

BURMA

L.I. - Standard Friday, April 14, 1944.
Sunoco.

It would seem tonight that in India, the town of Imphal is in imminent danger of being completely surrounded - with all communications cut off. The latest is a dispatch from Mountbatten's headquarters, which states that Japanese jungle forces have driven to the last supply route for the garrison of British and Indian troops. The Japs ^{have} ~~had~~ thrust several spearheads that have reached the vital highway, and bitter fighting is going on. The Japs are trying to establish a road block, cutting the supply route - while British troops are fighting desperately to hurl the enemy back and keep the line open.

Tonight there is a crisis at Imphal - the question being whether or not the Imperial garrison will be surrounded and have to stand a siege, in which it can be supplied only by air.

Another smash at that once formidable and now much battered place called Truk. It was the eleventh blow - and one of the heaviest. Long range bombers, based on the Marshalls, hit five of the island bases in the Truk Atoll. These bases were thickly packed with naval and air installations, - splendid targets for the bombers. And sharply aimed high explosives burst in the mazes of installation^s, with eruptions of debris.

And, at the same time, other American air forces blasted the usual assortment of Jap bases - like much bombed Ponape.

NEW GUINEA

On the northern coast of New Guinea the one-time Japanese stronghold of ~~at~~ Bogadjim has been captured by the Australians.

The victorious Aussies are called jungle troops, and they ^{surely} ~~contain~~ _^ do deserve that name. The drive against Bogadjim on the coast was accomplished by a wide sweep through the dark depth of the New Guinea jungle--as ~~a~~ ^{the} climax _^ ^{to a 7 month campaign on} ~~of a campaign of seven months on~~ the Huon peninsula.

The Japs made no attempt to defend Bogadjim, which is only sixteen miles from Madang, the greatest Jap stronghold ⁱⁿ _^ of these parts.

end

AIR WAR

The weather in Northern Europe was bad today, which halted the operations of the heavy bombers. The light aircraft of battle, however, were in vigorous action. American Thunderbolt fighter-bombers based on Britain devastated a German anti-invasion airfield in Northeastern France today. They darted out of heavy cloud banks that filled the sky and destroyed at least twenty planes on the ground.

And last night Berlin was assailed once again. Light Mosquito bombers ^{flew} ~~flying~~ all the way to the Nazi capital in spite of the weather. The elements were in the worst possible mood, and the Mosquitos flew through a violent electrical storm over the North Sea ^{to} ~~and hit~~ and hit Berlin ~~hard~~ adding more havoc to what is already a city of havoc.

add AIR WAR

Far to the North the Kurile Islands took another blasting.

Both army and Navy planes collaborated in a assault against Japanese
bases ~~along the line~~ ^{to the} North of Japan ^{proper}.

(end)

A new American ace has flashed to the fore ~~in the~~
~~contest among the Nazi destroyers~~ over in Britain. He is
 Captain Bob Johnson of Lawton, Oklahoma, who today was
 placed ahead of Captain Don Gentile of Piqua, ^{Ohio.} ~~Oklahoma.~~
 — that's the way he pronounces it —
 Gentile [^] has made headlines with his record of thirty Nazi
 planes destroyed - seven blasted on the ground, and
 twenty-three shot down in combat.

Today, the figure for Bob Johnson is - twenty-
 five, and all of these were knocked down in air battle.
 That puts him two ahead of Gentile. ^{Bob} Johnson has had three
 victories in the last couple of days, two of them
 yesterday - while protecting bombers in the big raid ~~again~~
 against Schweinfurt. ^{TP} And it looks as if Gentile will have
 trouble ~~in~~ catching up with him - because the air battler
 whom General Eisenhower called "a one-man air force",
 has been grounded temporarily - until he recovers from
 the ~~shaking up~~ shaking up he got when his Mustang cracked

up in ~~the~~ landing.

Our aces over Europe, however, are ~~all~~ out-done by the star performer in the Pacific, that ace of aces - ^{gicks} Bong of Poplar, Wisconsin. The news today is that Bong is now a major. - ~~He~~ was promoted yesterday, the day on which he shot down his twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh Jap.

I suppose we may well have a considerable rivalry between west and east - between the Nazi destroyers and the Jap shooters. And I wonder whether any sort of argument may develop - as to whether there is any appreciable amount of difference between Nazi and Jap in the kind of opposition they put up. Is it any tougher to shoot down German planes than it is to knock out Japanese aircraft - or vice versa? In point of piling up a high score, ^{there} is any advantage in being in Europe or in the Pacific?

