

INVASION

N. Y. Standard, April 21, 1944
Sunoco. Friday.

From the enemy ~~side~~ we have the statement that on the British ~~side~~ ^{side} of the English Channel a tremendous invasion fleet is assembling. The German radio describes it as the greatest concentration of shipping since Dunkirk -- the time when the British assembled every kind of ship or boat they could lay their hands on to get their army off the Dunkirk beaches.

The Berlin radio adds that the royal navy is being ~~concentrated~~ ^{concentrated} in home waters and is being joined by units of the American, French and Italian navies.

"Troops are leaving London," says the German report. Every day now," it adds, "troop trains are pulling out from London railroad stations, taking men to ports along the channel."

In this way the enemy heralds the imminence of the Second Front invasion. And if the German reports be true, immense forces ~~for~~ ^{for} the great blow are now being concentrated at the points for jumping off.

Another significant item -- from London. General Patton is in the British capital. That ~~make~~ much

talked of General who got into a ticklish scrape in Sicily, and who is recognized as one of the ablest of all hard-boiled invasion leaders. We are ^{not} told when General Patton arrived in Britain, or why -- or what his duties will be; but the announcement of his presence with our forces ~~and~~ there coincides with all the vivid signs of the nearness of the zero hour for the great push. And one ^{would have} ~~will have~~ to be an inveterate enemy of guessing not to guess that Patton in London means that Patton will play a part in the invasion.

And on this side of the water, striking right into our own domestic concerns -- we are warned that the Second Front will require quantities of gasoline that are described as ^{unbelievably} ~~unbearably~~ large." This reminder was given out in Washington today to make the point that we civilians must cut our gasoline consumption to a minimum during the summer. For the invasion is going to devour gasoline insatiably, in ^{those} quantities "unbelievably large."

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2
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^{Council}
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officials of the German armed forces were deputed to

act as what was called "Interpreters of Hitler's orders." In other words, the inspired military commanders of the Fuehrer will be interpreted, transformed, transmogrified, altered and changed around -- before they ^{get} anywhere near the German soldiers resisting the invasion. ~~By this we suppose that~~ ~~Der Fuehrer's intentions~~ ^{are out,} ~~all as a result of~~ ~~the pre-invasion meeting, which has been held in~~ ~~advance of the invasion meeting of the Allies and the~~ ~~Nazis -- without the pre-~~

London announces the greatest air assault ~~yet~~ thus far, with the pre-invasion sky offensive coming to an all-time peak. It happened last night when the R.A.F. sent out the greatest number of bombers ever dispatched on one raid - eleven hundred sky giants hurling high explosive. And the tonnage of bombs was a record - five thousand and forty tons. The stupendous night attack fanned out and hit a series of important railroad centers - from Paris to Cologne, with the great railroad city on the Rhine taking a frightful beating.

R.A.F. airmen say that the fires set in Cologne were visible for two hundred miles - in spite of the weather. It was a night of dense clouds, with unbroken banks of mist all the way up to fifteen thousand feet. Yet the glare of fires in Cologne penetrated the clouds in such fashion that crews of British bombers said that, ~~in~~ looking back on their return home, they could still

INSERT AIR WAR

Rumanian sources indicate that Allied bombers ^{from hit} ~~hit not only~~ Bucharest, ~~and~~ also what the

Rumanian dispatch calls the "oil region." ~~That is,~~

the ~~Rumanian~~ oil fields from which Hitler gets a large proportion of his petroleum.

Of the ten men aboard, nine were from different countries - a German, a Swede, a Norwegian, ^{2 Canadian,} an Irishman, a Mexican, a Venezuelan, a Chinese, ~~and~~ and - one lone native born American. With all their international variety, they are American citizens - except for one Canadian and the Venezuelan.

The German is the pilot - Lieutenant Colonel Karl Barthelme, whose home town was that Number One center of German armament industry, Essen, where the Krupp cannon factories are. In the last World War, Colonel Barthelme was a boy at Essen, and knew what it was to be under Allied bombs. Now, he is a United

FORTRESS

Over in Italy, there's a brand new Flying Fortress which certainly is an embodiment of that historic idea - the melting pot. The Fortress today flew on its first mission, -and was manned by what they call - the International Crew. Of the ten men aboard, nine were from different countries - a German, a Swede, a Norwegian, an Irishman, ^{2 Canadians,} a Mexican, a Venezuelan, a Chinaman, ~~two Canadians~~ And - one lone native born American. With all their international variety, they are American citizens - except for one Canadian and the Venezuelan.

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States Army veteran of a hundred missions. His war career began at the very beginning - at Pearl Harbor. He was a pilot of one of the Fortresses that arrived from the United States on the day of the sneak punch.

The Irishman, Sergeant Sweeney of New York, is the radio gunner. The Venezuelan, Lieutenant Sayago of Brooklyn, is the bombardier; the Chinaman, Sergeant Henry Chin of San Francisco, is the aerial photographer.

