

LEAD SECOND FRONT

L.J. - Standard. Wednesday, Dec. 29, 1943  
Sun.

A Swedish newspaper quotes an official Nazi spokesman as saying that the Germans expect an Allied invasion of Europe within two weeks. This it is explained is the opinion of well-informed persons in Germany - presumably persons close to the German government. Invasion within two weeks, say they. And London has word that next week Hitler is going to announce the appointment of an anti-invasion commander -- Rommel. The Old Desert Fox who was driven ~~out~~ out of the Desert. He will try to stop the invasion -- says London.

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SECOND FRONT

Today the German war commentator, Captain Ludwig Sertorius, declared: "Invasion is relatively

near". And this military expert said he based his opinion on facts disclosed by German reconnaissance.

The Nazis he indicated have spied military moves in England -- concentrations of shipping in the harbors of southern England, and increased ~~in~~ transportation of troops on British railways and highways.

From all of which the Germans deduce:--

*Invasion*  
~~the nearness of the~~ second front, *soon.*

~~And they don't seem to be so far off, for~~

~~word from London today gives us a whole series of signs of invasion. The British do not confirm the German accounts of new commando raids against the invasion coast, but London opinion is that these probably occurred. The Germans announce that twice~~

within three days Commandos hit at the island of Sark, one of the Chennel Isles, fifteen miles off the French coast, the Cherbourg Peninsula. The Nazis claim that the raids were "unsuccessful" which may merely mean that they were hit and run, not permanent. We've heard before that Commandos raids are a likely preliminary as the zero hour approaches, and this opinion was expressed again in London today, with the surmise that the attacks reported by the Germans might well ~~be~~<sup>be</sup> a sign of the ~~nearness~~ nearness of the second front.

Other indications ~~are~~<sup>are:</sup> the most intensive landing exercises by the American troops. They are described as the most realistic ever conducted by the United States Army -- whole towns evacuated, great stretches of the country side cleared of everything, turned into ~~be~~<sup>a</sup> No Man's Land. Beaches

bristling with pill boxes, like the German  
fortifications across the Channel. And against  
these <sup>barges</sup> ~~barrages~~ of troops are sent, practice landings,  
while naval guns ~~xx~~ hurl shells against the theoretical  
enemy, and batteries of artillery simulating the work  
of <sup>defending guns</sup> ~~defenses~~ of the Germans lay barrages just  
over the heads of the troops. Machine guns rattle  
and bombs and shells burst. The landing-exercises  
are being conducted with live ammunition, and  
officers in Britain stated today that they are  
causing casualties, real casualties. The High  
Command is said to have adopted the theory that ~~it~~  
it is better to lose a few men in the maneuvers *now*  
~~now than~~ <sup>later</sup> so as to give <sup>them</sup> experience and skill, than  
to lose many more in the invasion-battle to come.

## BERLIN

Berlin was being bombed again tonight according to reports that Sweden has from Germany. There was a bombing lull over the Christmas holidays but now the R.A.F. is in action again battering the already badly battered Berlin.

~~Bombing~~  
FOLLOW ITALY

Air action in Italy features American bombers and German rocket-shooting planes. An armada of Liberators blasted the key railroad yards of the City of Vicenza which is on the main line through northeastern Italy. The Liberators fought their way through a ~~def~~ defending screen of sixty rocket planes. A series of air battles ensued and nineteen hostile planes were shot down. Eleven American planes were lost in this Vicenza raid *and in* ~~and~~ the bombing of targets near Rome.

ROME

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We have official word on what the Nazis claim was an American bombing of the City of Rome. The Germans tell stories of important sections being hit with a blasting of famous cultural and religious monuments and declare that the attacking planes machine-gunned civilians. This is countered ~~x~~ by a precise Allied statement which informs us that the American bombers hit nothing but Nazi air bases outside ~~of~~ Rome. The nearest was four miles South of the Eternal City. Another was seven miles southeast and still another well beyond the northeastern outskirts of Rome.

ITALY

A communique from Italy states:- "The bitter struggle for Ortona is over". Montgomery's Eighth Army troops have finally completed the capture of that savagely defended place.

But now we hear of -- Villa Grande.

That town is being assailed by Indian troops and is ~~is~~ being so stubbornly defended that Eighth Army men believe that Villa Grande may ~~XXXXXXXX~~ prove to be another ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Ortona. <sup>TP</sup>

On the Fifth Army side General Clark's troops are pushing on from their captured mountain positions and

<sup>U. P.</sup>  
~~United States~~ correspondent Reynolds Packard

tells us that they have stormed ~~the~~ a summit,

the name of which he ~~XXXXXXXX~~ translates from <sup>the</sup>

Italy <sup>as</sup> -- "the hill of the angry cats." ~~XXXX~~



ADD ITALY

The latest from the Fifth Army front relates that today American troops broke ~~in~~ into the stronghold of San Vitore, where the Germans are putting up another one of those stubborn house to house battles.