RUSSIA

Tonight the Soviet forces are within nineteen miles of Sevastopol ^{Sebastopol to us} - the great naval base in the Crimea and the Number One objective of the Soviet drive. And, Red Army units have driven all the way across the peninsula, striking southward to the Black Sea.

Meanwhile, Russian naval and air forces are establishing a blockade to prevent the escape of Germans by sea. Today Soviet planes kept smashing at coastal points from which an evacuation might be attempted.

The Crimean campaign has been a whirlwind affair, in which more than fifty-three thousand Nazis have been killed or captured ^{so far} - a whirlwind of Russian advances that certainly should remind the Germans forcefully, if unpleasantly, of their own pet word - "blitzkrieg."

ADD RUSSIAN

The latest from Moscow tells us that the Soviet troops *in the* in Crimea have driven as much as fifty-five miles in one day, and that the Germans have now been forced back into a pocket in front of Sevastapol.

As against these brilliant Crimean successes the Soviets have sustained a setback in Rumania, at what has been called-- the "Skala pocket." A large group of Nazi^s was trapped and surrounded, but the German command succeeded in relieving them. Nazi troops broke the encirclement and now have driven a wedge into the Russian lines--a salient ~~at least~~ ^{some} twenty-one miles long. This is indicated by advices from Moscow.

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The Russians have lost one of their most brilliant commanders--General Vatutin, the architect of Soviet victory at Kharkov and Kiev. Moscow tonight announces his death, after a serious operation. The nature of his illness is not disclosed.

end

YUGOSLAVIA

In Yugoslavia, the Western part of the province of Bosnia, ^{there is} ~~through~~ a strategic town called ^{Cazin,} ~~Cazin~~ and overlooking the town ^{- in fact} ~~and~~ dominating it, is a great rock fortress, A massive eminence of stone ~~and is~~ crowned by a stronghold. This is now occupied by a force of Germans and they are trapped. (Yugoslavians ^{Cazin, and} ~~Cazin~~ have drawn a ring of iron and fire around the fortress, ~~where~~ ^{Fierce} fighting is going on, ^{as} ~~the~~ the partisans try to storm the rocky height, ^{and as} the German command rushes troops to retrieve the situation which threatens the whole line of communications in Bosnia.

GIRAUD

Tonight in North Africa General Giraud was put on what is called the "reserve command list", meaning---retirement. ^{And} This ends the long competition between De Gaulle and Giraud, with De Gaulle finally winning out so completely that Giraud gives up the command of the French forces fighting the Nazis. And so from the active war service passes the French commander who escaped from a German fortress, and made his way to the Allies in North Africa and commanded French troops in the Tunisian and Corsican campaigns.

end

We are to have war news more promptly. The Army the Navy, and the O.W.I. have instructed the commanders in the areas of battle to give out the tidings without delay ^{--i.e.} such news as is not harmful to military security. The announcement, just issued in Washington, describes the new policy in these words: "an effort to produce the fullest possible flow of information, without distorting the importance of either good news or bad."

All of which is designed apparently to meet the criticism that followed the disclosure of American transport planes shot down by mistake in the Sicilian campaign. The disclosure was made seven months after the event.

BONUS

Here is a proposal to give to the veterans of the Army and the Navy the post-war ownership and control of the war plants now owned by the government. This suggestion was made today by Secretary of the Interior Ickes, who spoke of transferring to the millions of demobilized men and women the possession of what he called "a giant segment of American industry."

"It would," he went on, "be the most appropriate and the most beneficial form of a bonus payment to them. It would amount to giving these ten million young people shares of stock in the America for which they have risked their lives," *said he.*

The Secretary's idea would seem to be that the host of demobilized veterans would be stockholders in a giant corporation, which would operate the plants now owned by the government. "It would be a free undertaking," said he, "within the framework and geared to the objectives of private enterprise."

