BURMA P.M. - Standard. Wed., April 12, 1944
Sunset.

The latest from the India-Burma sector tells of a Chinese offensive launched from China. For some time now, Chinese troops, based on India, have been thrusting forward against the Japs in northern Burma, and the plan has been for ~~them~~ this drive to be coordinated with an offensive by the Chinese from the other side - an attack launched from China. ~~This would catch the Japs in northern Burma between two thrusts, the nutcracker effect, and the eventual objective would be a junction of the two Chinese forces.~~

~~However, the offensive from China has been delayed, though expected day by day.~~ Now, it has begun, with ~~the~~ a Chinese column pushing from positions ~~they have been holding~~ along the Salween River. They are aiming at the key Burma air base at Myitkyina, and their slogan is, "We will get to Myitkyina by May." The Japs are putting up a stubborn delaying action, hoping for the

monsoon, banking on the deluge of the equatorial rain to stop the drive from China.

And, of course the monsoon figures in the calculations concerning the Jap invasion of India, ~~and~~ concerning which there is not much new tonight. At both Imphal and Kohima, the British Imperial forces seem to have the enemy in check. In one place a British hill position was captured by the enemy but that was off-set by the wiping out of a strong Jap ~~enemy~~ road block southeast of Imphal.

British estimates are that Tokyo has sent three whole divisions into India, between thirty and thirty-five thousand men, and these may well find themselves in a precarious condition because of the monsoon. ~~The great rains are due next month, and the torrential downpour will stop all military operations. If the Japs can hold their positions in India until the monsoon, they are not~~

~~likely to be subject to much attack during the rains,~~

~~It's a question of communications.~~ The enemy forces depend upon ~~thexxxxxxxxxxx~~ a vastly extended line along rivers and through jungle mountains, which ~~and~~ the British believe, ~~that they will~~ the Japs will be unable to ~~xxxxxx~~ keep ~~communications~~ open when the monsoon turns the whole wild sector into a deluge.

SUBSTITUTE PACIFIC

The late news from the Pacific tonight, virtually repeats the earlier news. That is -- the same sort of thing has happened all over again. Earlier in the day, we had word of long range bombing attacks against enemy bases in the Kuriles, the string of islands reaching down towards Japan from the north. And tonight news of another series of bombings against the Kuriles; our big planes swinging down to within a thousand miles of Tokyo.

Also the same thing in the case of Truk -- early word telling of another air assualt against that enemy base, and the later news informing us of still one more blow against islands of the Truk Atoll -- not to mention a whole string of Japanese bases in the Marshalls and Caroline s.

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The general impression that we have had for days is simply reinforced -- an impression of constantly repeated air blows battering the Jsps all along the immense battle line of the Pacific. From the Southwestern sector of that vast ocean we hear of another heavy bombing attack against the Japs at Hansa Bay.

On Monday, enemy positions in that area were blasted by a combined naval and air blow. And now General McArthur's bombers ~~have~~ returned to the assuait, ~~hitting the Japs at Hansa Bay with a new rain of high explosive~~

On the ground in New Guinea, tonight's late ~~xxxxx~~ bulletins from Allied Headquarters told of a bit of high adventure, as Australian jungle patrols have effected a union with American troops twelve miles east of the Jap stronghold of Bōgadjim. The Americans worked their way up the swampy coast, while the Australians cut around through the jungles of the interior -- through Mintjim Valley.

HERO - #

~~And another~~ Congressional Medal also was awarded today - to Major Gregory Boyington of Okanogan, Washington - "Pappy" Boyington who, in the Pacific tied the Eddie Rickenbacker-Joe Foss record by shooting down twenty-six Japanese planes. He is now listed as missing in action, and the Congressional Medal was today bestowed in his absence.

Today in Naples there was a puzzled Indian. At least, he is three-quarters Indian, one-quarter Irish. Both good fighting races.

Having performed an astounding exploit of battle, he expected to be decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross. But what happened?

