

PACIFIC

P.J. - Standard. Friday, April 7, 1944.
Sunoco.

Tonight we have a measure of the American success in the sea and air raid on the great Japanese base at Palau -- a measure in terms of ships hit. Forty-six Japanese vessels were destroyed or damaged ~~in~~ *that* three-day attack on Palau and adjacent islands.

Twenty-eight enemy ships ~~were~~ sunk and eighteen ~~were~~ set on fire or beached -- knocked out. And two hundred and fourteen planes are listed as Japanese air losses. One hundred and sixty destroyed, and fifty-four damaged.

In ~~It was~~ a combined naval and air operation, with the big guns of battleships joining the carrier-based bombers and strafing planes, ~~and~~ ^{*in*} smashing every installation they ~~sighted~~ sighted -- and every ship. It was one of the greatest of naval and air victories.

And the good work has been kept up --

New Guinea for example. Today's installment of the incessant bombing of the Japs at Wewak resulted in the sinking of a big enemy cargo vessel -- a seven thousand tonner. Also -- an oil tanker and ten invasion barges.

And, Wake Island ~~was~~ hit again, forty-four tons of bombs dropped on the Japs there. American war planes flew from bases in the Marshalls, for a long distance raid, and all returned safely.

From Admiral Halsey's headquarters in the South Pacific we have a summary of enemy air losses *since* Pearl Harbor. During the period of the American-Japanese war, one thousand, eleven Jap aircraft have been destroyed.

BURMA

The news from India ~~shows~~ pictures three Japanese invasion columns in a drive against Imphal, capital of the State of Manipur. ~~The~~ Mountbatten headquarters announces that the Japs are thrusting at the city from the south, southeast, and the east.

At the moment the enemy is engaged in a series of minor thrusts, pushing and probing the British defense line - thrusts that have all been repelled by the Imperial forces. The main Japanese effort against Imphal is still to come, with today's dispatch from New Delhi stating: "News that the enemy columns have joined in a coordinated attack on the city is expected at any time."

~~Sixty miles north of Imphal, the Japs have crossed the road between that city and the stronghold of Kohima, ~~there is~~ a highway point only thirty miles southeast of the Assam-Bengal railroad. That line is of vital importance, since it supplies the American~~

~~trained Chinese forces which American General Stilwell~~
~~is leading in northern Burma.~~

The British admit that the Japanese invasion-
threat to Manipur and ~~the~~ ^{the} highway and railroad lines
is serious. But they insist that the Japs are over-
extending themselves, and are courting disaster.

High officers today spoke of what they call "nuisance
value." That, they say, is about all the Japanese
thrust into India amounts to, and believe they will be
able, in the long run, to overwhelm the Japs, whose
long lines of communication across Burma is a mighty
weak point.

ITALY

The violence of war is stirring again on the beachhead ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ Italy, with Allied headquarters telling us tonight of a strong enemy attack. The Germans assaulted with an infantry push supported by heavy artillery fire. This was beaten off by Fifth Army troops, who hurled showers of hand-grenades and blazed away with their guns.

Elsewhere on the beachhead, there were fierce clashes between patrols - the tempo of the battle increasing. And this is likewise the word from the other fronts in Italy - like that at Cassino.

Today we have an examination of the question - Why has the Allied offensive in Italy come to a stalemate, a failure for the moment? ~~Answers are~~ given by United Press correspondents on the several fronts, and they say some drastic things. These have been passed by military censorship, and to that extent

flank," he adds, "faces almost insurmountable obstacles in a series of river crossings, and on the other flank it faces an enemy entrenched in tall mountains - ranging from six to ten thousand feet high.

Perhaps the greatest disappointment of all has been at Cassino. From that sector we have some sharp
U.P.
opinions tonight. Correspondent James E. Roper on the Cassino front, states: "We over-estimated the ability of Allied bombers to destroy the dug-in German garrison, and under-estimated the amount of infantry needed to take the town after the bombardment."

And he adds: "The failure to use more infantry seems to have been due primarily to a miscalculation, although the Allied generals have not had unlimited resources at their disposal. They have been far short of the three-to-one superiority an attacking force is

supposed to have."

He speaks of the ~~fix~~ first American thrust into Cassino with, what he calls, "thirty-eight men and two tanks." And a New Zealand attempt to seize the railroad station - with two companies.

