but interpreted it as an index of tenseness and fright in Tokio.

The Mikado's General Staff also announced a shake-up in several Japanese commands, some Generals fired, and some civil administrators of the Navy removed.

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Tokio^{today} changed its story about the B-29s that supposedly attacked Tokio. Today they say the Super-Fortresses dropped no bombs, but were on a reconnaissance flight. But, so far as we know, the Army doesn't use B-29s for reconnaissance.

PEARL HARBOR

President Roosevelt today received another request for an early trial of ~~Rear~~ Admiral Kimmel and ~~Major~~ General Short, Commanders at Pearl Harbor on December Seventh, Nineteen Forty-one. The man who sent the telegram is William Loeb, publisher of the Daily News of Burlington, Vermont, and the St. Albans Daily Messenger. ^{Publisher} Loeb wired the President that many unpleasant stories are being circulated which, he added, is natural in an election year. Then he said that if there are no high political figures to be protected, the American public cannot see why the facts cannot be told. "Either Admiral Kimmel and Admiral Short are guilty," he continued, "or they are being shamefully used to cover up for the person who really is guilty." The Telegram adds with the words, "Why not give us the truth?"

STILWELL

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There is further word from London that Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten may be dropped as Supreme Commander in Southeast Asia. Evidently the British are about to re-shuffle their commanders in the Far East. The story goes that Mountbatten will not be recalled from Asia but will remain in charge of amphibious operations, on which he is an expert -- ix learned in Europe, and the Mediterranean.

By the way, Lord Louis made a statement today that General Joe Stilwell had earned the reputation of being a great fighting General. He and Stilwell exchanged warm complimentary telegrams. But London says that nevertheless they had disagreed sharply.

The London Daily Mail published an editorial today intimating that China should not be included among the Big Four United Nations, since China is not a United Nation. The charge that Chiang

Kai-Shek is more interested in fighting the Communists of his own race than in fighting the Japanese has caused dismay in Britain.

A United Press correspondent said today that American transport pilots flying supplies to China over the mountains have to carry more paper money than war supplies, ~~or so they say. This is~~ ^{all} because of the terrific inflation in China. He said further that some people say Chiang does not reinforce some of his armies sufficiently because he is afraid their commanders may turn against him. Corruption, he added, is frequent and obvious in the Chinese armies. Many commanders are full of personal ambition and avarice. So says a newspaper man who has just returned on leave from the Far East.

From Washington we learn that Donald Nelson will soon return to China and help reorganize the war effort there; ~~he will~~ set up a Chinese War Production Board.

From Chungking comes the admission that the Japanese have forced their way further into the walled city of Kweilin, ~~with~~ ^{and with} desperate fighting at the two principal railway stations, ~~The enemy~~ ^{The enemy} attacking ~~with many columns~~ from the North, from the East and from the South.

WESTERN FRONT

The Americans of the First Army surprised the Germans today and penetrated their lines for a distance of two miles. ^{Putting} ~~They~~ General Hodges' spearhead ~~is now~~ only twenty-seven miles ~~away~~ from Cologne.

And the British have made still more progress with the job of opening the port of Antwerp. Their shock troops fanned over the flooded areas of Walcheren Island, seized a number of German gun positions, and widened their ~~western~~ beachhead to six miles. On the south coast of Walcheren they drove the Nazi garrison of Flushing into the northern outskirts. On the eastern side of the island the Canadians smashed their way onto the island for the second time. They had ^{crossed} ~~crossed~~ the causeway from Beveland once before, and the Germans threw them back for a short while. But now, apparently, they are there to stay. ^{TR} Another Canadian division captured twenty-five hundred enemy troops and their commander, and thus eliminated the last important Nazi ^{pocket} ~~base~~ on the south side of the River Schelde.

Allied men-of-war standing off the island are still pounding at the enemy ^{shore} batteries, ~~on shore~~, helping the ground forces. It looks as though it would not be long before Walcheren ^{will be} ~~is completely cleared~~ ^{cleared of} ~~of the enemy,~~ although the Germans, ^{who,} ~~to do them justice,~~ ^{have been} ~~are~~ putting up a terrific resistance.

