

In the Philippines, the focus of war has swung toward the eastern side of Luzon, where American troops are driving through difficult mountain country. Jap resistance in Manila finally crushed, General MacArthur now must turn his attention to the enemy forces in the northern part of the island. And the drive east is apparently the beginning of an operation to hem them in more and more closely. Today's advance was climaxed by the capture of Mount Mataba, ~~which is~~ thirty miles from the east coast of Luzon.

And the news tells of shattering melodrama on Corregidor - where MacArthur's troops are still campaigning against underground Japs - enemy soldiers in the deep underground passages of the rocky fortress. <sup>The</sup> subterranean ~~The~~ Japs have been blowing themselves up, ~~down there,~~ touching off powder magazines, and tonight we hear of an explosion that burst upward through Corregidor Rock.

How many Japs below were killed is not known, but about a hundred and fifty bodies were counted after the ~~cataclysmic~~ detonation. A crater seventy feet wide was blown on Corregidor, and an American tank that happened to be on the surface at just that place was hurled thirty yards into the air.

IWO JIMA

~~Today's~~ <sup>Tonight's</sup> prediction that the conquest of Iwo Jima will be completed in a few days is based in part on a simple factor - water. There are vast miles of water all around that small island, but the Japs seem to be in the sad state of the Ancient Mariner - "Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to drink."

Brigadier General Holland Smith, commander of the Marines, indicated today that the water supplies available to the Japs on Iwo Jima are insufficient. They've got to depend largely on rain water, ~~which they~~ caught and stored in barrels and cisterns during rainstorms, and many of those barrels and cisterns have been smashed by American artillery shells. General Smith said that the Jap infiltration tactics have been incited by the need of water - the Japs sneaking into American lines in an effort to get some. <sup>TK</sup> "Each day," he added, "we find evidence that the J<sub>apanese</sub> are becoming

more jittery." And that's a thing likely to be caused by a water shortage.

All of which adds up to that statement by the commander of the Marines: "We expect to take this island in a few more days."

The military picture shows the marines pushing up the west coast of Iwo Jima <sup>in</sup> ~~and~~ a general offensive ~~was~~ launched yesterday. They are now within a little more than a mile of the northwest corner of the island.

FOLLOW IWO JIMA

The latest tells of a new attack by the marines  
at the center of the island, which gained some ground.

TOKYO

Fragmentary accounts drifting in about new American air blows against Japan proper became a rounded picture this afternoon, this - with a dispatch from headquarters out there. There were two assaults - launched on successive days. One of these was against Tokyo - ~~and~~ carrier based planes of the fleet collaborated <sup>ing</sup> with the Army's B-29s. The Navy bombers assailed two big aircraft factories on the outskirts of the Jap capital, and left them in flaming ruins. And, while this was going on, the Superfortresses were smashing military targets in the heart of Tokyo itself.

Today's bulletin from Admiral Nimitz states that this <sup>is</sup> ~~latest~~ assault on Tokyo was made in exceedingly bad weather, and this <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ expanded by the Japs, who tell of a snowstorm - the double assault by the carrier planes and the B-29s having been made in something of a Japanese blizzard.

That was one day's work, and the next day the carrier based planes hurled tons of bombs on a tiny bit of land out at sea - tiny but important. This was the little island of Hachijo, one of those splinters of land that lie off Japan. Hachijo was of large consequence as a technological place - the little island crammed with the installations of applied science. That is, Hachijo was an aircraft warning center - headquarters for equipment like radar, which gave the Japs advance notice of the approach of American planes. Now the island won't give much warning - not after the deluge of American bombs that turned the massed appliances of technology into heaps of rubbish.

The dispatch from Admiral Nimitz tells us that Jap resistance on both days was light - hardly more than a hundred enemy planes appearing in the sky, and these not eager for battle.

