

L.I. - Sinoco. Friday, April 16, 1943.

The Battle of ~~Tunisia~~ the Tunisian tip assumes more and more the character of a siege - which, indeed, it has to be. ^{The} forces of Rommel and von Arnim ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~seem to be~~ ^{completely} backed ~~together~~ into their fortified pocket, and the Allies are now pushing against the lines of the

stronghold. At the north, the British First Army won something today after losing something. It recaptured a strategic hill, which German counter-attacks had previously taken. The Nazis lashed out fiercely against that point of high ground, were beaten back once, but surged forward again and seized the hilltop, only to face a swift British recoil. And they were driven out, the British ^{today} recapturing the hill.

Elsewhere, there was little action along the line that sweeps in a sort of curve across the angle of the Tunisian tip. The British, Americans and French are finding the going hard and slow, and are

mustering their forces for a stormy^{ing} attack - ~~that~~
direct frontal assault which is necessary.

A London analysis today tells us that Rommel's
Nazi forces have defenses that are more formidable
than people realize. Military men warn that the enemy
is capable of holding out in the most dogged fashion.
The country is rugged, and is heavily fortified. The
N naval base at Bizerte is particularly formidable,
~~It is~~ guarded by hills, ~~and these are~~ honeycombed
with defenses - underground fortresses blasted out
of solid rock. The French fortified Bizerte as their
Gibraltar of North Africa.

Meanwhile, an Allied success on the sea
is announced - a battle of destroyer^S in which the
~~British~~ British sank two Italian craft of that type.

DOOLITTLE

A year ago this weekend the nation had a breathless moment, when the news flashed - Tokyo bombed! General Jimmy Doolittle had led his squadron of bombers, and smashed at the heart of Japan. This weekend, a year later, we can recall the thrill.

~~And recently, it was announced in Washington that the full story of the Doolittle raid, hitherto kept secret, would soon be released - around the day of the anniversary we might surmise. *this Sunday.*~~

Tonight, we can take a look into the far distance and get a glimpse of the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ bomber of Tokyo, as he's in action right now - in North Africa. There he is doing an even bigger job than *air-raiding Japan* - ~~the bombing of Tokyo~~ - he's in command of the Allied strategic air force of northwest Africa - a striking air force, the battering ram of bombers and of fighters that smashes daily at the Axis enemy.

A dispatch from North Africa today gives us

a picture of

^ Jimmy Doolittle at the controls. A few years ago he

was the greatest of stunt flyers, and now as a

Major -
~~Brigadier~~

General he has forgotten nothing of his

uncanny skill in piloting a plane. Today's dispatch

states: "He handles any and all types of planes with

equal facility." So there is Jimmy Doolittle, the

old-time wizard ~~of the most difficult~~ flying.

General Doolittle goes constantly on bombing raids and battle flights. The dispatch reverts back to the time when he went along in a flying fortress. He was attacked by German fighter planes, and

considerably shot up. One of the pilots was wounded,

whereupon General Doolittle became ^{the} Jimmy ~~Doolittle~~

of old, and took ^{the pilot's} ~~his~~ place - helping to fly the

fortress back to its base. Yes, "he can handle any

and all types with equal facility" - including flying fortresses.

Today's story from North Africa tells of a tragedy that has befallen our strategic air force commander over there. ~~He~~ had serving in his own plane in ~~Africa~~ ^{Tunisia} one of the crew that was in his bomber when they raided Tokyo - a mechanic. Jimmy and the mechanic ~~g~~ kept together - Tokyo, North Africa. The sad day for Jimmy came when Nazi bombers attacked the flying field where they were. The mechanic, with others, took refuge in a foxhole - as the bombs burst on the field. One German bomb made a lucky hit, and killed the mechanic who had flown with Doolittle to Tokyo.

Another bomber of Japan who served in North Africa was Captain Richard E. Miller. He was a bombardier over Tokyo, ~~and~~ ^{and} in North Africa, still serving with Doolittle, he was killed in action over the M editerranean. His honors go to his parents,

Mr. and Mrs. D.H. Miller of Fort Wayne, Indiana, *who*
have just
~~they~~ received the posthumous decoration, the Silver
Star, awarded to their son.

This weekend we'll be thinking of that
bombing of Japan a year ago; and, over in North Africa
General James H. Doolittle will have his memories, *along*
with the other 7 Tokyo fliers wherever they
Maybe they'll give ~~some~~ *well* celebration, and if they do
somebody might get out a pair of boxing gloves.