WOMEN WORKERS

Here is the Number One manpower task of
Nineteen Forty-four; *how to keep the*
~~as stated by a report from the~~
~~Office of War Information. That Number One task is -~~
~~that of keeping~~ women at war work. *An O.W.I.,*

~~The~~ report states that the extent to which women
are leaving war jobs has reached what it called ^S~~a~~ "alarming
proportions." ^H Last summer, ~~the high point was reached,~~
~~when~~ ~~nine~~ seventeen-million, nine-hundred-thousand women
were engaged in armament production. Now the figure is
sixteen-million, four-hundred-thousand - a decline of a
million and a half. ~~The decrease is continuing, and is~~
~~threatening a crisis in production. The O.W.I. report~~
~~estimates that by mid summer between a million and a half~~
~~and two million more women must be recruited.~~

The report gives an explanation ^{for}~~of~~ the large
numbers of women quitting their war jobs. One is -
fatigue, just getting too tired to ^{go}~~keep~~ on working.
^

~~The report points out that~~ A large proportion of the women workers not only labor in the plants but also take care of their homes - which amounts to two jobs. And further, many feel that the need for their services has been exaggerated, and others believe the war is about over - an exceedingly mistaken opinion.

~~Tonight~~ ^{now} ~~We~~ have some details about the revolution in San Salvador last weekend. That affair has been hidden by censorship, and hitherto we have heard comparatively little about it. But now the United Press has a story that three hundred lives were lost in the Easter week insurrection, and that the uprising was put down only after forty-eight hours of the fiercest kind of fighting.

At first the insurrecto^rs had the better of it. They had tanks and bombing planes. And we've had stories that they used lend-lease material from the United States. They captured a number of places - including ~~xx~~ two radio stations, from which they broadcast appeals to the public. In the town of Santa ^aEl^aena, the rebels gained complete control ~~on~~ the first day, and held an election - selecting a new mayor.

Then, gradually, the government forces had the better of the fighting, and were able to suppress the revolt.

POLITICS.

Tonight at Minneapolis a political party voted itself out of existence, a party that played a large part in the political affairs of the middle west some years back. The Farm Labor party-- which today in its last state convention combined itself with the Democrats. The fusion is to be known as the Democratic-Farmers Labor party, and its immediate objective is the re-election of President Roosevelt to a fourth term.

end

CHAPLIN

A new development in the Chaplin case. That is -- the next ^{Charlie} Chaplin case. ~~Chaplin~~ was to be tried, together with four public officials, on the charge of railroading Joan Barry out of town. She was arrested, and the police judge suspended her sentence on condition that she leave Hollywood immediately. The police judge in question, Charles J. Griffin, made a plea arguing that his action was quite legal. And today he was sustained by a Federal court which ruled that he be ^{And that's} eliminated from the case. ~~This is~~ a bad setback for the prosecution, which charges that Joan Barry was deprived of her civil rights. ~~and~~ Immediately the defense announced that it would make similar pleas in behalf of three other police officials. indicted along with Charlie Chaplin. Which may indicate that this case is folding up.

KELLY

In Pittsburgh, Mrs. Kelly said today - no, she was not going to move. And she was a bit disturbed and indignant as she made the statement.

She is the mother of seven sons in the armed services, and one of these is Sergeant Commando Kelly, the one-man army who, all by himself, wiped out forty of the Nazi enemy. He was awarded the ~~Congressional~~ Medal of Honor, and his fame was heralded by press and radio.

All of which

~~and they~~ brought attention to Commando Kelly's home in

Pittsburgh - where he was born and raised and where his

mother still lives. There were expressions of

For the

astonishment, shock, and chagrin. ~~The~~ house was described

as - "a decrepit shack." ~~And, the detailed description~~

~~reveals that the Kelly home is no palatial mansion.~~

It is ^{located in a} ~~in the~~ neighborhood of junk yards and old barns. ^{And}

The people who live there call ^{their section:-} ~~it~~ - "Pittsburgh's Tobacco

Road." ^{The Kelly home} ~~The home~~, itself, is on the second floor of a

ramshackle frame building and consists of two rooms and an attic. There is no electricity, and no ~~hot~~ ^{hot} running water, and the only heat is a coal stove in the living room.

That's the place where Mrs. Kelly raised her seven soldier boys, ~~and one of them~~ ^{now a medal of Honor Man.} ~~is a Congressional Medal Man~~

With public attention directed toward the Kelly home, the Public Housing Authority at Pittsburgh decided to do something about it. They went to Mrs. Kelly and said they would provide her with a nice apartment in a modern building. ~~and they~~ ^{they} No doubt, expected her to jump at the chance. ~~But~~ - No, Today Mrs. Kelly announced that she wouldn't move - she didn't want any fine up-to-date apartment. She was hurt and upset by the talk about her home, the references to - "the decrepit shack."

