

(12) Early today Secretary of War Stimson told us that General MacArthur's forces were having a tough fight on Biak Island. The Jap garrison rallied, brought our men to a stand-still and stopped them from capturing the Mokmer airdrome.

~~But~~ But tonight we learn that MacArthur has been able to land reinforcements at Biak. They went ashore without any opposition from the Japs, partly because our Billy Mitchell and Boston bombers were keeping the enemy too busy. There are two other air fields on Biak besides Mokmer. Jap snipers and artillery spotters have prevented the occupation of those air dromes. But now that the ^{reinforcements are} ~~reinforcements are~~ there, ^{which} ~~which~~ probably include tanks, the end of that fight may not be far off.

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CHINA

The Chinese have evacuated Changsha, and the Japs will have it in a few hours, maybe are even inside the city now. Three times the garrison has withstood a siege, but was unequal to a fourth. ~~The~~ At latest reports a large Japanese column advancing down the railroad from Hangkow to Canton was less than thirty miles from Changsha.

The Japs have also landed men on the southeast shore of Tungting Lake. Four Jap columns are advancing through the province of Hunan.

At the same time, General Stilwell' reported that Liberator bombers of the Fourteenth United States Air Force have dropped twenty-five tons of explosives on Lashio, the southern terminal of the Burma Road, and raided several other Jap positions in China.

BURMA

General ~~Joe~~ Stilwell's Chinese troops in northern Burma have captured another inhabited place; ~~It is~~ called Malakawng, ^{and is} ~~on~~ the Mogaung Valley Road fifteen miles north of Kamaing. General Stilwell announces that the Chinese wiped out the Japanese ~~grr~~ garrison completely.

They not only took Malakawng, but pushed ahead two miles and at last accounts were attacking another village held by the Japs. Stilwell's Chinese had a hard time at Malakawng, because the Jap garrison held out for three weeks. Two attacks; although supported by tanks, were driven back.

What this means is that Kamaing is now practically isolated. ~~is~~ The most heavily garrisoned Jap base ^{remaining in} ~~in~~ northern Burma.

Stilwell's communique goes on to indicate that the Americans and Chinese jungle fighters under

Brigadier General Frank Merrill are gradually pushing the Japs out of Myitkyina, with that garrison still resisting ^{grimly.} ~~ferociously.~~ Every pillbox and every entrenchment has to be cleaned out one by one. However, it will not be long before the whole place is in our hands.

ITALY

American doughboys today had their first view of the Eternal City. Covered with dust and sweat a regiment of infantrymen climbed to the top of a three thousand foot peak, and from there they looked down on the city of the Seven Hills, its churches and temples glistening white in the sunlight only a few miles away.

Uncle Sam's infantrymen broke through part of the heavily fortified Nazi line between Velletri and Valmontone. Under the fire of German snipers and machine gun bullets they crawled Indian-fashion through the vineyards and under brush. When they reached the top of the peak they were surprised how comparatively easy it had been. They had expected a desperate hand-to-hand fight on the summit, but the Jerries had left only a small rear guard.

According to today's report they are marching along the Valmontone Road, and the latest advance of those American regiments has taken them three and a half miles through the German line. From a military

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point of view it was a brilliant flanking thrust. They by-passed Velletri on the right, and then advanced beyond Mt. Peschio. The advance guard of the American Left Flank is now only thirteen miles from the ~~xxx~~ city of the Caesars.

As night fell, there was heavy fighting all along the line from Valmontone to Velletri. The Allies have surrounded Velletri on three sides and it appears likely to fall soon.

Correspondents of Swiss newspapers in Rome say the fighting now is so close that the houses in Rome are shaking, and windows rattling, from the incessant roar of cannon.

INVASION

The period of decisive action is now at hand, said Secretary of War Stimson. At a press conference today the Secretary gave out more information about forthcoming events in Europe than *has* any official ~~has done yet~~ *so far*. He declared that the High Command of the Allies has now reached the final stage of its master plan for the all-out attack on Hitler's continental fortress. *That* The Generals have almost completed deploying the air and ground forces of the United States. *And, that* The movement of our forces on the ground is rapidly nearing the peak. That *was* exactly what he said.

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Then he added that there are now three million, six hundred and fifty-seven thousand men overseas, which is only about forty-seven percent of our total army strength. But even that is one million, five hundred and seventy-one thousand more than the entire strength of the A.E.F. in the First World War. Before long there

INVASION - 2

will be more than five million American fighting men in the theatres of war all over the world.

The manpower of the Army Air Forces now overseas is rather less than onehalf of its total strength, which is two million, three hundred and fifty-seven thousand. The Army Air Force now has seventy-five thousand planes, of which thirty-four thousand are combat ships. It is operating nine hundred and twenty-five bases abroad, of which seven hundred and fifty are airfields.

And here are some figures for the Navy. On the high seas or at foreign posts, there are some one million five hundred and sixty-six thousand men of the Navy Coast Guard, and Marine Corps. Also, there are nine hundred thousand Navy men either on their way overseas, or in training.

effective that it was unnecessary to attack again.

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The Nazis can still bring munitions and armour from Germany, it is true, but the havoc on the French railway lines is such that it is more and more difficult for them to transfer their supplies ~~xx~~ from one point to another in France. What is more, the enemy are short of rolling stock.

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~~Down south~~ ^{And,} the Fifteenth Air Force dispatched flying forts and Liberators based ~~up~~ upon airfields in Italy, to raid Rumania again, particularly the airfields at Ploesti. ^{Loosing} ~~we lost~~ fourteen heavy bombers, ^{and} destroyed ^{ing} forty-three enemy planes.

