

L. J. - Standard, Monday, Oct. 16, 1944.
Manoco.

There seems to be a good deal of confusion in the news from the war in the Pacific. Radio Tokio is filling the air-waves with a picture of the Japanese Grand Fleet at last come out of its hiding place and attacking Uncle Sam's navy. About this our own Admirals so far have nothing to say.

What we do know to be authentic is that the big superforts -- the B-29s -- made another attack on the Mikado's bases in Formosa. And in so doing they were supporting the Third Battle Fleet under Admiral Halsey. Their second attack in forty-eight hours. The B-29s went where they did before, dropped their bombs on the big enemy naval base at Okayama, a center of supplies and aircraft repair. They also struck at an airdrome and another supply depot.

This attack by the B-29s ~~xxx~~ means the whole thing was in the nature of a combined operation, since the super-fortresses are part of the 20th Air Force. Hence the news about

TP

~~The news therefore~~ comes from General Arnold. ~~it's~~ There's

them

so far concerning

a blackout ~~on~~ news from Halsey and his big task force,

obvious

a blackout for military reasons. But a correspondent

at Pearl Harbor points out that even if the Japanese

sent out only their airplanes against the task force, it

would mean that it is - or was -

an important engagement. TP For some time the Pacific

Admirals, especially Halsey, have been challenging

the Japanese Imperial fleet to come out and fight.

TP

Admiral Nimitz yesterday announced that in the attacks

on Formosa the Americans have destroyed two hundred

and twenty-seven Japanese ships, including small

Also they have

craft sunk or damaged, ~~and~~ shot down six hundred and

twenty-one planes. Our own losses ~~were~~ ^{are given as} fifty-three

planes.

To go back to

~~the~~ the Tokyo story of ~~the~~ ^a big naval

engagement, the Japs are making it hot. They claim

to have sunk ten American aircraft carriers, three

cruisers and a destroyer, in addition to having damaged three of our aircraft carriers, one battleship, four cruisers, and eleven warships of an unknown type. They intimate that all this is the result of an attempt to land MacArthur's troops in the Philippines. The Japs certainly make their story big. They claim to have destroyed or damaged five hundred thousand tons of our ships, one thousand planes and twenty-three thousand of our men.

However, there are also signs that the Japanese are exceedingly anxious. Premier General Koiso broadcast over the radio in these words: "We have dealt the first hard blow to the enemy, which gives us hope for the battles ahead." Then he warned the Mikado's people not to break out in cheers too soon, but to speed up war production and draw the chin straps of their helmets tighter.

Well, we'd all like to know more about that battle. But we can wait till our knowing will in no way aid the enemy!

ADDPACIFIC

The answer of Admiral Nimitz to these formidable Japanese claims was to announce an attack by Admiral Halsey's task force on the far northern end of the island of Luzon. That's where the Japanese first landed when they invaded the Philippines. The planes from Halsey's carriers also attacked enemy air fields around Manila and also Bataan, where the Americans made the heroic and hopeless defense in the winter and spring of Ninety-fourty-one -- Forty-two.

At Pearl Harbor ^{not} ~~in~~ a word ~~was said~~ about the Japanese reports of that great naval battle supposed to be in progress off the Philippines. Instead, ~~of that,~~ the communique from Nimitz indicates that part of Halsey's fleet is attacking the Philippines and that the carriers under Vice-Admiral Mitscher are blasting away at the front doorstep of Imperial Japan.

Nimitz added that in the latest attacks on the Philippines, Halsey's planes have shot down between eighty-nine and ~~one~~^a hundred-and-four Japanese planes either in the air or on the ground. Fifty ~~Nipponese~~ fighters attacked the task force operating around Manila Bay, and thirty- to forty of them were shot down. That means that since last Monday, Japan has lost between seven-hundred-and-five and seven-hundred-and twenty-five planes, ~~21~~^八 in one week.