Lieutenant Ernest Childers hails from a place with a fine redskin name, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma,

And here's what he did to deserve a decoration -- though his foot was broken, he threw rocks at the enemy. Last fall, he was leading his platoon in the darkness before dawn, when he stepped into a hole, and Ouch! His foot seemed to cave in. So he hobbled back to a First Aid post, where the doctors told him he had a fractured instep. He was still being examined, when word came that his platoon was in trouble, and mighty bad trouble - pinned down in a wheat field by heavy machine gun and mortar fire.

"Let me go," exclaimed the warrior from Broken Arrow,

Oklahoma.

The doctors told him he couldn't, not with a fractured instep, but out he limped, and then crept his way to his platoon. Machine gun bullets and mortar shells were smashing all around, and it looked as if his men would be wiped out. ~~Childers rounded up eight of his men and led them forward, crawling toward a German machine gun nest up a hill. Then he told his men to stop, cover him with rifle fire, whereupon~~ The Irish-Indian with the busted foot ~~broken instep~~ advanced alone. Two German riflemen started shooting at him - he returned the fire, killing them both. By now he was approaching the machine gun nest, and with his rifle shot 2 more — the two gunners.

There was still another machine gun position, this one so situated that he couldn't work his way around for a shot at the gunners there. So what did he do? He threw rocks, looping hunks of stone over into the machine-gun position. That doesn't sound very deadly,

but the point was - that Childers threw the rocks in such fashion that they appeared to be hand-grenades. That made the Germans jump to their feet and expose themselves, and he picked them off - another two machine gunners. Later, continuing his advance up the hill, he came to a house where single-handed, and with a fractured foot, he captured a German mortar observer.

All of which was quite an exploit by the Indian-brave -Irish-battler from Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and they told him he would be decorated for it. He fondly believed that the medal would be the Distinguished Service Cross - he felt that he deserved it.

Today the decoration took place, and Childers was puzzled. He knew what the Distinguished Service Cross looked like - and this wasn't it. It was something else. So he turned to one of the newspapermen and asked - "What was this medal with a blue neckband?" And they told him: -It was the Congressional Medal of Honor -- the nation's highest.

AIR WAR

In the war of the air, the spotlight was held today by the American sky fleet based on Italy. With ~~Last night the British R.A.F. delivered a pulverizing assault against the great German railroad center of Aachen Aix la Chappelle. And this was followed by heavy bomber action against Nazi war plants today -- with~~ fleets of planes flying from Italy across the Alps and smashing two great ~~German~~ aircraft factories ~~plants~~ in Austria, ~~still hammering away at Nazi fighter production.~~

It had been planned that the blow from the south should be coordinated with one from the north, another attack by the heavy bombing fleet based on Britain, another one of those one-two punches. The ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ Britain-based bombers started out ~~xx~~ but had to turn back - the ~~xx~~ weather was that atrocious in the northern area. So instead of a one-two, it was a one-punch -- for the heavy bombers. But it did huge damage to the

FOLLOW VICTOR EMANUEL

Of the Left Wing Italian Fascists, the ones most willing to enter the Bagdolio government, is the Communist Party. They used to be bitterly against Victor Emanuel and Bagdolio, but all that changed when Soviet Russia accorded recognition to the government of the King and the Marshall.

And tonight, we hear of an arrangement between Bagdolio and the Pro-Communist group in Yugoslavia -- the partisans headed by Marshall Tito. Bagdolio and Tito's partisans have agreed to exchange representatives and to co-operate in both a military and political way.

According to the British Army Newspaper, Union Jack, Bagdolio is ready to turn over to the Yugoslavs the port of Fiume which the Italians acquired as a result of that theatrical adventure staged by D'Annunzio shortly after the previous World War.