And he writes: "The failure to provide more infantry for the latest attacks on the town itself was partly due to the high command belief that the terrific bombardment would leave the Germans in Cassino dead or - 'bomb happy.' This," he declares, "was a tragic mistake."

And he speaks of inaccurate bombing in the great air assault on Cassino - estimating that only about forty-five per cent of the high explosive hit the town - the target. 2 "One stick of bombs," he says, "fell two miles from Cassino." And he adds that other bombs fell a mile behind the place where

he was watching, and at the time he was standing beside the Fifth Army commander, General Clark.

Why was the bombing so inaccurate? The U.P. correspondent says pilots blamed the wild misses on defective bomb racks.

Then he turns to what he calls another mistake - in telling how the Germans came out of tunnels to fight off the attacking infantry. He intimates that the Fifth Army command knew of the existence of those underground passages built by the monks of old. ~~But~~ he Adds: "Allied intelligence apparently had not considered the possibility of the Germans using the ancient tunnels. And," he goes on, "some officers now feel they should have guessed the tunnels were being incorporated into the defensive networks the Germans built at Cassino."

TUNNEL

The theme of ancient tunnels has introduced a note of mystery and romance into the war, as it is fought in Italy. And here's a climax, ~~of the stories of subterranean passages.~~ ^P It happened ^Q on the beachhead below Rome, ~~where~~ an old Italian went to American officers and announced that he knew the entrance of a tunnel which, according to legends of old, led all the way to Rome. ^H e explained that he was the city engineer for the town of Anzio, which place in Roman days was the important port of Antium^u. And the story was that, on the beach at Antium^X, a sumptuous palace was built - by Nero^z, that legendary tyrant. And Nero decided that he would have his own private underground road to Rome. So he had a tunnel driven all the way from Antium^u to the City on the Seven Hills.

~~That, related the old Italian, was a story handed down from the dim times of the past, and he~~

~~knew where the entrance to Nero's subterranean passage was located. No, he had never been into it, he just knew where it was.~~

The yarn sounded mighty improbable to the American officers, but then, all sorts of weird things connected with ancient tunnels were happening, and an officer was assigned to investigate - Lieutenant Wilfred Schaplow, combat engineer from Olivia, Minnesota. He was asked how he would like to invade Rome all by himself, and they told him to wire back when he reached the Vatican.

Whereupon the Lieutenant started out, led by the old Italian - who took him to a remote place along the beach. And there he pointed to an old abandoned well. That, he said, was the entrance to Nero's tunnel. And, indeed, the astonished Lieutenant felt a breeze blowing up out of the well. Whereupon, using a rope,

he lowered himself - for forty feet, and down there he found ~~only a little water~~, but there were two holes on either side of the well - holes four feet wide.

~~And~~ These were entrances to two tunnels.

Whereupon a ^oprlonged job of underground exploration was begun. Lieutenant Schaplow enlisted the aid of a sergeant, and they, together with the old Italian, ^{pushed}~~drove~~ into the tunnels - one of which went on and on. In some places it was choked up, and they used T.N.T. to blow out obstructions. ~~This went on day after day, and on the sixth day the old Italian dropped out, utterly exhausted. The two soldiers kept on, pushing~~ ^{day they kept on} ~~their way~~ through what ancient legends said was Nero's subterranean road to Rome.

7 On the eighth day they came to a dead end, a wall - which turned out to be the sunken basement of a tumbled down building. A stairway led upward, and this

they ascended, and found themselves in open air. **Still**
on the beachhead! - ~~Some~~ ^{TP} two and a half miles from
where they had started. Nero's tunnel? Not at all.

The underground passage was ancient all right, but it
was an aqueduct, a tunnel for water supply. Built away
back in the remote past, ~~and~~ it had been mostly
forgotten, and had become tangled with dim legends of
Nero's underground road to Rome!

MUSSOLINI

Tonight we have a statement about what
Mussolini thinks would ^{have happened} ~~happen~~ to him if he hadn't
been rescued by the Nazis. This comes in the form
of a German newspaper interview ^{with} ~~that~~ the fallen Duce,
who states that he believes he would have been put
on public exhibition in the United States.