WESTERN FRONT

As for tonight's

~~The~~ news from the western front, ~~is none too~~
~~encouraging.~~ ^{our troops} Although ~~the~~ tanks have mopped up most
of the old Imperial capital of ~~Als-la-Chapelle~~ ^{Bachen} and
have closed the escape corridor, the Allied line appears
to be at pretty much of a standstill. From further south
the information is ~~definitely discouraging~~ ^{that} after three
weeks the Yanks of the third army have ~~withdrawn~~ ^{pulled away} from
Ft. Driant, the old bastion guarding the approaches
to Metz. The explanation is that our Generals finally
decided that capturing ~~that~~ ^e fort would not be worth
what it would cost in American lives.

In the ^{foothills} ~~foothills~~ of the Vosges Mountains the
first French army under General de Tassigni is fighting
for the passes ^{there} in order to outflank the Belfort Gap.
And The French have advanced four to five miles on a
four-mile front, scaled ^{ing} ridges three thousand feet high,
and pushed ^{ing} ahead to within two miles of an important

road to the main pass.

In the north the British Second Army have advanced a thousand yards and the Germans are withdrawing across the River Maas into the ^{inner} ~~main force~~ of the Siegfried Line. ^R There is tremendous tension all along that four-hundred-and-fifty mile front.

The main battle for the Line of the River Rhine still has to be fought, and the Germans are bringing up all the reinforcements they can ^{assemble,} ~~scrape up~~. They counter-attacked savagely at ^{Aachen -} Aix-la-Chapelle, in the strongest counter-attacks since D-Day. But the Americans held, ~~held~~ and drove back the German Panzer Divisions.

PIERCE

When the Italians were ready to surrender last year the Allied High Command had considerable difficulty getting a message through to the Italian fleet, appealing to its Admiral to surrender. With that ^{allied} fleet was an American engineer, a member of the Psychological Warfare Unit, Robert M. Pierce, a radio expert from Cleveland, Ohio. Pierce came up with an idea which he suggested to British Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, ^{the allied naval} Commander-in-Chief ^{in those waters,} ~~of the Allied Naval~~

~~idea~~ He remembered that there is one wave length ^{an old international} to which all ships listen, ~~was~~ length to which the radio equipment of the warships was not attuned. Pierce got hold of some old radio equipment, tinkered with it, and tuned it ~~to~~ into the proper frequency. Then, over the international wave length he broadcast an appeal to the Italian warships. The result was the Italian fleet surrendered to the Allies. For that ^{Pierce}

won a special commendation from Admiral Cunningham, ^{and no wonder.}

A few weeks ago, when the Yanks of the invasion armies entered Luxembourg, ^{there was} Pierce, ^{this time} ~~was~~ along, as an agent of the Office of War Information. Again his wide knowledge of radio came into play. He knew there was a powerful radio station in Luxembourg, which would be of great value to the Allies for propaganda purposes. He told the Commanding General of the unit he was with that it would be a good idea to get that station before the Nazis blew it up. So the Commanding General assigned him several tanks, ^{with these} they surrounded the station, and grabbed it before the Germans had time to do any damage. So again Radio Engineer Pierce has been cited for an outstanding achievement.

That's a grand story; and Hugh, after you speak for Stan. A Calif. I have several more

ITALY

Americana

The ~~Yanks~~ in Italy have just finished ~~one battle;~~

a battle ~~which is~~ described as the bloodiest and most ferocious of the entire Italian campaign. It ended

with ~~the Yanks victorious. They captured the top of~~ *victory on our side - the*

~~(Livergnano)~~
Livergnano.

Reporters relate that this battle lasted

five ~~whole~~ days, five days of warfare even more ferocious

than the battle of Cassino. *with* The casualties were

exceedingly high. Before the Yanks went in, General

Clark's artillery delivered a *record* rain shells, ~~so intense~~

which left ~~that it was horrible.~~ Not a single building in the

Livergnano ~~town is~~ standing. And now that *our men* ~~the Yanks~~ are there,

German guns are bombarding the place, ~~although there~~

~~isn't anything there high enough to make a target.~~

Livergnano is a mountain town, the junction of several highways on the road from Florence to Bologna. For a mile on either side of the town sheer cliffs line the roads, cliffs that *in* some places are a

hundred feet high. At the bottom of those cliffs are lines of caves which the Germans had turned into deadly defense holes.

