


Well, the Japs may be right - in the bulletin they issued today. They ~~xxx~~ said they thought that a giant American task force was preparing to drive for an invasion of Truk. Tokyo told of a new sea and air attack against Truk - with ^{that} a powerful American task force hurling explosive upon the ² enemy ¹ ~~position in the Pacific~~ ^{'s sea stronghold.} And the whole tone of the thing indicated that the Japs were alarmed.

Our own story came later in the day, confirming the Tokyo statement ~~xxx~~ that Truk had been assailed by ~~a~~ ^{the} task force and its planes. Our Pacific fleet headquarters tells ~~us~~ how over the weekend a three-day bombardment hit Truk, and also two other enemy bases in the Carolines - Satawan and Ponape. The guns of warships joined with the bombing planes in blasting the Japs on the atolls. A hundred and twenty-five enemy planes were destroyed, sixty in battles of the sky; sixty on the

ground shattered by air bombs, and five blown up by shells from warships.

Admiral Nimitz announces that during the entire three-day attack, not one American ship was even damaged, and our losses of aircraft were light.



ADD PACIFIC

Later news tells of still more bombings,
with long range army planes striking at other Jap bases
in the Carolines, including Woleai. Fifty tons of bombs
hit the Japs at points midway between Truk and Palau.

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The American announcement comes at the same
time as an announcement from London, which tells
of British submarine victories against the Japs. Three
British subs hitting at the ^{main} supply route between
Singapore and Burma, ^{sinking} a destroyer and four cargo
vessels.

SUBMARINES

The Navy today released a new list of Jap vessels sunk by American submarines, and on the list we find ~~two~~^{three} warships - a light cruiser and two destroyers. Add to these nine tankers and freighters, and the total is twelve. ~~That even dozen announced today, brings the number of Jap ships sunk by our submarines up to five hundred and forty-four~~

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BURMA

News from the India-Burma sector nowadays has a pleasant sounding date-line -- Kandy. That place with the sweet name is in ^{up in the hills of} Ceylon, to which island south of India the Mountbatten headquarters have been transferred. So what from Kandy today? Something about the Chindits, that astonishing outfit which, carried by a fleet of gliders, is operating far behind the lines - the jungle soldiers of the late General Wingate, and that very active flying commander, Colonel Phil Cochrane.

The Chindits have cut the north Burma railroad, a severe blow to Japanese communications. And the enemy has been launching ~~desperate~~ attacks, ~~to prevent the Chindit break of the line. The Japs are~~ desperately eager ^{to reopen the line,} ~~to get the Japs out.~~ They hurled three violent assaults, each of which ^{was} ~~has been~~ beaten back. And now the fourth - the latest and most violent. Two thousand Japs plunged in for a bloody three-day battle. They stormed forward

under heavy artillery fire, and cut ~~their way~~ through
barbed wire defenses. They forced their way into the
lines of the Chindits, and there were assailed by a
heavy counter-attack. Air action supported them, with
Colonel Philip Cochrane's commando air force joining ⁱⁿ ~~the~~
~~the~~ battle. As a result of it all, the Jap attack,
Number Four, was smashed and the Chindits still kept
their grip on the north Burma railroad.

And from ^{that} ~~the Pacific way~~ areas comes a new
word. The global conflict has produced a lot of new
expressions, some of them pretty terrible. So how do
you like this one - jeepable. From Allied headquarters
in New Zealand, we hear that on maps and in military
communications, they have occasion to refer to roads
that cannot be traversed by any other vehicle except
the staunch and nimble jeep. So that kind of road is
called - jeepable.

~~I suppose that~~ Some of those ^{jungle} ~~terrible~~ trails
~~in the jungles~~ are impassible even to jeeps, ~~and I~~
~~suppose they're styled~~ Unjeepable! From which we might
derive some further beauties like - unjeepability.

And I used to think that "roadability" was awful!

got so far from the North Pole. They have
been doing it for two years.
But only disclosed now.

SOVIET PLANES

Here is a late bulletin - with a thrill.

The War Department reveals that Lend-Lease planes are being flown to Soviet Russia by Red Army pilots, by what is called - "the northern air route." Meaning, presumably, via Alaska -- over the top of the world, not so far from the North Pole.

