

*P.I. - Standard. Tuesday, January 2, 1945.
Sunoco.*

The American air Forces based on the Philippines and on China now overlap in the territory they cover. This meeting of spheres of action was accomplished when planes based on the Philippines bombed the Japs in the region of Formosa. American air power based on China has previously been striking at Formosa. ~~So now~~ ^{But} that island is a target for blows from both sides. And Formosa is one of the most important of targets, the site of great sea and air bases -- bases from which the enemy conquest of the Philippines was launched.

Presumably the planes mentioned in tonight's MacArthur communique flew from newly invaded Mindoro Island. They sank ships off Formosa, and shot down four Japanese planes that tried to interfere.

At the same time, MacArthur's air squadrons continued their heavy blows against Jap war centers on Luzon, ~~the~~ principal island of the Philippines, and a future American goal.

SECRET WEAPON

Here come the Japanese talking about a secret weapon. Hitherto the Nazis have been the specialists in muttering about mysterious instruments of war --- and it hasn't been all talk. Now their partners, the Japs come forward with a claim that they have doped out a secret weapon that will give them command of the skies over the Pacific Ocean. Tokio says it's a kind of new fangled rocket bomb, which will do all sorts of terrifying things. It isn't clear how rocket bombs could dominate the skies over the vast Pacific, but that's what the Japs are saying.

At the same time we hear of an American idea - something weird and terrifying that was suggested to bring about the defeat of Japan. A man-made earthquake was proposed. But the scheme was never tried out. It seems like an item for the realm of fantasy, but it is now disclosed in Washington that, earlier in the war, serious consideration was given to the project

of producing an earthquake that would wreck Japanese centers of war industry.

It is well known that the islands of the far eastern enemy are subject to disastrous quakes, there being ^{deep in the sea,} off the Japanese coast, a fault in the surface of the earth -- the kind of geological fault that causes violent tremors. And the proposal was made in Washington to cause a violent Japanese earthquake by jarring the underlying rocks with huge explosions. According to the plan, tremendous charges of high explosive would be touched off at key points -- and these would cause movements of the crust of the earth off Japan. Violent quakes would result, which would shake down Japanese war industries.

Top ranking scientists were consulted, and gave the opinion that in theory the plan might be feasible. One of the most vigorous proponents of the theory was Leo Ranney, an engineer of world wide

reputation who drove the world's first horizontal oil well. He was convinced that the defeat of Japan could be brought about by an earthquake. However, it was pointed out that the scheme would require enormous amounts of explosives carried in many ships to waters just off the Japanese coast -- which would make it too risky. So the plan was dropped.

Recently, the Japs did have an earthquake and it happened on December seventh last, the third anniversary of Pearl Harbor. And some people who had known about the earthquake-plan suspected it had been put into effect on Pearl Harbor anniversary. However, we are assured that the recent Japanese quake was entirely the doing of nat^ue, alone and unassisted. It was nature's own contribution to the war effort of the United Nations.

Before we ^o turn to the Western Front, let's hear from Stan. of Cal.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD WESTERN FRONT

Our supposition of last night is strengthened by the news tonight - the belief that the series of small attacks made by the Nazis in Alsace might be a preliminary to a new German offensive along the southern sector of the Western Front.

~~Today the~~ Enemy activity in Alsace ^{has} spread northward to the Saar Valley, and later news today told of four violent enemy assaults launched in the Saar; in some places the Nazis driv^{ing} forward for as much as two miles.

More and more, it would seem as if the enemy ~~strategy~~ strategy were now to draw back in the Belgian salient and switch the offensive to the south, the idea being - stopped in one place, you lunge forward in another.

From the ~~enemy~~ big salient in Belgium, we have late news - with events brought down to date. A dispatch tonight tells us that Supreme Allied Headquarters has called off the thirty-six hour time lag.

All along, because of military secrecy, the Army has held back the ~~the~~ news of the German offensive that broke through. Some times we were told nothing later than events forty-eight hours old. More ^crecently, the time lag was thirty-six hours.

Now, all that is abolished and hereafter headquarters dispatches will bring the situation down to date each day. The time lag was put on when things were dangerous; ~~and now~~ ^{so,} we can assume that its removal means that the crisis has passed on the front of the Belgian salient.

^{at the moment?}
~~So~~ what do we see there? The Nazis in ~~xxxx~~ retreat. ~~They are~~ withdrawing so fast ~~that~~ from the western tip of the bulge that American troops, ~~xxxxxxx~~ have lost contact. That is, the heavy German armored forces are withdrawing so rapidly that the Americans have not been able to catch up with them and are encountering nothing more than rear guard resistance by parties of infantry.