Last Thursday two companies of doughboys walked into a trap. The Germans lay low while the Yanks crept up a long ramp at the side of the cliff. Just as they were halfway up, the Nazis poured fire on them with machine guns from the caves below.

Nineteen of ^{our men} ~~the Yanks~~ escaped the machine gun fire and reached a church, on top of the cliff, at six o'clock in the morning. The Germans attacked the church, and the doughboys defended it, ~~only~~ with ^{only} rifles. Even so, ^{they} ~~that~~ left twenty-five Nazi dead on the hillside. Finally some of the enemy ~~we~~ crept into the basement of the church, but, ^{Americans} ~~the Yanks~~ held them there. Then the Germans brought up a tank which moved in and knocked the church apart room by room.

By five o'clock in the afternoon only eleven Yanks were alive to escape from that church.

The battle of Livergnano ended in a fog of mountain mist lit up by flashes from tracer bullets.

It was not until yesterday that ~~the tanks~~ ^{Gen. Mark Clark's men} finally captured that key town. Today they are holding it in the teeth of a terrific bombardment from German artillery.

Meanwhile troops of the British Eighth Army pushed inland from the Adriatic, ^{and} took ~~a town~~ a Nazi stronghold twelve miles northwest of Rimini and two miles above the highway ^{that runs} from Rimini to Bologna.

GREECE

The Nazi radio at Berlin today announced that their High Command was withdrawing all ~~their~~ troops from Greece. Dispatches from Cairo report that their garrison *on the island of Naxos had* ~~on Naxos~~ capitulated. ~~This~~ leaves them holding only four islands of any size in the Aegean Sea, Rhodes, Western Crete, Leros and Cos.

stet Today British and Greek warships are disembarking British troops at ~~the~~ Piraeus, the classic old harbor of Athens. Evidently this is the main British force assigned to occupy Greece.

said to be
The Nazis are demolishing everything they can as they withdraw.

When that British fleet anchored off ~~the~~ Piraeus, the first thing accomplished was the repairing of the radio station there. Sailors from the Greek warships did the job in three hours and then sent to the British Naval Base at Alexandria the first message *from there in three and a half years.*

~~Belgrade.~~
~~RUSSIA~~

It will not be long now before the Serb^{is}~~ian~~
~~are~~ back in Be^lgrade, the two-thousand-year-old
capital of Yugoslavia. The Russians and the Yugoslavs
are both inside the city, having fought their way in
from opposite directions. Last Saturday they captured
the big railway junction of Nis, and Moscow confirmed
the news today. Twenty miles away the Russians with
their Bulgarian Allies took another railroad town.

The Underground radio report^{ed} that Hitler
called a conference of his High Command in the Balkans.
According to the rumor the Nazi Fuehrer demanded that
his Generals do something at once to stop the advance
of the Russians, Yugoslavs, and Bulgarians, toward
southeastern Germany.

Berlin ~~reported~~ ^{tells of a} tough battle around the
^{De'Wretsen.} Hungarian city of Debracen. But Moscow ha^s nothing to
say about that, ~~except that the days of the Hungarian~~

APR HUNGARY

Dispatches from Switzerland bring word that there is marshal law in Budapest tonight. They also report that Himmler and other chiefs of the Nazi Gestapo arrived at the Hungarian capital several days ago. They organized a putsch against the regime of the regent, Admiral Horthy. It was because of that putsch that Horthy on Sunday ~~xx~~ issued his proclamation of a Hungarian armistice.

Tonight there is a state of civil war throughout Hungary. The troops loyal to Horthy ~~fig~~ fighting the Nazis.

In the north the Red armies are moving to wipe out a large pocket of one hundred thousand Germans trapped in western Latvia in an area of six thousand square miles. One in the Baltic has captured a dozen towns west and southwest of Riga, and another is moving closer on Memel.

sea route for supplies to the Russians at Murmansk much safer.

The rumor of joint Anglo-Russian operations in those cold northern regions arises out of the fact that Prime Minister Churchill took with him to Moscow several officers who are experts on ^{combining} ~~combined~~ operations.

