

Fri. Feb. 25 '44 Tucson.
Late B'dcast.

The navy tonight released the details of the American attack against the Japanese in the Marianas, -- ^{the} a task force ^{that} ~~hurling~~ ^{ed the} air blow against Saipan and Tinian. The Japs attempted a vigorous defense as the warships ^{into the region of the Marianas} steamed [^] to launch their carrier planes. The Japs were on the alert, and hurled torpedo plane assaults against the task force. These were beaten off, and not an American ship was hit, not one damaged -- although the enemy torpedo planes attacked incessantly through afternoon, night and morning.

Fourteen Japanese aircraft were shot down by the anti-aircraft of the warships, and five more were destroyed by fighter patrols flying from the carriers. And a whole string of other Jap planes were smashed in the assault, on the islands -- one hundred and thirty five in all. Two enemy ships were sunk, and nine others damaged. Our sea fighters found only a few Jap ships in the Marianas, ^a fact which disappointed them considerably.

Today as every day for nearly a week, allied planes flew by daylight to hit the Nazis - thus carrying the great air offensive into its sixth day. Last night it was a one-two blow in the darkness, the R. A. F. launching a double assault. Bombers based on Britain hit Schweinfurt again, increasing the devastation at that great aircraft and ball-bearing center. At the same time, British Wellington bombers, based on Italy, struck from the opposite direction - to deliver another attack against Steyr, the German fighter-plane-manufacturing-center in Austria.

Schweinfurt was an easy target for the British based planes to find. All they had to do was watch for the big light, that is - the first that had been hit by American flying fortresses in their daylight assault against Schweinfurt yesterday.

~~Guiding themselves by the beacon fires, the British night bombers hurled some more hundreds of tons of high explosives on such battered Schweinfurt. The total losses for all the operations at night mounted to thirty-five bombers.~~

The weather was good. They've been having clear skies over

there - not so usual for chilly, foggy Britain at this time of the year. Exceptional in fact, with London telling us that this February has had the best flying weather in twenty years. And Allied air power has taken full advantage of the meteorology, a fact which is shown particularly in the great six-day offensive staged against german fighter-plane production. London today calls it - "the greatest precision attack ever launched."

And the news story states that the offensive, mounting constantly toward a climax may decide the entire course of the air war over Europe. The offensive has a double angle. By blasting the German fighter-production-plants, the Allies are hitting the source and origin of enemy air defense. This, in turn, forces the German fighter squadrons into increasing action, compelling them to take to the sky and give battle. Which permits the allied squadrons to shoot them down at a greater rate - German fighter losses mounting higher. So you see the logic - destroy the planes they have, while smashing the plants that produce replacements.

The latest is a ^{news} flash ^{telling of} ~~stating that~~ the strategy of the one-two punch ^{as it} was continued in day-light today - with American bombers swinging in opposite directions from Britain and Italy. Both arms of the two fold offensive met at a common target - Regensburg, the great aircraft factories ~~of~~ which have recently been hit so hard. It was split-second-bombing for the squadrons ~~sent~~, flying for such long distances, ^{and} converged at the same point. The bombers from Britain made the deepest penetration ^{into} Germany ever attempted yet in day-light; -- an eleven hundred mile round trip.

~~LOWELL THOMAS~~

~~FUGSON~~

~~February 25 1944~~

Follow "add air war"

A late dispatch tells of the losses incurred by the air fleets operating from Britain today - Thirty-one bombers and three fighters. As for the result of the blasting of aircraft plants, the pilot of a Mediterranean-based bomber, Lt. James Keator, of Port Jervis New York, uses the following words: "The factories seemed to rise off the ground and disintegrate."

And to that you can add an official British characterization which describes today's operations in these words "the best day's bombing of the war."

And the latest, a dispatch just off the wire states that once again, tonight, the assault is on, with bomber-squadrons assailing Nazi targets -- in the unrelenting air offensive.

Here's a neat bit of dialogue flashed by the German radio, the Nazis presenting it as an indication of the real attitude of Switzerland in the war. The German story is that in yesterday's great bombing of Nazi fighter plane plants, some American bombers, based on Italy, flew over Switzerland. Whereupon there was an exchange of radio talk between an American pilot and some Swiss anti-aircraft gunner on the ground.

The Swiss flashed a message; "Look out, you're over Switzerland."