"We now know," he is quoted as saying, "that
Washington wanted me delivered to America where the
Americans wanted to stage a great war guilt trial --
with me as the victim. "Actually," the one-time Black
Shirt Dictator goes on, "the Americans want to exhibit
me in public -- charging an entrance fee to see me."

Well, maybe it wouldn't have been such a
bad idea at that -- Mussolini, along with the
other freaks in the sideshow at the circus.

The statement made today by Lieutenant Omar
Bradley, Commander of the American ^{Second Front} Ground Forces in
Britain would seem to indicate that some mighty
fantastic reports are floating about. General Bradley
spoke of rumors that-- (quote) "Ninety percent of
us won't come back." And that sort of nonsense he
called -- tommyrot. "We have the best soldiers
and equipment, and more of it than the Germans ever
dreamed," he explained, and added, "After a few days
of the invasion you won't have anything to worry about.

FORTRESS

Over in Britain there is an American bomber pilot who is being laughed at . They simply howl when he says - that his Flying Fortress did a loop-the-loop. The pilot, however, insists it is true, and he goes on record with a formal account of how it happened.

29 He is Lieutenant John Raddeke of Waltersville, Minnesota, ~~xxxxxx~~ whose Fortress was named - "The Hit Parade." The big ship was hit plenty, and then certainly did go on parade.

"Fighters were pouring in from all directions," states Lieutenant Raedeke. "Our top turret gunner hit a Focke-Wulf hundred and Ninety, which exploded right in front of us, and shunted off to the right - colliding with the Fortress next door. That Fort," he goes on, "went up on its tail, and fell across our tail - taking away most of the stabilizing rudder. The sudden pressure on our tail, he adds, threw our nose up, and hurled us into a complete loop."

He realized he couldn't get the Fortress out of the loop, so he worked the controls to help her on. "When

continues,
we came out," the Lieutenant ~~was~~ "we slipped into
a left wing spin".

And that's how a Flying Fortress did a loop-the-
loop, then went into a twelve thousand foot dive,
pulled out, and got back to Britain.

RUSSIA

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Tonight ^{the} Soviet troops ~~are~~ on three sides of Odessa, ~~and~~ are hammering hard at the German garrison there. The enemy defense is stubborn, ^{with} Moscow stating that Nazi elite guards have taken over Odessa's fortifications and have been ordered by Hitler to hold out to the last man.

Thirty-five miles northwest of the great Black Sea port, a large German force has been surrounded. This consists of units which at normal strength would total between seventy-five thousand and ninety thousand men. ~~They are encircled; says Moscow which also tells of another trap in which four thousand Nazis were wiped out.~~

~~The Soviet accounts would seem to indicate that the German Black Sea salient has now been split into pockets, and the only escape for the trapped units is by sea - assuming that any considerable number of them can get away at all.~~

RUSSIAN CHURCHES

From Moscow we have a declaration pertaining to
^{a declaration}
the realm of religion, aimed against the Vatican and
the Pope.

The ancient Orthodox Church has recently been
granted a greater degree of favor by the Stalin
Government and is vigorously supporting the Red Army
in the war. It ^{has its own} ~~opinion has been in~~ publication^s, and
one of these is called the Journal of the Moscow
Patriarchate.

In this the ^{of the} metropolitan Russian church challenge^s
the theological basis of the authority of the ^{Roman} Pontiff^s
a quote: -
as "vicar of Christ on Earth". The Russian prelate
declares the scriptures are contrary to ^{this} ~~the~~ teachings
of the Roman Catholic Church. And he argues that a union
of churches might be desirable under the leadership of
a sort of president of a universal council of bishops;
~~It might be~~ ^{It might be} useful and practical, he contends,
to have such a religious chief; but ^{he goes on to} argue against any
such great authority as is exercised by the Roman
Pontiff.

EASTER

A few days ago President Roosevelt received a letter from ^{little}~~nine year old~~ Barbara Montrose of Atlanta, Georgia. The letter read: "I'm nine years old, and I have a little sister of five and a little brother of seven. My little sister will be six years old on Easter Sunday. My Daddy," observed Barbara, "has to go to the Navy on April Sixth -- Thursday before Easter. I asked him why he couldn't stay until after Easter. And, "quoth Barbara, "he told me I would have to ask President Roosevelt. And so I am asking you -- we love you," concluded Barbara, who, in addition to her own name, signed the names of her brother Monty and her sister, Rosemary.