They have been doing it for two years. But only disclosed now.

RUSSIA

It is odd to say that the Russian story of the day can be summarized by saying - most of the action was in the air. But that's the case ^e this evening. After the tremendous advances scored by the Soviet war machine on the ground, today's Moscow bulletin mentions little more than an air blow - but it was a big one. ^{TP} Soviet long range bombers made a mass attack against the Polish railroad junction of Lwow, where there were concentrations of Nazi troop trains. Huge fires were set, smoke clouds towering to sixty-five hundred feet. ^{TP} ~~This was the fourth Soviet air assault against Lwow in two weeks, and the eleventh major Russian sky attack against a whole string of German targets. Days of violent air action in the east.~~

AIR WAR

The air war based on Britain was impeded by bad weather today. In fact, this morning there was a lull - so hopeless were flying conditions. Later in the day, however, big fleets of bombers were able to take off and deliver their usual assault against the Nazis. They hit German centers in France and Belgium, railroad junctions and points along the invasion coast.

Thus Lieutenant General Doolittle's Eighth Air Force was able to continue the pre-invasion assault, continue it into its sixteenth day - after the British R.A.F. last night had delivered one of its greatest blows, striking seven big war bases in Germany, Belgium and France.

Late news from London states that during April, ^{the} American ^{airmen} ~~air forces~~ dropped a record tonnage of bombs on the Nazis in Europe. Our bombers, based both on Britain and on Italy, blasted the Nazis with forty-three thousand five hundred tons of explosive.

Both the British and American Air Forces
dropped ninety-six thousand tons of both high
explosive and incendiary bombs on the Nazis during
April.

government because Spain has been leading to East Germany
quantity of wolfram - material used in the hardening of
steel, and we blockaded shipments of oil to Spain - known
effect to bring the Franco government to terms. And now
Spain agreed to cut down her exports and of wolfram to
Germany to a mere fraction, twenty-five per cent. In
other words, we are depriving the Nazis of seventy-five
per cent of their Spanish wolfram.

Previously, the Allies have reduced Turkey to
stop all shipments to Germany - of which, another rare
metal, is the manufacture of high grade steel. The
idea being, of course, to deprive the Germans of such
of strategic materials they have in the possession
of steel.

NEUTRALS

In the Allied drive against neutral nations helping the enemy - ~~Portugal and~~ Sweden ^{is} next on the list. ^R This follows a decided success in the case of - Spain. We've been having a controversy with the Franco government because Spain has been sending to Nazi Germany quantities of wolfram - material used in the hardening of steel. ~~So~~ we blockaded shipments of oil to Spain - ~~from~~ effort to bring the Franco government to terms. And now - Spain agrees to cut down ~~its~~ exports ~~and~~ of wolfram to Germany to a mere fraction, twenty-five per cent. In other words, we are depriving the Nazis of seventy-five per cent of their Spanish wolfram.

Previously, the Allies had induced Turkey to stop all shipments to Germany - of chrome, another rare metal used in the manufacture of high grade steel. The idea being, of course, to deprive the German war machine of strategic materials they must have in the production of steel.

~~Portugal, like Spain, produces wolfram. The neutral Lisbon government inclines to the Allied side, and it is believed that Allied pressure will succeed in effecting a drastic cut of shipments of the rare metal to Germany.~~

Sweden presents a more difficult problem. The Scandinavian kingdom exports ball bearings to the Nazis, a most important aid to the German aircraft industry. We have asked Sweden to stop the export, but have met with a refusal - Sweden insisting on strick neutrality. And now another Allied move is expected - another attempt to persuade the Swedes to stop, or at least reduce, such help to our enemies.

Roger - How about some Stan - of Cal. news from you?

TRANSPORTATION

Tonight in Washington a warning was issued.

"This is invasion year," declared Defense Transportation Director J. Monroe Johnson. He meant that especially for people who think they are going to travel. -- They'll soon find out it's invasion year. ^{TP} "Any unessential traveler who gets caught in invasion traffic," says the Defense Transportation Director, "will have only himself to blame if he is indefinitely stranded or finds his Pullman reservation cancelled or finds passenger schedules temporarily disrupted."