## DESTROYERS

This afternoon London gave us an account of the latest British Naval success.

This following the sinking of the Nazi battleship Scharnhorst.

In the Bay of Biscay American scout planes spotted a German ~~xxx~~naval force at sea. Also -- a German blockade runner trying to sneak in supplies for the German war machine. Apparently the naval squadron was out to protect the blockade runner. Instead, the squadron itself needed protection which it didn't get. Guided by the American scout planes, British warships raced in and won a smashing victory, -- sinking three Nazi destroyers and also the blockade runner.

ADD DESTROYERS

London has word that the sinking of the Scharnhorst has caused an uproar in the German Admiralty. And the London Daily Telegraph reports that Admiral Doenitz, the Commander-in-Chief of the German Navy has resigned.

## RUSSIA

The Soviets announce the capture of Korosten, that city the importance of which is indicated by the fact that it's a railroad ~~ix~~ junction <sup>where</sup> ~~into it which~~ five lines converge.

At the same time the Russians have launched a new offensive in the bend of the Dnieper.

And Moscow reports that the whole German line in the ~~northwest~~ northwest Ukraine is falling apart with the Red forces sweeping toward the pre-war Polish frontier -- fifty miles away.

And far to the North, Soviet forces are banging at the gates of Vitebsk, the German bastion in upper White Russia.

## JAP OFFENSIVE

The Japs uttered a great big threat today, a mouth-filling boast. A Tokyo official announced that in Nineteen Forty-four the Japs would stage what he called -- a mighty offensive. He intimated that the Japanese High Command is planning what he called - "an offensive to drive the last ~~xxxx~~ vestige of Anglo-Saxon influence from Eastern Asia".

Which, I suppose, will be welcome news to the United Nations High Command -- if they believe it. The smashing of a large scale Jap assault certainly would seem to be a thing to shorten the war.

## NEW BRITAIN

Here's the latest from the southwest Pacific. It states that The American Marines are now within a mile of the air base at Cape Gloucester—the flying field which is their major goal in that area. Apparently the enemy is putting up a good deal of resistance because a spokesman for General MacArthur states: "The Japanese are operating against our western perimeter in strength".

SOUTH SEAS SAINT

The news from the South western Pacific tonight tells of an American whom the pious Polynesian natives call -- St. Michael. His pals in the infantry, however, call him "The King of the Gooks". The soldiers down there call <sup>all</sup> the native tribesmen "gooks".

On Tiday Island, Private Michael Maida of Syracuse, New York, found that the natives were Catholics, converted by <sup>missionaries</sup> ~~missionaries~~ from Rome. Private Mike himself is of that faith, as practiced in Syracuse. With that bond of fellowship, he made friends with the islanders and soon achieved a place of high honor among them. He read bible stories to them, reciting the sacred legend of the gospel: <sup>Polynesians considered him a</sup> ~~and~~ the pious ~~Polynesians considered him a~~ holy man -- and nicknamed him -- Saint Michael.

They built a grass hut for him and brought him native food and cocoanut wine and great baskets of fruit every day. "All I wanted was mine for the asking", relates the American Doughboy Saint Michael, and all because he read them Bible stories.

But no, there was something else, something more.

The soldier from Syracuse told the tribesmen that he himself was half Polynesian and to make the tall tale really good he informed them that he was a son of a former king of theirs. That whopper impressed them immensely, and they paid him honor as their own South Seas royalty.

For his Bible stories, he is St. Michael - while his bare-faced lying entitles him to the rank of - ~~the~~ King of the Gooks.



NEW DEAL

Washington today was busy interpreting President Roosevelt's formal abandonment of the term "New Deal", which now goes out ~~of~~ the window, ~~into the ash can, or you can use any other figure of speech to express - kicked out, or given, the gate.~~ One assumption is that it's a move in the direction of a fourth term campaign, a maneuver to pacify conservative Democrats in preparation for the Democratic Convention.

Some of the left wingers in the Administration forces are muttering that the President is running out on his political philosophy. <sup>They</sup> ~~They~~, of course, are the arch New Dealers, and the Presidential repudiation of the name sounds like a <sup>repudiation</sup> ~~repudiation~~ of them also. ~~In fact, the left New Dealers have been feeling more and more like cast aways -- ever since the big fight between New Deal-Stalwart Vice~~

~~President Wallace and conservative Southerner Jesse Jones -- when the President gave Jones the decision and Wallace a verbal spanking.~~

The conservative Democrats are <sup>pleased,</sup> ~~pleased,~~ particularly those from the south, and they've been growling at the New Deal for a long time, and only recently, <sup>Democrate</sup> Senator Johnson of Colorado stated: "the New Deal is through", and he added: - "if the Democratic party persists on hanging onto its dead corpse it will lose the Senate, the House, and the governors of every northern and western state in the next election".