GABLE

Here is one for the film fans. The War Department published a list of temporary captains in the Army, who have been promoted to Major. In that list is the name Gable. Yes, film star Clark Gable, known to his intimates as Bill, now Major Clark Gable.

off relations with Russia. The United States will later
hostile regime, a new President in an office now, and
the first Ambassador of virtually the United States to
Bulgaria

Now Hugh, put on your
7-league boots, and let's jump
from Bulgaria to San Francisco

BULGARIA

Bulgaria has given in to the Nazis, evidently lock, stock and barrel.

An ultimatum ~~xxx~~ from Hitler was too much for them. So the Council of Regents agreed to complete their close collaboration with the Axis, also to break off relations with Russia. Thereupon Prime Minister Boshilov resigned, a new Premier is in office now, and the Nazi Ambassador ^{becomes} ~~is~~ ^a virtually ^{over the} Gauleiter ^{of the} ~~of the~~ ~~Guarda~~ Bulgars.

Now Hugh, put on your 7-league boots and let's jump from Bulgaria to San Francisco!

STRIKE

War plants around St. Louis were operating under a big handicap today. The reason, a strike of bus and streetcar operators. Some three thousand, five hundred of them refused to run the public transport vehicles, and thousands upon thousands of war workers had either to walk to their jobs or thumb a ride.

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The result was a traffic jam which required ^{many} extra

policemen ~~to handle it. Drivers of private cars used their automobiles for buses.~~



ADD STRIKE

The St. Louis police force is permitting motor car owners to use their automobiles as busses. Hundreds of people have been getting their cars out of storage and the police chief has ordered his men not to stop any man from driving without a license while the crisis lasts. The District Director of the O.P.A. has taken steps to provide motor car owners with extra ~~na~~ gasoline ration coupons. The coupons are being taken to St. Louis from Chicago and Kansas City by airplane. Taxi ~~xx~~ drivers are working around the clock and some of them have put in twenty-four hours continuous driving.

AD

Here is an interesting advertisement ~~that~~ *which*
appeared in ^a~~the~~ regimental newspaper published on the
^
island of Bougainville in the Solomons. It was inserted
by one of the officers of the regiment. It reads:

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"Wanted: Three soldiers who love the great outdoors
and nature. Pleasant work consisting of drawing lines
with colored pencils, collecting Jap souvenirs,
answering the telephone, and killing Japs. Some
patrolling, long hours, and no overtime." And it ends:
"Apply Battalion Intelligence Office."

~~And now we will listen to another kind of
intelligence officer, Hugh James:~~

POLITICS

Democratic Chairman Bob Hannegan was in Sacramento today, *around* in an optimistic mood, ^{which} is the permanent duty of every Chairman of any political party. Bob Hannagan was crowing over the vote that was given for California Senator Sheridan Downey in the recent primaries. Said Hannegan, "that is a definite endorsement of President Roosevelt and the New Deal".

FIRE

The mysterious fire which broke out in southern California last night continued to blaze today. Last night it burned down a bridge on the Santa Fe Railroad near the county line between San Diego and Orange Counties. This paralyzed ~~all~~ rail ~~road~~ travel between Los Angeles and San Diego with trains stalled on both sides of the San Mateo tressle south of San Clemente. A large force of workers has been fighting the ^{conflagration} ~~fire~~ all day including professional and volunteer firemen and also volunteers from the Marine Corps.

INVENTIONS

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There was a day when new inventions, new developments by scientists were reported entirely from the East. ~~By~~ But now, almost every month, the chemists and ~~physicists~~ physicists on the Pacific Coast are turning out something new. For instance, three chemists of the University of California have produced synthetic sugar in the laboratory at Berk^ley. The learned Doctors reported that what they produced was only a beginning, strictly ~~elementary~~ elemental, ~~not~~ no commercial application of the process is possible at this time. Still and all ^{here} ~~there~~ is a beginning.

From ~~down South~~ near Los Angeles comes news of another discovery that may mean a lot in the daily lives of every one of us, a new source for oil. It comes from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography of the southern branch of the University of California. The Professor of Marine Micro-Biology there has discovered bacteria by which we may be able to convert fish-remains into oil and which may also facilitate the location of ungerground oil pools. So much for science for one night.

RACING

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~~good~~ News for ~~the~~ racing fans on the Pacific Coast:- The horses will be running on Bing Crosby's racing track, the Del Mar, for thirty six days this summer, from July first to August Nineteenth. This seems to be a place to make a crack about Bing's horses, but I think I'll leave that to Bob Hope.

POLYGAMY

Here is the latest on the red-haired Michigan lady who married fifteen husbands. On one occasion in New York, in the course of a quarrel with one of the fifteen, she passed herself off as a daughter of the late Senator James Couzens of Michigan. Under that name she was taken to a hospital in New York City, claiming that the husband of the moment had given her a beating.

The lady said there was no evil intent in her polygamous pastimes. She just wanted a change and didn't go to the trouble of obtaining divorces. But what makes the law so much in earnest about it is the charge that she has been receiving a war wife's benefits from no fewer than three soldiers and a marine.

married to fifteen husbands!

HORSE

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Here is a little story from England illustrating what radio can do. An officer in a police car was riding down a road in Lincolnshire. Evidently *the car* frightened a horse in a field nearby, for the animal bolted and galloped down the road. The copper, instead of chasing after the horse, just switched on the microphone of the public address system in his car, and shouted WHOA!

And would you believe it,
~~You may believe it or not, but~~ the horse stopped

immediately, and stood nervous and still quivering.

2 1/2
The copper continued to call soothing words to the animal until some farm hands came on the scene and led him away.

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And now Hugh, I'm not going to say whoa to you. I'm going to say giddap!