*... day turn while I look*

## WESTERN FRONT

On the Rhineland plain before the city of Cologne, the last river barrier is a stream called the Erft, and today American tanks and infantry reached that river - putting them within eight miles of the metropolis of the Rhine. That's the geographical fact behind the general statement that the whole Nazi Rhineland defense has cracked wide open, with American forces driving ahead against comparatively light opposition.

The Ninth Army column that reached the Erft River made a swing to the north, in the direction of Canadian forces - these have been driving down toward the industrial Ruhr, and at last reports the Americans and the Canadians were within ten miles of a junction. And these ~~xx~~ last reports may be considerably behind the time - because General Hodges, Ninth Army commander, has clamped on a news blackout. Censorship is hiding



new thrusts in that sector so near to Cologne - so as not to give the enemy possible bits of useful ~~information~~ information. A news blackout like that usually means that something important is happening. And, if so, ~~is~~ <sup>it's</sup> happening at the gateway of Cologne.

One other telltale sign is the surrender of Germans. The news tells of the Ninth and First Armies sweeping into thirty-five German towns - and capturing prisoners by the thousands. And when German soldiers begin giving up easily and in large numbers, it usually means a lot.

"It's a real breakthrough this time," cables a United Press correspondent. "Everything is moving, and moving fast - a tale of the Normandy break-through all over again," says the dispatch.

AIR WAR FOLLOW<sup>W</sup>ESTERN FRONT

The huge air assault against Nazi Germany was continued today, with a news dispatch calling it - "the greatest non-stop aerial offensive of the war." It has been going day after day, the latest target being Leipzig. Thirty-five hundred planes smashed Nazi targets, and of these eleven hundred were Flying Fortresses and Liberators of General Jimmy Doolittle's Eighth Air Force. They hit Leipzig, concentrating on the railway centers of Germany's fifth largest city.

Yesterday's target, Berlin, was <sup>still</sup> flaming today. News reports tell of great fires, heavy loss of ~~in~~ life, and a wild panic. We are told that Himmler's cohorts of killers had to go into action to quell a wild outbreak of fear - after yesterday's violent bombing of Berlin.

FOLLOW AIR WAR

And tonight it's the same story all over again for Berlin. A London dispatch tells of an attack by Mosquitos. Those swift and nimble planes went all the way to Berlin and dropped four thousand pound bombs.

## EASTERN FRONT

On the Eastern Front the sector in the news tonight is Pomerania. That German province on the Baltic has been a salient extending along the northern flank of the Soviet armies. Now, it's a salient in process of destruction. Moscow news tells of a swift Russian drive into Pomerania, with an advance of twenty-five miles in one day. The Soviets are <sup>heading</sup> ~~moving~~ for the Baltic, and Red Army troops are now within twenty-nine miles of the sea. This represents a three-day gain for a total of more than forty-three miles, and threatens to trap large German forces in Pomerania and in the city of Danzig.

CHURCHILL

*in Parliament*  
Winston Churchill today upheld the  
Polish settlement agreed upon by the Big Three  
at the Yalta Conference. The Prime Minister demanded  
a vote of confidence, and an okay for the agreements  
he made at Yalta with Premier Stalin and President  
Roosevelt.

~~vigor and strength of word.~~ <sup>Churchill</sup> He declared that the Soviet claim for pre-war Polish territory had been acceded to because it was just - and not because Stalin held the trump cards. "I repudiate and repulse," he cried, "any suggestion that we are making a questionable compromise or yielding to force or fear." To which he added the reminder that Poland, in return, will get slices of German territory.

Critics have complained that, because of this, defeated Germany will in the future be at permanent enmity with Poland - trying to get the lost German territory back. Churchill answered that as follows: "We need not feel," said he, "that the task of holding these new lands will be too heavy for Poland, or that it will bring about another German revenge, or that it will - to use a conventional phrase - lay the seed of future war."