One line of speculation in Washington today concerns Presidential advisor and intimate friend, Harry Hopkins <sup>whom</sup> the conservatives regard as arch New Dealer Number One. With the President getting rid of the name what's he to do with its

physical embodiment in the person of Hopkins.

There were Washington guesses today that the next presidential move may be to ease Hopkins out, or maybe ease him up. One way might be to send him off on some post overseas and get him out of the country as the Nineteen Forty-four campaign draws near.

## SOLDIER ENTERTAINMENT

Gary Cooper is just back from a tour of South Pacific war camps, where he and a group of other stars put on shows for the boys. And his report is summarized in the statement: "An awful ham can be a howling success at the war fronts."

"Bringing entertainment to those boys out there" says Gary Cooper, "is so simple it's almost criminal they don't get more of it." From which we gather that the troops were eager to laugh at almost any joke at all. They even howled if the comedian said: "That was no lady that was my wife."

"They were so appreciative," said Gary Cooper, "you felt like bawling at times. They are beginning to wonder if they are forgotten back home, they almost wonder if the United States is still on the map.

But apparently there's one kind of entertainment that the soldiers overseas don't go for at all, when they hear someone on the radio broadcasting from home and telling them what fine fellows they are

and what a good job they are doing, they switch to Radio Tokyo. Well, Radio Tokyo must be rather funny at times, and might provide some stiff competition for any comedian.

A news story from Algiers tells of the opening of a Frank Sinatra film-feature in Algiers. It was presented in a barrack of the WACS, a barrack that used to be a convent. The convent surroundings must have made it peculiar -- instead of hymns chanted by the Nuns -- Frank Sinatra crooning. The audience consisted of WACS and soldiers, and we are told that some of the WACS nearly swooned in the usual way of the feminine Sinatra fans.

"He does make my blood Fizz," sighed one soldierette quoting a line from the picture. The swooning ecstasy displayed by some of the WAC<sup>s</sup> was not at all echoed by the soldiers. They growled in disgust.

LEAD STRIKE

Tonight the railroad strike was definitely and finally called off, when the three unions that had been holding out cancelled their orders for a walk out. In doing this they carried out a pledge that they had given previously in the day to Secretary of War Stimson -- a promise to call off the strike.

# STRIKE

The strike crisis is definitely a thing of the past tonight. The scheduled railroad walk out was called off today when the three unions that were holding out gave assurances to Secretary of War Stimson, assurances phrased by the Secretary in the following words: "That they will take no action that will imperil the successful prosecution of the war and that they will immediately cancel the strike order".

~~Now~~ <sup>now</sup> the railroads are being run by the Army -- with no walk out in prospect. So what about President Roosevelt's declaration that the government intends to give up the control of the railroads as soon as it is sure the workers will stay on their jobs? The Washington word is that, though the strike threat has ended, the Army will remain in charge until the whole question of

STRIKE - 2

railroad wage rases has been settled. Then, the lines will be returned to private management.



## FOLLOW STRIKE

Today the unexpected happened -- a surprise that one might ~~ix~~ dream of witnessing at a ship launching. At Oakland, California a cargo vessel was to be sent down the ways, and the usual ceremonies of ~~ix~~ christening were enacted, the ritual shown so often in the newsreels. There were eight hundred guests, including two hundred members of AAHMES Shrine Temple of Oakland. <sup>R</sup> The Shrine band played stirring music and the sponsor was Mrs. Morley E. McKenzie, wife of the illustrious imperial ~~potentate~~ potentate of the Shrine. <sup>R The</sup> ~~A climactic~~ climactic moment came when Mrs. McKenzie raised the bottle of champagne to christen the ship and <sup>send</sup> ~~sent~~ it down to the sea. She swung the bottle in perfect christening fashion, and it smashed with a foaming crash.

But the ship didn't move. Instead of sliding down the ways, the vessel stayed right there. It was astonishing and the Shriners looked at each other. What was wrong? - They soon found out -- a strike. At the last moment the launching crew walked off the job, going on strike as the result of a wage dispute. Thereby creating the paradox of a launching ~~existing without~~ ceremony without a launching.

And now here's Hollywood's John Kennedy.

## CHINESE EXCLUSION

A late flash gives us an opinion on the repeal of the Chinese Exclusion Act, an opinion expressed by the Chinese Generalissimo, ~~in a letter to Congressman Magnuson of Washington.~~ Chiang Kai Shek declares that the Exclusion Law repeal was worth "twenty divisions to China". This because of the removal of what Chiang Kai Shek calls "a stigma that has been sorrowfully resented by China for fifty years".