Today's dispatch says the General ~~doesn't~~ *enjoy* doesn't get
much exercise these days - he is too busy. He says
the kind he'd prefer would be a set-to with the
gloves. Jimmy in his boyhood was a boxer - and a
champion; ~~was~~ *Quateur* bantamweight champion
of the Pacific coast. Today he still ~~enjoys~~ *enjoys* the
lively bout - a good scrap. To which one might inquire
mildly, "What's the matter, General, time was when you
used to have no difficulty whatever in finding this
kind of fun."

PACIFIC

In the United States Senate today, the demand was made that air fighting equipment be sent to General MacArthur in Australia. Senator Chandler of Kentucky called upon the government to realize what he called, "the ^R~~th~~ deadly seriousness of the Japanese menace to the United States." He decried the theory of beating Hitler first and ~~xxx~~ letting our Far Eastern enemy wait. "The war against Japan is no second class war," ^{said he,} ~~he declared.~~ "It is the toughest struggle that has ever faced the people of the United States." And he added that war against Japan cannot wait until Germany and Italy can be beaten.

~~Senator Chandler pointed to a speech by British ~~xxxx~~ Prime Minister Winston Churchill a couple of weeks ago. "He promised his own people," said the Senator, "that when the European war was over, their boys would return home." And Chandler added:~~

reinforcements will be in accordance with the plans made at the Casablanca conference between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Which, of course, raises a question - how much air power did the Casablanca conference allocate for use against the Japs?

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American air power in the Aleutians is keeping up the good work against ~~the Japs~~ at Kiska. Today's Navy Communique tells of still further air blows against that northern island, where the enemy is making large efforts to construct a powerful air base. Our bombers have been concentrating on the runways the Japs had blasted out of the Aleutian rock, and today's account announces eight more assaults against Kiska - eight more air raids. The island and its flying field have been bombed twenty-three times in four days.

POLES

In London today, the exiled Polish government announced that it was asking the Red Cross to investigate statements that the Russians killed ten thousand Polish officer prisoners. ^{The} Statements to that effect are being made by Nazi propaganda.

All this harks back to the Hitler-Stalin pact, the German conquest of Poland, and the division of that country between the Nazis and the Soviets. When the Russians took the part of Poland assigned to them, they captured many thousands of Polish soldiers. And the Nazi claim is that the Soviets killed great numbers of Polish officers, ten thousand.

Today, a statement by the exiled Polish ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ government refers to what it calls - "detailed information by the Germans concerning the finding of bodies of many thousands of Polish officers near Smolensk and the categorical declaration

that they were murdered by the Soviets in Nineteen Forty."

The Poles want all this to be investigated, and have asked the Red Cross to do it. ^{TR} The Polish statement goes on to declare that when Polish Premier Sikorsky conferred with Stalin, in Nineteen Forty-One, Stalin assured him that all the Polish officers had been released. Sikorsky thereupon handed Stalin a list of the names of officers. "But," says the Polish declaration today, "not one of the officers mentioned had been sent back to the Polish army."

Furthermore, the Poles asked Moscow for information about officers who had been kept in three Soviet concentration camps, but the Soviet government has never given an answer to the inquiries. So we are told in the story from London today.

TROTSKY

The ~~now~~ ^{now} half-remembered case of Leon Trotsky is in the news today. From Mexico City we have the announcement that the man who killed Trotsky has been sentenced. It was a weird headline three years ago - the assassination of the famous Bolshevik who had been a companion of Lenin in the Soviet Revolution, *who stood for world revolution,* who had founded the Red Army, and who later ~~had~~ become Stalin's bitter enemy - exiled by Stalin. He lived secluded in Mexico attended by disciples of his brand of Communism. And one of them killed him with an axe - Jacque Monard, an international sort of character, ~~he was~~ the son of a Belgian diplomat, *he was* ~~but was~~ born in Persia, ⁱⁿ Terheran.

Trotsky died saying that the attack on him was the result of a plot and his wife charged that [↑] Monard, the killer, was an agent of the Soviet secret police. (At his trial in Mexico, the assassin

denied that the Stalin people had anything to do with
it. He stated that he had killed Trotsky with an
Alpine axe ~~HEHEHEHE~~, in self-defense - during a
violent quarrel over political matters. ^{TP} He was
sentenced today to twenty years in prison - Mexico
having no death penalty for murder, ~~only for political~~
~~things.~~

PEACE

A rather improbable word was spoken in Spain today, the word - "peace", ~~which hardly seems a plausible thought at this time.~~ The Spanish Foreign Minister, General Count Francisco Jordana, announced that Spain was ready to aid in a move to end the war. ~~The Spanish Foreign Minister~~ ^{He} made the statement in an address ~~in~~ commemorating the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the return of Columbus to Spain. ~~He said his~~ ^{that his} ~~country would like to help in restoring peace, immediately, and to collaborate in the negotiation of just and proper treaties.~~ (He declared further that the neutral nations that are left and the Pope at Rome should offer their help in bringing the war to a termination. The Foreign Minister's harangue included the usual Spanish denunciation of Communism, but the headline point was - peace.)