To which the American pilot responded: "Yes, we know."

"You'd better turn back," announced the Swiss. "If you dont we'll shoot."

"Yes we know," responded the American.

Whereupon the Swiss ground crews opened fire with anti-aircraft shells.

The American reply to this was another radio message: "Your shells are exploding about a thousand feet too low."

To which the Swiss responded: "Yes, we know."

From the Roman beach-head we still have only signs and portents - violent artillery duels as a sign of new enemy action to come, and bitter patrol fighting, with a whole series of local German thrusts, as a portent of another Nazi offensive.

Word from Allied headquarters indicates that the Germans ringed along the perimeter of the beach-head have been reinforced by another division, bringing their total up to a probable one hundred thousand men. The new division came from Northern Italy, and all the enemy troops are said to be fresh and ready for a new attempt to wipe out the beach-head.

~~One point in favor of our forces is this, the perimeter of the beach head is short, only about fifteen miles of fighting line. And in such a small space great numbers of enemy attacking forces will be at a disadvantage in a constricted area. At the same time the Allied troops are being constantly reinforced with fresh masses and equipment - the up to the minute equipment that is so important for the defense.~~

~~On the Cassino front everything is tied up by an atrocious break of the weather. That legendary Southern Italy should by now~~

The Political situation in battle-torn Italy becomes more and more bedeviled, with an Italian liberal blast today against British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. In his recent statement to the House of Commons, Churchill reiterated the Allied intention of dealing with King Victor Emanuel and Marshal Badoglio. And this today was assailed by the aged Count Sforza, leader of the Italian political elements hostile to the King. He repeated the demand -- "King Victor Emanuel must go."

And, in addition to this, Sforza assailed a recent appointment made by the Badoglio government -- an appointment that has a singular appearance. Badoglio has instituted a purge commission, to punish pro-Fascists, and as the head of this commission he appointed a man who was in the headlines eighteen years ago.

Back in 1926 the news featured an attempt to assassinate Mussolini, then in the early flush of his power. The would-be killer, named Zaniboni, tried to take a shot at the Duce. His attempts failed

follow italy

and he was sent to prison, where he spent seventeen years. With the overthrow of the Facist Dictator he was released, and now is appointed head of the Badoglio purge-commission to punish pro-Facists.

You'd think this naming of the man who tried to kill ^uMussolini would please the Italian anti-Facists. But no. Today ^{said} Count Sforza:—

"It is true Zaniboni went to jail for his attempt in 1926 to assassinate Mussolini, but he has suffered too many years and has no intellectual or moral power left. ^{Then he added:—} It is not fair to name the unfortunate fellow to head such a commission."

The Nazi loss of great strongholds in Russia is getting to be monotonous. And today we have another - Vitebsk. That city has been a major keypoint for the Germans ever since they captured it a few weeks after they assailed Soviet Russia in nineteen forty-one.

Today the Germans themselves announced the evacuation of Vitebsk, and, according to Moscow, this collapses the central anchor of the Nazi lines.

~~German retreats today are reported largely in the North, where the Soviets are driving rapidly to the Baltic states. The gateway to those small nations is the city of Pskov, on which the Russians are closing. One Soviet army driving Westward, has gained twenty miles, and another from the North, moved to within nineteen miles of Pskov.~~

Soviet newspapers have been attacking ^{all sorts} ~~sorts~~ of things of late, and now a lot of Russian journalistic bricks are thrown at still another target-William Randolph Hearst, the dean of American newspaper magnates. Today in Moscow, Pravda, the official Communist newspaper, prints an article by Zazlavsky a number one Soviet journalist. And zazlavsky assails Hearst as what he calls - "A newspaper gangster." Also ^{aa} ~~a~~ - "an American friend of Adolf Hitler."

Whereupon Zazlavsky cites a whole series of stories printed in the Hearst papers as proof that the Sage of San ^{Simon} ~~Simon~~ is an ardent pro-Nazi. Not only Hearst - but also the newspapermen who write for the Hearst papers, Like foreign correspondent Karl Von Wiegand. Zazlavsky calls them - "hirelings and gangsters."

Well, we do have gangsters in this country - but we dont usually think of them as publishing newspapers or writing them. ^{even if} Mr. Zazlavsky does figure it that way.

ARGENTINE

The new president of the Argentine, President since the political overturn of last night, made some explanations today. He is Gen. Edelmiro T. Farrell. His first ^{name} is, Edelmiro, sounds spanish enough.