The ~~Defense~~ Director predicted that during the coming summer more civilians will try to travel, and warned them that they will find crowded trains, unreliable connections and limited dining facilities.

MONTGOMERY WARD

~~The latest~~ in the Montgomery Ward dispute is an order ^{was} ~~was~~ ^{today} issued by the National Labor Relations Board. The N.L.R.B. directs that an election ~~should~~ be held within seven days, a poll of the Montgomery Ward ~~employees~~ employees to decide whether or not they want the Union to act as their bargaining agency ^{to}.

The whole trouble came about because the Company ^{obey an order} refused to extend its old contract with the union, Montgomery Ward claiming that the Union no longer represented the employees. And now the National Labor Relations Board has ordered an election.

ADD MONTGOMERY WARD

At a court hearing today, Attorney General Biddle repeated his former argument in the Montgomery-Ward case - that there was no question of civil rights involved or anything that might pertain to the Constitution. He said that the military seizure of the Company was based on the President's power as Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces of the nation.

opposition in their states - and therefore the vote is taken as having a good deal of national significance.

Senator Pepper was opposed by four other candidates, and at last reports was running ahead of all of his opponents combined.

Alabama Senator Lister Hill had had only one candidate run against him, and at last reports had a fairly wide lead.

In Maryland, the issue was settled early today, with Senator Tydings winning a re-election for the

PRIMARIES

In both Florida and Alabama, the administration supporters are running ahead in the primary race. The count is in from only a fraction of the precincts, with the figures showing Senator Pepper ~~to be ahead in~~ ^{leading in} Florida, and Senator Lister Hill ~~to hold a margin~~ in Alabama. ^{TP} These two Senators, both stalwarts of ~~the~~ the administration, ran against bitter anti-New Deal opposition in their states - and therefore the vote is taken as having a good deal of national significance.

^{TP} Senator Pepper was opposed by four other candidates, and at last reports was running ahead of all of his opponents combined.

Alabama Senator Lister Hill ~~xxx~~ had only one candidate ~~running~~ against him, and at last reports had ^{a fairly wide lead.} ~~a lead of twenty one thousand to sixteen thousand~~

In Maryland, the issue was settled early today, with Senator Tydings winning a renomination for the

Senate. In a five-man race, he ran better than three-to-one [—] [—] Tydings who, a few years back successfully defied the New Deal purge.

And the Maryland primary had, likewise, a presidential slant - with an election of delegates to the two national conventions. On the Republican side, only two slates of delegates were entered, one uninstructed and one for Wendell Willkie, who has since withdrawn, ~~from the competition.~~ But what about write-in votes - which had been a surprise feature in other primaries, with voters marking in the name of Governor Dewey of New York? The Maryland primary—election—law forbids write-in votes; yet there were many of these today, as is indicated by returns from one section, Garrett County. The figures we have show that Dewey got more write-ins than there were legal votes for either of the official lists of delegates.

PRIMARIES . 3

In fact, his total ^{of} write-ins was only two less than the total votes cast for the two legal choices.

Which leads us to the primaries in South Dakota where a slate of Dewey delegates was entered as against Lieutenant Commander Stassen, former Governor of Minnesota. The voting tonight showed Dewey running two-to-one ahead of Stassen.

BABY

Every so often, the news tells of a dispute about a baby at a hospital - with the parents saying it ~~is~~^{is} not theirs. And a most notable case of this is to be found in the story of Mr. and Mrs. Harry James Hardwig of Los Angeles, who are suing a hospital on the ground that another baby was substituted for theirs. They were told - it was a boy. And so they informed their relatives and friends. Then later, as they changed the baby's clothing, they found it was not a boy at all - but a girl. They claim the hospital made a mistake and got another infant mixed up with their own.

The hospital admits there was a mistake, but only in registering the sex of the child. The Hardwigs, in their lawsuit, say that they are in an ambiguous state of mind. After caring for the child for months, they have grown exceedingly fond of the little girl, though they are convinced it is not their own.

CAMERAMAN

In the world of motion pictures, some symbolical flag should have been at half-mast today - to mark the passing of the first motion picture cameraman. Billy Bitzer, ~~was~~ the original pioneer of them all.