RUSSIA

The Russian advances in the Crimea are things of dazzling speed. In the north, by a drive through the Perekop Peninsula, the Red forces are now forty miles down into the center of the Crimea. And at the eastern end, where the Russians crossed the Straits of Kerch ~~to invade the Crimea,~~ they have now cleared the entire Kerch Peninsula - after a thirty-seven mile advance. Tonight's late dispatch from Moscow states that today in the Crimea the Red Army made its most spectacular gains for one day in the entire war.

It is apparent that the shattered German forces are putting up little resistance - this, in spite of an order by Hitler to hold the Crimea at all costs. Adolf has a way of ordering his boys to hold at all costs, but the only result has been that the costs have been plenty, and the holding - not so good. The Germans are pulling back to the southern end of the Crimea.

NAVY BILL

More than thirty-two and a half billions of dollars for the Navy - such was the bill okayed by the Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives today. The ~~Fleet~~ is to have twenty-five hundred new vessels.- And that, by June of Nineteen Forty-five, will give the Navy a total of ten thousand, two hundred and forty-four, aggregating ten million tons. The twenty-five hundred new ships referred to do not include twenty-one thousand smaller craft.

And as for planes, twenty-four thousand, two hundred and thirty new ones, nearly all combat aircraft. This will bring the total naval air strength up to nearly thirty-eight thousand fighting planes.

Consideration of the huge bill was accompanied by testimony from naval chiefs, with Fleet Commander Admiral King saying: "We know the Japanese xxxxxxxx well enough to realize that we cannot regard victory in

the Pacific as anything short of the destruction of the Japanese Empire."

And there are odd bits of interesting testimony - like the revelation that Major General Gross, Chief of Army Transportation, has forbidden the use of Liberty ships as troop transports - unless the vessels are especially strengthened. Coast Guard Admiral Wesche declared that measures had been taken to eliminate the defects which caused the hulls of some Liberty ships to crack.

Then an item of expanse - how much it costs every time a battleship fires a broadside with its nine 16-inch guns. The shells alone cost eleven thousand, two hundred and sixty-eight dollars, for one broadside.

After that, a mere suit of clothes may seem picayune, but it is interesting to note that a marine under combat conditions in the southwest Pacific, uses up a suit of clothes in five days. That's how long a leatherneck battle-dress lasts, when he is using it in fighting the Japs.

JAPANESE PROPERTY

In Los Angeles, the first of several legal actions has been filed in efforts to regain possession of land from alien Japanese. Today District Attorney Fred Howser filed a suit under the Alien Land Law against a number of persons including two Japs, the purpose, to return to the State a truck garden worth $40,000. The claim is that possession was acquired illegally by Japanese aliens who held the land in the name of dummies.

MEXICO

Here's a late head line from Mexico City: -- news of another attempt to assasinate President Avila Comacho. The Chief of Police of the Mexican capital announces the arrest of fourteen persons, one described as a "serbian bomb maker". The plotters aimed to kill not only Avila Comacho but two members of his cabinet and Ex-President Calles, so we are told.

Apparently this conspiracy of political murder, was not connected with the attempt made on the life of President Avila Comacho a couple of days ago, when an Army officer tried to shoot him. However, this larger affair announced tonight was uncovered in the course of an investigation of the previous attempt.

MORMANS

The trial of the pologamists in Utah brings mentio
of an old treaty with Mexico. The advocates a plural
marriage, claiming they have a right to their beliefs
on the principle of religious liberty. They point
to the treaty of Guadeloupe-Hidalgo, concluded in
Eighteen Forty-Eight, between the United States and
Mexico -- the treaty in which much of our Western land
was acquired from Mexico -- including Utah. They argue
that under the pact of Guadeloupe-Hidalgo, the United
States agreed not to interfere with religious worship
-- and they feel that this included pologamy.

FIREBUG

At Hanford, California, the police today, arrested an arsonist who confessed to setting a whole series of fires in several California counties. He's a Mexican born in Arizona, who told the sherriff why he ~~had~~ did it. "It makes me feel good," he said. Which ~~certainly does~~ makes one shiver -- the idea of a twisted creature taking pleasure in the crime that can lead to such horror and tragedy - arson.