One of the spectacular features of the battle for Walcheren was the accomplishment of a convoy of amphibious support vessels, ^{with} ~~they are~~ small, ~~with~~ thin hulls, but bristling with guns. They ^{all} steamed right within range of ^{the} powerful shore batteries, ^{their} with great rifles ranging from eighty-eights to two-hundred-and-ninety millimeter cannon. They attacked them from in front and kept their weapons hot until they were either ~~hit~~sunk or forced to retire with ~~hit~~ holes in their sides and ^{wounded all over} ~~men lying bleeding on~~ their decks.

A correspondent reports that British sailors, who survived Dieppe and Normandy admitted they never saw a battle like ~~that~~ ^{one.} Their ~~is~~ job was to knock out fixed

German batteries at pointblank range. The fight lasted four hours. The shells from those tiny vessels bounced off the thick German concrete gun casements like tennis balls. But they stayed there and took it until the British Commandos reached the shore and captured the Jerry batteries with flame throwers and grenades.

All that while not one of these small craft either wavered or faltered. Not even those that were hit. ~~This was~~

The first time on record that small ships built for amphibious operations did the work of big men-of-war like destroyers, cruisers and battleships, ~~and fought it~~ *fighting it* out pointblank with big coast defense guns, ~~and winning!~~ *and winning!*
How many of them survived is a military secret.

Further south units of General Patton's Third Army made some slight advances. And the Seventh army in the foothills of the Vosges Mountains have widened their front and captured six more villages.

AIR WAR - FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

~~Our airmen~~ ^{a new air} In Europe ~~piled up a new~~ record!
~~for themselves today.~~ More than twenty-five hundred war
planes took off, bombing munition plants in the Ruhr,
oil plants in several parts of Germany. Headquarters
of the Eighth Air Force announced that there were more
than one thousand, one hundred and fifty Flying Forts
and Liberators accompanied by some nine hundred Fighters
This was one of the greatest escort ^{fleets} ~~forces~~ ever sent
out. The German Luftwaffe accepted the challenge, and
a terrific ^{air battle} ~~fight~~ resulted. The Nazis ^{again using}
jet-^{propelled} ~~propelled~~ planes. ~~and~~ The result of it all was
that our men shot down one hundred and thirty-one
enemy planes in one day, an all-time record.

RUSSIA

The Red armies invading Hungary are on the last lap of the advance on Budapest. With tanks and tankborne infantry they have now crossed the marshy ~~xxx~~ plains to within twenty-one miles. Plowing ahead on a wide front, capturing thousands of prisoners, including the former Chief of the Hungarian General Staff.

It's the Second Army of the Ukraine that is moving down on Budapest. With the Twenty-fourth German Panzer Division trying to hold them up.

All counter-attacks have been hurled back, and the Reds have swept forward for twenty-five miles, in two days, along the railroad from Belgrade. The latest is that they have captured a railway station only twenty miles south of the Hungarian capital.

The Nazis are rushing reinforcements as fast as they can, and a battle is now raging in the vineyards south of Budapest, where the grapes haven't yet been harvested.

Northeast of Budapest the northern wing of

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that same Soviet army is also coming close to the city. It has cleared the Nazis from the east bank of the Tisza River. A Moscow correspondent reports that the river crossings are choked with the bodies of German dead.

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Berlin ~~tells of~~ ^{and} big battles ~~being~~ fought ~~in~~ in Poland, on a front a hundred and ten miles wide along the Vistula River, north of Warsaw.

Moscow says nothing about the fighting in Poland. ~~today~~. But the Red army in the Arctic is on the verge of joining up with the Finnish divisions in Lapland, and from all accounts it will not be long before they have pushed ~~all~~ ^{all} Nazis out of Lapland. Finnish troops are ~~now~~ ^{now} ~~chasing~~ ^{reported to be} chasing the Germans down the Norwegian coast, ~~and~~ ^{and} the enemy ~~is~~ in full retreat.

British men-of-war sank two ^{more} _^ Nazi transports off the coast of Norway, transports ~~which were~~ evacuating German troops. Allied officers expect that the Nazis will make a stand at Narvik, scene of one of the first dramatic episodes of the war in Nineteen Forty.