————— o —————
Maybe our mountain troops will get into this — if we have any.

NORWAY

There's a rumor in Europe today of a joint Anglo-Russian expeditionary force to Norway to clean the Nazis out. This morning a Soviet army was chasing the German army across the Tundra of Finland, ^{and} across the Norwegian border. That Nazi army is composed of regiments of crack Alpine fighters, ^{that} ~~which~~ have been occupying Lapland. Berlin admitted today that those ^{German and Austrian skiers and} Alpine troops have withdrawn behind the Norwegian frontier.

The Soviet force, a powerful army ~~is~~ under General Meretskov, has occupied the Finnish port and naval base of Petsama, and all the fjords nearby.

Meretskov had the support of the strong Soviet Arctic fleet and also the Red air force. ^{All of which} ~~that situation~~ puts the Germans in northern Norway in a precarious position. Already it has had the effect of making the

mountainous

ROMMEL

The Nazis today admitted that Field Marshal Rommel is dead, the ^{Fox} ~~Wolf~~ of the Desert who would have got to Cairo and grabbed the Suez Canal but for Field Marshal Montgomery. Reporters took the news to Monty of El Alemain at his headquarters. Monty accepted the news with a poker face, the information ~~is~~ that his old enemy of Africa and Normandy had passed ~~out~~ ^{on} (One of his staff explained; "the chief's attitude is simply that Rommel is dead, ~~and buried~~ and let's get on with the war".)

POLITICS

The Willkie Republicans in California came out today in opposition to Dewey.

There has been much conjecture about what the late ex-candidate of the Republican party would have done had he lived. Dewey's friends explain that Willkie had a violent personal antipathy to Dewey. At any rate, although Dewey supported Willkie in Nineteen forty, Willkie had not supported Dewey this year before he died.

The Willkie Followers in California announced today that they had organized themselves into a Republicans for Roosevelt club.

Meanwhile *Tonight Gov. Dewey is* at St. Louis, ~~Dewey himself was~~

carrying his campaign to the home grounds of the Democratic candidate for Vice President, Harry Truman. Dewey hinged his ~~xx~~ speech on the charge that the New Deal has been taken over by a combination of ~~xxxxxx~~ corrupt big city bosses, communists and fellow travellers.

Then he ~~pitched~~^{pitched} into the number of alphabetical agencies that have spawned under the New Deal. He gave the titles of only fifteen of them, functioning either in the United States or around the world. And he repeated his statement that the New Deal intends to keep men in the armed forces after the way because it will be cheaper ~~in~~ than getting them jobs at home.

sent his ex-Majesty to wet feet in American soil, because
a strong guard of Customs Agents and Coast Guardsmen
sent aboard the vessel to prevent anybody from
communicating with either Carol or his lady. The
understanding in Washington is that if he escaped from
Rumania, although he did not escape broke, he was given
to understand that he was persona non grata in the
U.S.A.

CAROL

We have royalty in our American midst today,
but the chances are few of us will get to see him. ^{None} ~~For~~
other than!
~~the~~ King Carol, or rather ex-King Carol, of Rumania,
with ~~the fair, or rather~~ *rather* red-headed, *friend,* Madam Lupescu. They
arrived at New Orleans from New Mexico aboard a ship
flying the Argentine flag. Evidently Uncle Sam does not
want his ex-Majesty to set foot on American soil, because
a strong guard of Customs Agents and Coast Guardsmen
went aboard the vessel to prevent anybody from
communicating with either Carol or his lady. The
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BOWLING

Bowling fans in St. Paul, Minnesota, are out of luck. All the alleys in the city have closed down.

The managers announced an interesting reason for their inability to operate. The Industrial Commission of the State of Minnesota forbids them to hire pin boys less than sixteen years old. The War Labor Board compels them to pay seven cents a line for pin-setters. On top of that comes the O.P.A. which puts a ceiling on the prices they are allowed to charge their customers for ~~ix~~ bowling. The consequence of it all is -- no bowling in St. Paul, where you could hear a pin drop if any were dropping. But none are. And now as I end my part of the broadcast across the continent folks can hear a pin drop, Hugh, as they wait to hear you.