LEAD MRS. ROOSEVELT

In Washington Mrs. Roosevelt denies a story that has been going around since her return from visits to the soldiers in the Carribean area. The rumor is, she made a suggestion that soldiers returning home from the tropics ~~should~~ be quarantined for six months to prevent the spread of tropical diseases. Today the First Lady stated ~~She says~~, that since returning she has been asked about it twice. In fact, the story was making the rounds during the time of her previous trip to the SouthWest Pacific. Mothers of Marines wrote indignant letters to her.

The source of the rumor, she said today, was probably the Tokyo Radio. But she added that it's being spread by people, sometimes as politics and sometimes as propoganda. ~~And~~ She denies it utterly declaring she never siad any such thing.

And the First Lady turned a neat phrase today this in connection with the President's holiday in the South. As a wife, she was asked why her husband ~~xxxxx~~ insisted on over-working. To which she responded: "He has to do the essential things, and the only time he

can afford not to do some of them is when it is more essential to get a rest".

And now while I rest for a moment - here's Roger.

ELECTION

The continuing count of primary votes in both Nebraska and Illinois produced no change today. In both states, the earlier indications are sustained.

In Nebraska, the primary was won decisively by Lieutenant-Commander Stassen, who at last reports had more than twenty-eight thousand votes. Dewey - nearly twelve thousand. Willkie - a little more than four thousand. The Willkie vote can, of course, be disregarded, since the Nineteen Forty Republican nominee had declared himself out. The Dewey vote is arousing comment - since it was a write-in vote. The New York Governor, as in other cases, refused to have his name entered in the primary at all, so, people had to fill it in themselves. In Washington, the comment is that the large write-in vote for Dewey is another sign of his popularity with the voters.

~~In contrast to Nebraska, there was no write-in vote~~ In Illinois, the ballots ~~in that State~~ were all for

General Douglass MacArthur - or nearly all. He had only one competitor, ~~the~~ A former boxer, ~~quite~~ unknown politically, who campaigned with the slogan - "Go on a bender with Bender." The small number of ballots he got would indicate that the Illinois voters have no desire to go on a bender - anyway not with Bender. ~~the~~ contender.

~~On the Democratic side, it was all President Roosevelt, with Illinois Democrats hailing it as a triumph for the President. Chicago Mayor Edward J. Kelly today called the result - "an overwhelming, smashing, smuthering victory." The Republicans, on their side, point jubilantly to the fact that the vote cast in the Republican primary was larger than that in the Democratic primary. However, it is to be noted that the balloting was exceedingly light - the lightest primary vote in Illinois since Nineteen Twenty-Six. Only about one voter in three went to the polls.~~

In New York, the news tells of an election by the New York State Democratic Committee. A Chairman was chosen - Jim Farley, unanimously reelected as State Chairman. Farley is an outspoken opponent of a fourth term, and some little while ago the O'Connell ~~of the~~ Democratic organization in Albany annqunced that an attempt would be made to toss him out. Nothing of the ~~what~~ sort materialized - it was all for Farley, the fourth term opponent.

But, at the same time, the Committee adopted a resolution of enthusiastic praise for the Roosevelt Administration and the President's war leadership. The matter of a fourth term was not mentioned, but the resolution is generally interpreted as an indorsement of another reelection for the President.

PACIFIC

In the Pacific - two heavy blows struck away to the north and far to the south. In the north - American heavy bombers again hit Japanese bases in the Kuriles, that string of islands reaching right down to Japan. And in the south - Truk again. That much battered enemy base has taken a new beating - so announces Admiral Nimitz today.

although what they expect to do there is not clear - perhaps a last stand, perhaps an attempt to evacuate by sea.

And Moscow tells us that Soviet bombers have blasted the Rumanian oil port of Constanta.