And he knows plenty of Chinese ^{too} having a fluent knowledge of seven Chinese dialects. That, he says, is probably why the Army sent him to Italy.

The one lone and solitary native born American in the International Crew is Lieutenant Horace Evans of San Pedro, California; ~~He's~~ ^{Maxie} the navigator.

And he remarks: "I figure that I have enough globe trotters in the ship with me, so that I can't get lost."

Yes, it certainly is the melting pot -

especially when the Norwegian waist gunner makes a report to the Canadian co-pilot, who gives an order to the Mexican tail gunner, who passes it along to the Swedish engineer.

And the Chinese aerial
~~Melting pot, United Nations~~

~~or what have you.~~ *came a man speaks up*
in one of his 7 Chinese dialects.

There is no new word from the Crimea, where the Russian siege of Sevastopol is in its fourth day.

RUSSIA

Moscow tonight tells of a repulse of heavy German counter-attacks in southeastern Poland. We haven't heard much about operations in this area, ^{lately,} but apparently a huge battle has been going on day after day. Moscow speaks of German counter-assaults thrown back for the fourth successive day -- obviously a major German effort in southeastern Poland.

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INDIA

British successes against the Jap invasion of India continue. At Imphal, the Imperial forces drove forward today in fierce attacks, and have hurled ^a~~the~~ Jap invasion column back into the hills ³⁰~~twenty~~ miles from the city. This, after the Japs had got to within ten miles of Imphal. Tonight's Mountbatten report tells of a series of enemy strongpoint^s captured, and says, "our advance continues."

The same sort of news comes from that other key city - Kohima. The Jap siege of that place having been broken, the British-Indian forces today pushed the enemy back some more; ~~The British advances were scored at various places~~ in spite of the arrival of enemy reinforcements.

SOUTHWESTERN PACIFIC

In the Pacific, Satawan has been hit again, with long-range Liberator bombers smashing that Japanese base in the Carolines. For the fourth consecutive day Satawan was blasted, with an additional forty-five tons of bombs raining down on the big airfield there. Or, in the words of a Broadway gag man - Satawan has been sat-upon, once again.

JAPANESE FLEET

The opinion was expressed today that the Japs may eventually scuttle their fleet. This is not probable, but it might fit in with Jap mentality.

The statement was made at San Francisco by Vice-Admiral David Bagley. He said: "A showdown in the Pacific is now in the offing." The time is approaching when the Japanese fleet must do or die. With United States naval and air forces closing in on the enemy empire, the Mikado's fleet must soon do something - if it is going to do anything at all. "It is even possible, if improbable," said Admiral Bagley, "that the Imperial Japanese fleet may eventually be scuttled."

Why?

"To preserve the quaint myth of its invincibility," answers the Admiral.

I suppose not to be defeated in battle may save face. But what kind of invincibility is scuttling?

We can think of a Jap saying, "No, you can't sink me, I'll sink myself."

And Admiral Bagley went on to tell of a new technique of war that is being employed in these astonishing American advances that are thrusting so far into the wide oceanic empire of Japan. It isn't only a case of task forces and the pushing forward of land bases on captured islands, but also using - floating bases. These are composed of traveling drydocks with seaplane, submarine and destroyer tenders - not to mention some of the other adjuncts, ~~that make up the complicated thing.~~ Admiral Bagley stated that these new floating bases made it possible for us to strike the devastating blow at a point so deep within the Jap island empire - Palau.

And he gave the following broad picture of how the strategy works: "We have perfected a floating base,"

NEUTRALS

Increasing diplomatic pressure is being brought upon those neutrals that continue trade relations with the Axis enemy -- Spain and Sweden in particular.

Spain has been ^a prominent cause of complaint because of Spanish sales to Nazi Germany, of -- chrome, one of the most important of those rare ~~nt~~ metals that are used in the manufacture of high-grade steel.

In the case of Sweden it ^{is} not only a case of the sale of Swedish raw materials to Germany, but also of the Nazi use of Swedish railroads for the transportation of troops, ~~all of which is emphasized by a bitter protest printed in Soviet Russia.~~ The Moscow publication called "War and the Working Class" speaks of what it calls -- "Swedish transit of German troops to Finland." And in speaking of the nations that deal with both sides it says -- "Neutral accomplices of Hitler." Turkey too is included, altho

the ~~its~~ ^{now} word is that the Turks have banned shipment to Germany of that rare metal, chrome.

In addition to all of this, "War and the Working Class" goes on with an attack on a couple of American newspapers. Two are singled out -- the Chicago Tribune and its publisher, Colonel Robert McCormick,

And -- the New York Daily News, ^{and} its publisher, Captain Joseph Medill Patterson. "War and the Working

Class" calls Colonel ^{McCormick} ~~Patterson~~ "the Duke of Chicago."