And now we hear of the reply -- from Lieutenant Colonel Hatcher, Assistant Director of Selective Service in Georgia. He informs Barbara that the President received her letter and turned it over to the members of the local Draft Board,

and they have deferred her father's induction
into the Navy until April Tenth -- the day after
Easter. *Through the intervention
of the Great White Father.*

PRIMARY

Today President Roosevelt held the first White House news conference since his recovery from his recent illness, and promptly he was asked: "Have you any comment to make on the Wisconsin Republican primary which resulted in the withdrawal of Wendell Willkie from the race for the nomination?"

The President replied: "No, no comment."

In New York, Wendell Willkie was ~~asked to~~
~~comment. He arrived in the big town, where he ordered~~
~~that his national campaign headquarters should be~~
~~closed immediately. He too had no comment. He was~~
asked point blank: "Will you support the Republican candidate, whoever he is?"

Willkie replied: "I have no comment to make, whatsoever, at this time."

And in California, Governor Earl Warren had equally little to say. The Republican ticket

prominently mentioned as a likely possibility is - Dewey for President, Warren for Vice-President. The California Governor had stated previously that he is not seeking any nomination - either for President or for Vice-President. Today, he was asked ^{about his} ~~present attitude, in the light of Willkie's withdrawal, He replied that his position had remained unchanged, whereupon he was asked~~ would he take the vice-presidential nomination if he were drafted? To which his answer was, in effect - no comment.

And as for Dewey, who is adhering to his contention that he is just sticking to his job as Governor of New York State - he hasn't any comment ~~either~~ either.

So the political news today simply rang and reverberated with the words - no comment!

And now Roger some appropriate Easter comment from you.

5, 11-74

~~Today~~ On the first anniversary of the stabilization program, President Roosevelt made public a report indicating that during the past year, the cost of living has actually decreased. ~~The report, which was prepared by four chief stabilization directors, states that a year ago, when the hold-the-line order was issued, the cost of living was rising three-fourths of ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ one per cent a month, while during the past twelve months the line has been held. "The general level of the cost of living has not been permitted to rise," it says, and goes on: "Indeed, the cost of living as a whole is slightly ~~lower than it was a year ago.~~"~~ The four stabilization administrators admit that in some instances, ~~cases~~ prices have gone up, as in the case of clothes. But, this has been more than made good by declining prices, as in the case of food.

At his news conference today, President Roosevelt was asked, - Was the report issued as an answer to the Labor demand that the Little Steel Formula, restricting wage increases, be ~~abolished or be~~ altered? The President replied that it was not an answer to anything - it was a statement of facts, and he added that figures like those do not lie.

In Congress, where a bill to extend the stabilization program is being considered, Senator Clyde Reed of Kansas charged the report is not accurate. He says the four administrators, in his words, "are not telling the truth."

This in turn was contradicted by Senator Guffey of Pennsylvania, who defended the report as - accurate.

TIRPITZ

Tonight we have a full story of the bombing of the Nazi super-battleship, ^{the} TIRPITZ. The account was disclosed today, with the arrival ^{back at Port} of the British naval force, the carrier based planes of which knocked out the sea giant. (It happened at dawn on Monday, when the TIRPITZ was leaving an anchorage in a Norwegian fjord - protected by hills three thousand feet high on both sides. The British carrier planes attacked in waves, and) reconnaissance photographs show at least twenty-four direct hits, with eight tons of bombs - and the actual number may be considerably larger. The bombs silenced the guns of the TIRPITZ, and at least four heavy armor-piercing missiles hit the fore part of the ship, and exploded inside, while twenty medium bombs exploded along the deck. Flames shot up as high as the fore top of the vessel, and a column of smoke rose to fifteen hundred feet. British fliers

think that a magazine must have exploded. ^{Anyhow the} ~~and the~~
TIRPITZ was left blazing fiercely - and aground, the
stern of the ship sitting ~~on~~ the bottom.

The captain of one aircraft carrier of the
attacking force says he believes the ^{big battleship} ~~TIRPITZ~~ will be
useless for months to come - and perhaps for the rest
of the war. (~~And the British fleet is hailing the~~
~~assault as a victory as decisive as the sinking of~~
~~that other Nazi battleship - the SCHARNHORST.~~)