But Farrell is written with the classic Irish spelling - F-A-R-R-E-LL

we suppose that Edelmiro had an Irish male ancestor somewhere

Many people do in Argentina,
along the line. I don't refer to this Hibernian angle to insinuate

that the General might possibly be talking Blarney; ^{he did} but ~~he~~ stated

today that President Ramirez, in resigning so suddenly last night,

did so because of ill health. You know the old phrase - "a sudden

illness."

The overturn is described as follows: "It was merely a delegation of power," "The president is tired and wishes to rest."

So they gave him a chance to rest - in private life. It seems like a great Argentine humanitarian idea - when the President gets tired the army just eases him out.

Today's Washington opinion concerning the latest Latin-~~ameri-~~can somersault seemed to be slightly puzzled, the more so as the

new group in power ⁱⁿ B.A.is said to have had pro-Nazi affiliations.

Acting Secretary of State Stettinius said today that the coup d'etat

^{gives} ~~gave~~ what he called ^{s:} "grounds for concern."

And he added that it might raise questions concerning the security of the Hemisphere.

Well, when President Ramirez was in power that ^{also} gave "grounds for concern" - grounds which he only partly dispelled when he broke relations with the Axis enemy. Now his overthrow gives grounds for concern! So Argentine political developments would seem to be like a pot of coffee, lots of grounds.

TAXES

The way the Democrats of Congress have turned against the administration on the subject of taxes is seen graphically in today's vote on the veto. Yesterday the House of Representatives overrode the veto by an overpowering majority of three to one. ~~So what about the~~ *Well, today the* Senate, in which the administration has always been stronger than in the lower House ~~in fact, the core of the President's congressional~~ ~~power has been in the Senate.~~ *Well, today the Senate* voted to override the veto by a majority of five to one, seventy-two votes to fourteen. ~~The Democrats in the Senate number fifty-two. Of these,~~ ~~only thirteen stood by the President.~~ *Even* In other words, *in his own* party the President lost by four to one.

Just to dramatize the whole thing, the one strong and violent speech in support of the President's veto was made today by a ^{*Dakota*} Republican, Senator Langer, ^{*who*} ~~he~~ as he said - "applauded the President's courage and straightforwardness." Republican applause for the White House! ^{*TP*} As for Democratic Leader Senator Barkley, ~~whose clash with~~ ~~the President has been such a political sensation,~~ *he* said today:

The country was saddened today by the news ~~late news today~~ of the death of Senator McNary of Oregon, Republican leader in the Senate, ~~He was~~ ^{and} GOP candidate for vice President in the last election - running mate of Wendell Willkie. He had gone to Florida to recuperate from an operation. There he died today at the age of sixty-nine -- a Senator for twenty-six years.

Out in Wisconsin, the advocates of Governor Dewey for the Republican nomination ~~are~~ ^{are} proposing to carry on - in spite of the New York governor's request that his name be withdrawn from the Wisconsin primaries. The Dewey attitude all along has been that he is not a candidate for the nomination.

~~The supposition was that the Dewey supporters entering the primary as Dewey delegates would accede to his request and withdraw. But today Wisconsin's Secretary of State Frank Zimmerman challenged his favorite's right to withdraw his name from the primary. He made the point that Dewey wasn't running in the primary - they were. They are running as Dewey delegates.~~

The latest is a formal notification to Governor Dewey issued by fourteen of the twenty-four Dewey delegates. Tonight they telegraphed to the New York governor that, notwithstanding his request, they would not withdraw from the Wisconsin primary. Their attitude is expressed in the statement that -- "they deem it their duty to bring Thomas E. Dewey's name before the electorate as a candidate for the Presidency."

And furthermore, the Wisconsin Secretary of State ^{Frank Zimmerman} argued

as follows; "It isn't up to Tom Dewey to say whether he want^s_A to run as President. It's up to the voters to say who they want. And," he added, "we are merely giving them a chance to say it."

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All of which might seem to raise a point with regard to a man's, constitutional liberty, has he or has he not the right to refuse to run for the Presidency ? Does he have to ? Isn't there any way for a fellow to stay out of the White House -- if for instance his little woman doesn't want to be the first lady. I'm just supposing of course. And now Ben, supposin' we turn the mike over to you !