Well, Chicago's had a lot of variegated functionaries, including Big Bill Thompson, and Al Capone, and now, a Duke -- something new. The publishers of

both papers are styled by "War and the Working Class"

~~as is what the Moscow dispatch calls~~ ^{as} "Literary Gangsters!"

And their newspapers are now on what "War and the Working Class" calls -- a pro-Fascist defeatist campaign!

To which the old-fashioned American echo might respond -- And name-calling in Moscow is as

There is to be a big boost for international
lively as the art of epithet ^{is and always has} ~~used to be in Tennessee~~
^{in Chicago,} ~~in~~
~~or Missouri~~ ^{the Mark Twain tradition.}

fund, according to plans agreed upon by United Nations
fiscal experts in Washington. Eight billion dollars to
be dedicated to the furtherance of international trade
after the war. The principal idea would be monetary
stabilization -- the assistance of the many national
currencies at a reasonable level. That is -- use the

fund to keep the dollar, the pound, the franc, ^{the lira}
^{the peso,} ^{the piastre,} ^{the dinar,} ^{the rupee,} ^{and so on,}
^{the peseta,} ^{the peso,} ^{the unit,} ^{and the}

with things from rising or sinking in such fashion as to
disemboluate the whole relation between the kind of
money I have and the kind you have, and the kind the
next fellow has. It's all most complicated -- but eight
billion bucks should be able to straighten out the
most intricate perplexity, at least -- so they hope.

In any case, each of the United Nations will put

SUBSTITUE FUND

There is to be a big boost for international trade in the postwar period. A boost of eight billion dollars. That amount of money is to be put into a fund, according to plans agreed upon by United Nations fiscal experts in Washington. Eight billion ~~dollars~~ to be dedicated to the furtherance of international trade after the war. ^R The principal idea would be monetary stabilization -- the maintenance of the many national currencies at a reasonable level. That is -- use the fund to keep the dollar, the pound, the franc, the *lira*, *the peso*, *the piastre*, *the dinar*, *the rupee*, and so on, ~~the~~ the peseta, ~~the peso~~, ~~the~~ ~~this~~, ~~the~~, and the ~~next thing~~ from rising or sinking in such fashion as to discombobulate the whole relation between the kind of money I have and the kind you have, and the kind the next fellow has. ^R It's all most complicated -- but eight billion bucks should be able to straighten out the most intricate perplexity, at least-- so they hope.

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up certain amounts. We are in the lead. The United States to kick in with from two-and-a-half billions to two-and-three-quarters billions of dollars. Britain about a billion-and-a-quarter, the Soviets about a billion, China somewhere in the neighborhood of six hundred millions. France -- no figures available. And the others of the United Nations, sundry sums, the figures not available now, or maybe tomorrow, and never mind the next day.

This postwar agreement for monetary stabilization was made possible today because of the last-minute adherence of Soviet Russia. Moscow had held out for some while -- but now has said okay. Which makes it virtually unanimous, altho some of the smaller nations are still to be heard from -- ~~and~~ ^{their} answers to be expected later, and their payments to be expected still later.

PORTUGAL

We are now to have an Ambassador at Lisbon.

Hitherto we have had only a Minister, but today the United States and Portugal agreed to raise their

diplomatic representatives to the rank of Ambassadors.

— except that it's the
I don't quite know why, ~~but the new move gives Portugal~~
most important post — listening
~~the same status, vis-à-vis the United States that~~
post in Europe.

~~Spain now enjoys. It is an old Spanish custom, and~~
~~ought to be an old Portuguese custom — I suppose that's~~
~~the answer.~~

DEMOCRATS

At Los Angeles today there was an appeal for -- "enlightened Democrats." This emanates from Congressman Tom Ford of California, who said that the safety of the country in the postwar period is threatened by what he calls -- "a lot of dumbbells who can't see the end of their noses." And these dumbbells, according to the Democratic Congressman, include at least some Democrats, ^{because ~~as~~} he said: "Sure, We've got a Democratic majority in Congress now, but the Republicans run the House." ^{TR} The Congressman, as proof of this, cited the fact that on every vital issue from twenty to forty Democrats go over to the Republican side. This led to the following judgment, which is rather a startling thing for a Democrat to say about his fellow Democrats: "As a group they are probably the least enlightened ^{and} ~~the~~ just the dumbest group ever." ^{Democratic} And thereupon [^] Congressman Ford added plaintively, "I voted for Roosevelt on every major

3

issue in Congress, and for that I've been called a rubber stamp. But," he cried, "Have you ever heard of the concrete block in Congress?"

Well, it's quite a choice to make -- between the rubber stamp and the concrete block. There is, as we know, a shortage of rubber. But is there any shortage of concrete? I'm afraid ~~that~~ Aristotle himself might have difficulty in fathoming the innards of so profound a question. ~~the Congressional difference between rubber and concrete.~~

And now Roger what problems have you to present to us?