Why won't it? Here is Churchill's reply:

"We intend to take steps far more drastic and effective than those which followed the last war, because we know much more about this business." He said that this time the Allies would, in the Churchillian words, "render all offensive action by Germany impossible for generations to come." The new world organization that is to be formed will take care of that - "because," said Churchill, "it won't shrink from the use of force-of-arms against an evil-doer or an evil-planner."

~~Churchill stated further that Great Britain will, for the present, continue to recognize the exiled Polish government in London - this in spite of the fact that the wording of the Declaration of Yalta seemed to imply a Big Three recognition of the Lublin regime, ~~the~~ sponsored by the Soviets. The Prime Minister stated today that London will not recognize the Lublin~~

~~Provisional Government until it has been altered, as  
was agreed upon at Yalta - broadened to include other  
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## MARCONI

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The newspaper account states that the contraption was demonstrated in the presence of the Fascist Duce in Nineteen Thirty-Seven, and it caused all automobiles in the area of Rome to stop in a most mysterious way. I, for one, recall that particular tale, and told it on the air. It came from the most authentic sources - the weird stopping of the automobiles.

Today's version states that Mussolini wanted the device for war, but Marconi demurred - thinking of the uses to which the Fascists might put his *deadly*

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invention. <sup>1</sup> The Italian newspaper states that Marconi, a devout Catholic, went to the Pope, and made his confession - then committed suicide.

It sounds fantastic - the attitude of the Catholic Church toward self-destruction being well known.

## WATSON

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## ROMANCE

The way the Army Post Office can get a soldier's mail mixed up can be annoying, exasperating, enraging - or just simply wonderful. That final adjective comes from a couple married in Pittsburgh today.

The bride is a Sergeant of the WACS, assigned to the ~~WAC recruiting office in Pittsburgh~~ and some while ago she wrote a letter to an old school friend, a soldier in the infantry - Sergeant Ray Ellis. Who knows - the letter might perhaps have resulted in one of those romances between former schoolmates. But the Army mailman stepped in - with a most magnificent blunder. The letter, ~~written by the Sergeant of the WACS~~ got into a mail bag destined for the Aleutians, where another Sergeant Ray Ellis was on duty - no relation of the soldier to whom the letter was addressed. There just happened to be two Sergeants in the army named Ray Ellis.

Up on the bleak northern island of Attu, Ray got the wrong letter. He read it with some surprise, and then wrote to the WAC Serge saying - there must have been some mistake. She wrote back - yes, there had been a mistake.

After that they kept writing to each other. The mistake turning into an inspiration on the part of the blundering Army mailman -- cupid in disguise.

Sergeant Ray Ellis got a furlough home - and hastened to Pittsburgh, where he met the girl of the letters - and they were married today.

And that's how a possible romance of one time schoolmates did not happen - although the bride did become a Mrs. Ray Ellis. After not a comedy of errors. A romance of errors.

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Compare the figures with the total of Japanese planes ~~knocked out,~~ <sup>knocked out,</sup> ~~known to have been destroyed,~~ and we have a ratio of about nine to one - which fits the picture that we have had for a long time now, a huge preponderance of Japanese losses.

Another summary of air action comes from the

Philippines - and it may be even more important in a strategic sense. (No sooner had the MacArthur invasion of the islands begun, than American squadrons of the air began operating the Philippine bases. We were reminded at the time, of the importance of these bases - lying along the South China Sea, which is the oceanic lifeline of the vast empire seized by the Japs early in the war. That lifeline would now be cut, we believed - and today brings the story of what has been done.) Manila informs us that American planes based on the Philippines have now established a tight patrol across the South China Sea, striking at every enemy vessel that comes along. To date they have hit a hundred and thirteen enemy cargo ~~vessels~~<sup>ships</sup> operating along the sealanes between Japan and the conquered Japanese Empire. Thus far, in February, forty have been sunk and forty-seven damaged. All of which means that Philippine-based planes have cut the Jap lifeline.



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