The motion picture camera was hardly more than a novelty and a toy when ^{Billy} ~~he~~ filmed McKinley accepting the Republican nomination for the presidency. ^{Then -} ~~he~~ became the first motion picture war correspondent - when he was sent to Cuba in the Spanish-American War. His primitive camera was an enormous thing, driven by a motor of two-and-a-half horsepower, and a thousand pounds of storage batteries. Billy Bitzer, with his own eyes saw the Charge of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders, but he couldn't get his monster equipment ^{to} within ¹⁴ miles of the fracas.

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One day a flamboyant actor told him he had an ambition to direct motion pictures. "Just a poor ham," thought Billy Bitzer, and he contemptuously gave the flashy thespian some instructions about the camera. The

poor ham was D. W. Griffith, for whom Bitzer afterward filmed a thousand of the old silents, ^{including} ~~such~~ such ^{classics} ~~pictures~~ as "Orphans of the Storm", "Broken Blossoms", "Way Down East", "Intolerance", and "The Birth of a Nation."

One of the girl extras in the studio was named Mary Pickford. Bitzer liked her, and together they schemed to get her into prominence. In a crowd scene he had her steal forward, and he focused on her. That made her the hit of the picture - the beginning of the fabulous career of Mary Pickford.

She asked him - why her face looked so white on the screen? So he tried something. He darkened the normal face powder used for make-up. She put it on her face the next time she was filmed and the darkening gave her features character and distinction. That was the beginning of the art of motion picture make-up.

Billy Bitzer was the first to film a close-up, ^{too.} He discovered the fade-out, the soft focus, the running dissolve, and any number of other movie-making devises.

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Yes, and there was one other inconspicuous unknown whom Billy Bitzer helped. Back in the First World War I was commissioned to make a motion picture record of American forces overseas. I knew nothing about filming pictures - mighty few did in those days. But Billy Bitzer did, and he helped me - gave me advice and instructions about the use of the camera, ~~and~~ and that was how, upon going to Europe and then to Palestine, I was able to procure, not only the story, but also motion pictures, of ~~what~~ Allenby's Last Crusade and the epic of Lawrence of Arabia.

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Now, at seventy-three, the first motion picture cameraman has departed from this movie-mad world, and I can see him approaching the Pearly Gates and setting up his camera to make a close-up of St. Peter.

4
And now Roger

PRIMARIES

Tues, May 2,
Dropped from late b'dcast.

Significant primaries were held in several states today. But at this hour of the evening we can hardly expect to have any results. Few of the votes have been counted. However, today brings an exception - in the case of Maryland. Even the earliest tabulations of ballots in the Democratic primary are decisive. Senator Tydings wins a renomination for the United States Senate. In a five-man race, he is running better than three-to-one, - Tydings who, a few years back, successfully defied the famous New Deal purge.

The Maryland primary has, likewise, a presidential slant - with an election of delegates to the two national conventions. On the Republican side, only two slates of delegates were entered, one uninstructed and the other for Wendell Willkie, who has since withdrawn from the competition. But what about write-in votes - which have been a surprise feature in

other primaries, with voters marking in the name of Governor Dewey of New York? The Maryland primary election law forbids write-in votes, and yet there were many of these today. This is indicated by word from one section, Garrett County. An unofficial tabulation from that county shows that Dewey got more write-ins than ^{were} either of the ~~official~~ ^{there were legal votes for} list of delegates. In fact, his total of write-ins is only two less than the total vote cast for the two legal choices. I don't know how significant Garrett County may be, but it looks as if the state at large would give an imposing write-in for the New York Governor.

Two other states with significant primaries are Florida and Alabama - where Senators Pepper and Lister Hill respectively ran for renomination. Both are administration stalwarts, and both faced a bitter fight by forces opposed to the New Deal. From neither Florida nor Alabama are any ^{significant} returns available as yet.

ITALY

In Italy, the same story -- with Allied bombers hitting north Italian ports important to Nazi communications; also railroad centers.

The news of ground-action is confined to a German attack on the beachhead below Rome. Allied headquarters tells us that the Nazi forces launched a sudden assault against the left flank of the beachhead, where the British are. The enemy made a slight advance.