ITALY

British General Sir Harold Alexander today explained the strategy of the Allied campaign in Italy. The Supreme Commander in that theatre said ~~that~~ ^{and} ~~there~~ ^{there has been} purpose ~~to~~ to force the Germans to withdraw troops from other fronts. Thus the Allied attack along the Gothic Line, though not proceeding at great speed, would help the Allies ^{on} all the other fronts ^{by} forcing the ~~Nazi~~ Nazis to weaken their defenses in other parts of Europe.

Alexander told his press conference that the Nazi High Command had issued the order to all German troops in Italy both around Bologna and to the East to stand and fight to the last man. The Nazis, Alexander explained, are afraid that if they withdraw to a shorter front they may lose both military and political control in the Reich. They are, therefore, prepared to sacrifice, if necessary, twenty-eight full divisions, twenty-eight divisions badly needed elsewhere.

That, however, he said, is the secondary aim of Allied strategy in Italy. The first is to set the Italians free of the Nazis. He went on to say that the Germans have increased their divisions in Italy sevenfold since the campaign opened, and that they are fighting savagely; and thus are undoubtedly prolonging the war. So says the Supreme Allied Commander in Italy.

stronghold of Maryland, ~~Washington~~ a speech in Baltimore in which he repeated statements he had made in other parts of the country. Maryland, as one of the border states, ~~the Democrats~~ ~~clearly~~ ~~has~~ ~~been~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~winning~~ ~~side~~ ~~of~~ ~~every~~ ~~presidential~~ ~~election~~ ~~since~~ ~~eighteen~~ ~~hundred~~ ~~and~~ ~~twenty~~ ~~two~~. Dewey told the Marylanders that if the Republican Party were to lose this election, the Democrats would lose their party because it would fall under the control of the Hillman-Brewster axis.

Tonight, President Roosevelt will be on the air for fifteen minutes, speaking from the White House.

DEWEY

Governor ~~For~~ Dewey is back again in Pennsylvania tonight, campaigning in the districts where the United Mine Workers are numerous. ~~As you say~~ John L. Lewis, President of the Union is bitterly opposed to President Roosevelt, although he has not expressed himself violently in favor of Dewey. Before he entered Pennsylvania, ^{Gov.} Dewey was in the usually Democratic stronghold of Maryland, ~~where~~ ^{making} a speech in Baltimore in which he repeated statements he had made in other parts of the country. Maryland, ~~is~~ one of the border states, ~~The Democrats claim it, but it~~ has been on the winning side of every presidential election since eighteen ^{R. D. W.} ninety-two. Dewey told the Marylanders that if the Republican Party were to lose this election, the Democrats would lose their party because it would fall under the control of the Hillman-Browder axis.

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BLUEBEARD

Every now and then a new bluebeard comes to light in France. ~~You may remember that~~ ^Q a couple of years ago, while the Nazis were still ~~there~~, the French police found evidence of wholesale murders committed in a villa belonging to a Doctor ^(Petiteo) Petiot.

When the ^{Parisian} ~~Parisian~~ cops raided the villa the black-bearded doctor had fled. ^{TP} Today they ~~arrested him~~ they've arrested him. And now there seems to be some ^{as to} doubt whether he is the most monstrous bluebeard of them all, or whether he is a much misunderstood French patriot. ^{TP} When the gendarmes arrested him, he was wearing not only a black beard, but also a uniform of a Captain of the French Forces of the Interior. They say he admitted ~~to~~ having killed a number of people, but he claims they were all Germans. He said further that the Nazis used his villa in Paris to deposit the dead bodies of their own victims, and then tried to pin the murders on ~~to~~ him. He says he has belonged to the "resistance/movement" every since Nineteen Forty, and

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has no cause to reproach himself. He posed gladly for photographers and announced that he had killed those many scores of persons in the ~~ad~~service of his countrymen.

The French police have a different version. They say that Dr. ^(Petiteo) Petiot posed as a member of the Underground, luring people to his house, under promise of smuggling them out of France and across the sea to America. Then he robbed and murdered them. The Parisian officers told American newspapermen that they have identified no fewer than fifty-four of the bluebeard's victims, and that the total number is certainly not less than one hundred.

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That's too grim a note to end
on, so Hugh, cheer us up.