This withdrawal seems to be forced by the progress that Patton's Third Army troops are making in the area of Bastogne, ^{where} they are widening and deepening ~~expanding~~ the wedge, ~~that~~ they drove to that town.

Today's news tells of the capture of nine more villages in the Bastogne area, with the Third Army push threatening more and more to rip right through the salient, and trap the Germans to the West. So that's why the Nazis are getting out of the western part of the bulge - and getting out fast.

Word from Allied headquarters is that the German ~~xxxx~~ retreat is accompanied by signs that the Hitler command is consolidating its forces, mustering its strength for another try - and that try may be going on right now - in the Saar and Alsace.

Once again the news tells of tremendous air ~~in~~ action - the weather still being good. Today, more than sixteen hundred and fifty American planes based on Britain assailed German communications - the Britain-based war planes joining with other swarms ~~of Allied~~

that took off from flying fields in France. The mighty surge of allied air power hit the Germans in the salient - and also gave due attention to the front farther south. Today saw air action to forestall the possibility of a shift of German strength from the salient for a new offensive.

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"The German soldier", he writes, "is the best defensive soldier in the world, and his commander is a ruthless realist. They know they can hold out to the bitter end, killing and killing and killing. Then when the last bullet has been fired, they have only to come over to our lines, with their hands clasped on their heads, shouting, "kamerad", and then spend the rest of the war, better fed, housed and cared for than in Germany".

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LOSSES

A somber account of battle on the Western Front ~~from~~ comes from United Press correspondent Boyd Lewis, who warns us we must be prepared for news of heavy losses. He tells how German tactics are calculated to result in large American casualties, while the German loss of life is less -- enemy soldiers becoming prisoners.

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All of which leads the U P ~~the~~ correspondent to this bitter conclusion, "dead Americans for German prisoners!", he writes.

He tells of an American officer who fought

on Guadalcanal, and who says he prefers the methods of the Japs to those of the Germans. The knife war of the Pacific, declares this officer, is not as bad as the tricky battle that the Nazis put up. Casualties in the Pacific style of fighting are far lighter - though few prisoners^π are taken on either side.

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RUSSIA

The devastating siege of Budapest goes on. Red Army troops today captured two hundred and ninety-five more city ~~blocks~~ blocks, and now control half of the Hungarian capital. Eighty thousand Germans are said to be trapped in Budapest, and they are putting up a savage house-to-house, room-by-room, battle. At the same time, German forces to the West have been launching drives to break through ~~the~~ and relieve the garrison at Budapest. These have been repelled - says Moscow.

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London chimes in with some word along this line -- saying that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill plan to meet late in January. They will get together somewhere in Britain, and then will move on to some other meeting place for talks with Stalin, so says London tonight.

SUBSTITUTE CONFERENCE

President Roosevelt gave a hint today that another Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin conference is in prospect. Talking to newsmen, he wouldn't say anything much about time or place, except that a meeting of the big three might be expected soon,

The President admitted that differences had arisen between the United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia, but added that they were disagreements about details and not a conflict of principles. He illustrated by referring to the Ten Commandments, saying that they were accepted as principles, but that people often differed when it came to interpreting a commandment in detail.

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MANPOWER

President Roosevelt says this country needs a "work-or-fight" law. At the White House News Conference today he endorsed the general idea of legislation to compel men either to join the armed forces or get busy at war jobs. The President said he wouldn't discuss possible details of a ~~work-or-fight~~ work-or-fight law - these ~~details~~ should be left to Congress.

Harvard Merrill Hodgkins writes his own story for the United Press, and relates how on the night of November ninth he was at a dance - and it began to snow at about eleven o'clock, a regular blizzard, coming down hard. Harvard Hodgkins thought he had better be getting home, and started to drive. He was rolling along in his car when he saw two figures in the road coming toward him - two men.

He pulled over so that they could pass him, and noted that their clothes weren't right for the coast of Maine in winter. They were regular city slickers, while a leather lumberjacket is the suitable thing for a snowstorm in Maine.

SPIES

Today we have an account of how the F.B.I. got on the trail of the two Nazi spies, the arrest of whom was announced last night. We have the story from a high school boy at Hancock Point, Maine. He was the one who gave the F.B.I. the first clue - and the clue was a trail indeed, footprints in the snow.