"We've lived here for a long time," she declared with dignity, "and it may not be much. But it's home to us."

Commando Kelly has been granted leave to go home and, with his Congressional Medal he is returning from Italy to Pittsburgh. And we hear that his six brothers have also been given leave, so that Mrs. Kelly's seven boys can all be home together. ^R Pittsburgh is preparing a hero's welcome, There will be a parade, and the schools have been asked to declare a holiday. Commando Kelly's quarters will be in the William Penn Hotel - the suite of honor. *Yes, he'll occupy the suite of honor,* ~~He'll stop there~~ as Pittsburgh's hero. But for ^{still} the Kelly boys, their real home will be over there in "Pittsburgh's Tobacco Road." ^R For Mrs. Kelly is not moving out of the two rooms and an attic in the ramshackle frame building - with no electricity, no hot running water and no heat save a coal stove. It may be a "decrepit shack" to some, but it's "Home Sweet Home" to ~~some~~ the Kellys.

And now let's hear from Roger before he heads for home sweet home.

SPAIN

Fri. Apr. 14.
Left over from
1st. broadcast.

The United States has handed a stern warning to Spain - on the subject of American oil in Spanish Morocco. It has been learned that the Franco government planned to seize quantities of American petroleum stored across in Spanish Africa. There have been reports that this seizure had already taken place, but Secretary of State Cordell Hull said today that he did not believe this was true.

Apparently, the seizure of the oil has gone no further than plans ^{and} intentions, with the State Department giving Spain a brisk warning to let the oil alone.

ITALIAN POLITICS

Today in Naples, a conference was held between ~~Marshal~~ ^{Marshal} ~~Premier~~ Badoglio and the seventy-eight year old philosopher, Benedetto Croce. They were conferring on the possibility of getting the six opposition parties to enter a coalition cabinet, with Badoglio as Premier and Croce as ~~a~~ Vice-Premier. They say the aged philosopher, who himself has belonged to the anti-Badoglio opposition, is now in favor of cooperation. He has assumed the role of an elder statesman in an attempt to harmonize.

Five of the six opposition parties, including the Communists, are inclined to go along, ~~with~~ ^{The} one exception being - the group in which Count Sforza is a leader.

~~They~~ They may stay out of the coalition that is likely to be formed - a government that will ~~stay in~~ ^{hold} power until Rome has been captured and King Victor Emanuel has withdrawn from public life, as he has pledged.

ITALY

In Italy, the ground fighting was reported today in nine words - so let's be content with those nine.

The Allied Mediterranean command states:- "Our patrols and artillery were active on all fronts."

In the air - the usual series of bombing blows against German communications. And there are indications that Budapest, the capital of Hungary, was assailed by long range bombers again ~~today~~, as it was yesterday.

GIRAUD

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end

PAN AMERICAN

This is Pan American Day and appropriately we have an expression of Pan American philosophy spoken by Secretary of State Cordell Hull. He speaks of the collaboration of the Western Hemisphere republics and the maintenance of international peace.

" A ^{unity} community of action among the American nations," declared the secretary " will at the end of the war be indispensable in the advancement of our economic well being and in the establishment of an international organisation to prevent the recurrence of world wars."

end

~~swayed~~ from the wild Plum district of North Dakota ~~as have~~ ^{come some}
 statements about "the case of the jitterbug coal".

Ranchers of the district declare that it wasn't Spooks or ~~spooks~~
 ghosts that made the coal jump out of the scuttle in the schoolroom.
 They say it was something more sinister, either a case of a practical
 joker or a frustrated lover. ^{And} This points to a man described as a
 big six-footer. The tall fellow is said to have fled after knocking
 at the schoolroom door, and he may have been the writer of a series
 of threatening letters directed against the teacher. She is Mrs
 Pauline Rebel. And she certainly is a rebel against the various
 strange phenomena of which the jitterbug is the strangest.

Among the local cattlemen is George Steiner, father of one
 of the school house pupils, who was hit on the head by a hunk of
 coal when the contents of the scuttle jumped out. Today he said
 "I think it was a chemical that made the coal do that." But, "he
 added, " it sure did jump. A piece hepped right out of my hand,"
 said he. He declared that the coal that went jitterbugging was
 covered with a white powdery substance that smelled like face
 powder. All of which makes it all the more mysterious, with the

add SPOOKS sheet 2

suggestion that maybe the coal powdered its face.

end