There have been plenty of rumors that the

Nazis would try some kind of peace move, and make a bid for a negotiated settlement. And it is easy to ~~xx~~ surmise that the Spanish Foreign Minister's declaration may have a Nazi angle. London, however, gives us the possible surmise that his peace talk might be no more than an expression of Spanish neutrality, and of Spain's desire for the war to end.

In Washington, a prompt query was made of Secretary Hull: "What about the peace suggestion?" The Secretary replied by referring to the Roosevelt-Churchill declaration at Casablanca, and pointed out that our policy is - unconditional surrender.

CRIME

Going through the news dispatches today gave one a nostalgic feeling -- a reminiscence of the old days of peace time, that tranquil, happy, quiet time. Those were the days when the news, instead of being full of the violence of war and battle, was crammed with gangsters, gun fights, man hunts, jail breaks and public enemy number one. Today, as the war bulletins flashed along on the wire, what should turn up but a string of old time cop and robber stories, man hunts, arrests, and jail breaks.

One flashes from Reidsville, Georgia, where they have a prison so escape-proof that they call it -- "Little Alcatraz". Well, today twenty-four convicts escaped from "Little Alcatraz." The most notorious of them was Leland Harvey who has a record of having ~~escaped~~ from Georgia prisons and chain gangs more than a dozen times. Ten years ago he sawed his way out of a death cell. ^R Another was Forrest Turner. His escape today was only his eleventh.

These two veteran jail-breakers led the gang of twenty-four in some clever strategy of escape. In the dark hours of the early morning, they overpowered three guards. Then, instead of trying to get right out, they made a dash for the prison power house. This they smashed up and put out of commission -- throwing the whole place into darkness. Whereupon, in the pitch black of the night, they got out and into the open -- speeding away in a truck and a passenger automobile. ~~that belonged to the prison~~

The latest is that one was captured in the manhunt, that is still scouring the Georgia country side, seeking the others of the twenty-four escapers from escape-proof Little Alcatraz.

Big Alcatraz today maintained its reputation for being escape-proof. At the Rock in San Francisco Bay they recaptured the last of four prisoners who several days ago got out and tried to swim to the mainland. One was shot in the water, and

sank. Another was recaptured by a prison launch. A third was ~~found~~ ^{picked up} later on the shore of Alcatraz -- after he found he could not swim through the swift currents.

Only one escaper remained unaccounted for, and he was the most formidable -- Floyd Hamilton, the Texas desperado, once a member of the notorious Bonny Parker Gang. The prison authorities thought he had drowned, but today they found him. He was hiding in a cave among the rocks of Alcatraz. He too had been unable to overcome the treacherous currents, and had swam back. When recaptured he was, in the words of the prison warden -- "sick, sore, wet and hungry."

Our other cop and robber story for tonight is one to suggest the question -- wouldn't it be the limit if a professional sharpshooter in a circus were to turn into a gangster gunman? That happened to Kinney Wagner, whom J. Edgar Hoover's F.B.I. describes as one of the most dangerous criminals of recent years. He was arrested today in an automobile near Gate City,

Virginia. On his person he had two .38 calibre revolvers and a belt of ammunition. In his car were another .38, an automatic shotgun, a .22 rifle and bushels of ~~ammunition~~ ^{shells.}

This human arsenal began his public career with a circus. He was a "trick shot" artist appearing in a sharpshooter pistol act. His professional stunt was to shoot walnuts out of the air with a pistol. And then this ~~sharpshooting~~ ^{marksman} wizzard took to a life of crime. The F.B.I. believes that he killed at least six men, including four police officers.

He was convicted of murdering a deputy sheriff in Mississippi and ~~was~~ sentenced to prison for life. While in jail he made a reputation as a trainer ^{1/2} of blood hounds. He taught man-hunting tricks to those baying hounds that follow the trail of escape^{ing} prisoners. Then he ^{himself} escaped, and I suppose there was no use of putting the prison blood hounds on the trail of the maestro who had trained them.

And that ends our time out from ~~the~~ news of the war, our flash back to those quiet and placid days of peace.

And now let's flash back to Hugh.