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Harvard Hodgkins wondered a bit, and kept driving on. He could see the footprints of the two men plainly in the snow. The trail led on for about a hundred yards, and then he noted that the footprints turned off into the woods. The two men with the topcoats had come out of the forest - which seemed odder than ever to Harvard Hodgkins.

"Everybody," the boy relates, "Had been thinking about spies landing along the coast, and I got to thinking those two men might be up to some funny business. So when I saw the tracks in the woods," he goes on, "I stopped the car and walked a little way." He followed the footprints, and they led through the woods, to the nearby shore. That was where the trail began, on the snow covered beach. The two men must have come in by boat - on that snowy winter night.

The high school boy was certain now that something mighty funny was going on - probably spies. He went home and reported what he had seen. His father

is a Deputy Sheriff, who lost no time in getting the word to the F.B.I. J. Edgar Hoover's men checked and investigated -picking up the trail that began as footprints in the snow. The trail ended with the arrest of the two spies - one of whom is a native born American and a former sailor of the United States Navy.

~~Pres. R. stated this afternoon that the 2 spies will be tried just as were the other saboteurs early in the war. And he praised the F.B.I.~~

ADD SPIES

President Roosevelt this afternoon indicated that the two spies would be tried by a special military tribunal. This follows the precedent set in the case of the Nazi saboteurs earlier in the war. They were tried by a ^{special} military tribunal, and six were electrocuted. Speaking of the capture of the spies, the President handed high praise to the F.B.I., saying that J. Edgar Hoover's men had distinguished themselves in hunting down the spies.

BRITISH CRITICISM

A good deal of attention was attracted by a British Editorial of last week, an editorial that criticized the United States. The influential weekly called "The Economist", charged that Americans were saying unfair things about Great Britain - "Grievously unfair", declared the economist. And it spoke of, what it called - "Postures of superiority" on the part of the Americans.

That criticism over there was criticized over here, and now we have some more of the same sort of thing, - over there - this time in the Yorkshire Post, which is supposed to express the views of Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. The Yorkshire Post is owned by the family, of the Foreign Secretary's wife. That newspaper today criticizes America for preaching what it calls "smug sermons on Britain's duty." And it goes on to demand that this country make a frank statement of what it is willing to do in establishing a European settlement.

"We do not," says the Yorkshire Post, "mind

being lectured by the Americans, within reason - since it is an old American custom. But we want to know how far we can rely on them in the future maintenance of peace and of world trade for the good of all."

And then the newspaper, which is supposed to reflect the views of Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, goes on to admit candidly that relations between the United States and Great Britain have become - "difficult." "Indeed," says the Yorkshire Post, "That adjective is much too mild."

1/2
That's the kind of Yorkshire pudding dished out today by the Yorkshire Post.

And now Hugh what kind
A tit-bit is going to be
served up by you.

NEW YEAR

At Boston, Robert Sudhalter certainly is tied up with the New Year. He was born on the first of January, Eighteen Ninety Nine. He was married on New Year's Day, Nineteen Twenty. And now the word is that yesterday he became a grandfather. Apparently he likes to begin things at the beginning -- The first of the year. *And a-l-u-t-m.*

His testimony did a large part in sending Hauptmann to the Electric Chair.

The strange coincidence is this: Today, exactly ten years to the day after the trial began, Hauptmann died at the age of eighty-four.

LINDBERGH KIDNAPPING

Just ten years ago today, one of the most famous trials in American legal history began - the trial of Richard Bruno Hauptmann, for the kidnapping and murder of the Lindbergh baby. One of the most prominent of the witnesses against Hauptmann was Dr. John F. Condon, more often called - "Jafsie." That was a pseudonym he used in contacting the kidnapper. His testimony did a large part in sending Hauptmann to the Electric Chair.

The strange coincidence is this: Today, exactly ten years to the day after the trial began, Jafsie died, at the age of eighty-four.

CONFERENCE

From Washington we have an indication that a Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin meeting may be held soon. The indication is from President Roosevelt, and is passed along to us by Senator Barkley of Kentucky.

At the White House today, Congressional leaders called on the President to talk things over -- preparing for the opening of the new Congress, which convenes tomorrow. When they emerged from the White House, they were buttonholed by reporters, and in the talk that followed, Senator Barkley said: "The President indicated that some time soon --without stating the time or place -- he will meet with Churchill and Stalin."

To which Congressman McCormack of Massachusetts quickly added: "Probably."

So we have the indication of a probability.