

LEAD MARSHALLS

C.I. Standard: Wed, Feb. 2, 1944.
Sun.

The latest from the Marshall islands is a bit of detail indicating the nearness of full American success. The ^{U.S.}~~American~~ forces going ashore on Kwajalein atoll are carrying posters announcing rules and regulations -- these proclaimed by Admiral Nimitz ~~as~~ the new Governor of the Marshall archipelago. The posters are printed in English and Japanese, since the Japs have been in possession out there for twenty years and have taught the natives their own lingo. In other words, formal American possession is already in sight.

MARSHALLS

The strategy of the invasion of Kwajalein Atoll' now becomes evident - in news dispatches from Admiral Nimitz today. Let's take another look at that large coral formation in the mid-Pacific - the ~~large~~ lagoon forty miles long, surrounded by a string of islets, most of them small, and, several larger ones. The first American landings were not on these larger ones. ^{They were} ~~at all, but~~ on ten of the smaller bits of coral land. These were mere beachheads, intended as stepping stones ^{and} ~~of~~ initial positions for the real assaults - against the larger islands.

Admiral Nimitz states today that the Japs were taken completely by surprise. They must have known an American attack was coming. The incessant air bombing must have informed them of that well in advance, but they appear to have thought that the American thrust would be launched against some other atolls' - like

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Wotje or Jaluit. These are nearer to the American bases in the Gilberts, and would have been more obvious points of attack - easier. But the American high command selected the most ambitious of all and lunged straight at Kwajalein Atoll!

So the Japs apparently never expected what appeared. ^{The} giant fleet, the greatest naval task force in history, ~~which~~ ^{ing} hurled great salvos from naval guns ~~and~~ a deluge of bombs from carrier planes. These huge bombardments smashed the Japs completely on the ten tiny islets picked for the initial landings. There was little or no resistance, and we sustained very light losses. ^{TP} From the seizure of the ten beachheads, on the tiny bits of land, the American forces went right on and drove to their major objectives. These were three; - Kwajalein Island ^{et} ~~and~~ and Roi Island ^{et} ~~and~~, about which we heard last night, - ~~and~~ also Namur Island. Guns

set up on the ten beachheads opened their own bombardment of the larger objectives - cooperating with the warship and carrier planes in blasting Kwajalein, Roi and Namur. To this concerted tempest of fire, there was little opposition, ^{and} once again ~~to~~ ⁱⁿ the second wave of American landings ~~and~~ ^{the} losses were light.

Then, on the three major islands ~~islands~~ ^{islands}, the Japs rallied for a fierce defense, and heavy fighting was encountered - but still our own losses were not heavy. Today's communique from the Pacific fleet headquarters declares: "We have suffered no naval losses, and casualties are very moderate."

The situation tonight is this: "Our forces have captured ~~at~~ Roi Island", says the Navy communique. That place is at one end of the lagoon of the atoll, and is of the greatest importance - because it has a

first rate flying field, which was ~~one of the~~ ^a Number One Japanese air base in the Pacific.

Namur Island ^e~~island~~ is near Roi, right next door - at the northern end of the Kwajalein Atoll. There the marines have driven the Japs back, and have pressed the enemy into the extreme northern end of ^{their coral} ~~the island~~ refuge.

~~There~~ ^{on} The other major objective, - Kwajalein Island, is at the other side of the lagoon - ^{the Naval base.} ~~They are army~~ ~~There xxxxxx~~ American troops are firmly established.

^{of} Soldiers [^] the Seventh Infantry. "Firmly established and pressing the Japs back," says Admiral Nimitz.

All of which makes it appear that the great American thrust into the Marshalls was a brilliantly conceived and brilliantly executed operation - catching the enemy by surprise, seizing a string of small beachheads as a preliminary, and hopping from these to the islands that were the major objective ^{S--} ~~^~~ and one of these has already been completely occupied.

FOLLOW MARSHALLS

The invasion of the Marshalls represents a decided American success, but it already brings new trouble for the much harried news ~~men~~^{mex} in war time. We've already been driven half out of our minds by weird foreign names and now along comes a new crop. For example, a late dispatch states that veterans of the Seventh Army ~~extended~~^{exceeded} their first day's objective when they swarmed across the ~~islands~~^{islets} of Ninni, which is easy, Ennububi which I hope is correct, and Ennylabegan which I can't pronounce at all, I'm sure. And there is still another one, the islet of G E H H. How do you pronounce double H H? I suppose with a sort of gasp; but anyway we captured those islets ahead of time -- especailly G E H H.

RUSSIA

Moscow announces that the Red Army has swept across the border of Estonia - swept across for five miles. And so the expected has happened. After driving from Russian territory into Poland some short while ago, the Soviets have done the same thing in the case of the Baltic state of Estonia, - ^{Which is} an important marker in the progress of the Russians in driving the Nazis out of their country.

The Red Army ^{push} ~~pushed~~ into Estonia has captured the town of Vanakila, and this place is near the larger city of Narva. One report is that the Germans are abandoning Narva - ~~and~~ the seizure of ^{which} ~~that~~ place will have a lot of historical meaning for the Russians; Because it is ^{the} site where a historic battle was fought between those two paladins of war - Russian Peter-the-Great and Charles-the-Twelfth of Sweden. The Russians took an awful licking that time from the Swedish

military genius, who was called - "the lion of the north." But it's different these couple of centuries later, with the Russians scoring a success at Narva.

Still another rumor;-this one from Stockholm, pictures the Germans as preparing to abandon Tallinn, a place not so prominent in history but more important nowadays. For Tallinn is the capital of Estonia, that Baltic state which figures so largely in Soviet calculations.

FINLAND

Here's a report that Soviet Russia has handed an ultimatum to Finland. ~~This~~ ^{It} may sound odd, because an ultimatum usually precedes a war, and Finland is in conflict with Russia right now. However, we hear ~~■~~ from Stockholm that Moscow has said to Finland - "Get out of the war within six weeks or face the consequences" - an ultimatum to withdraw from the conflict right away, or else.

AIR RAID

It becomes monotonous to tell time after time of daylight raids following night raids against the Nazis - the Americans by day, and the British by night. And it certainly must be **t**erribly more monotonous for the Germans themselves, who have to endure that alternation of being bombed in darkness and light.

Today, American warplanes hit the Nazis along the invasion coast of France, smashing at installations manned by German troops. And last night British mosquito bombers assailed Berlin once again - the German capital, which was still blazing with tremendous fires that had been set by the last previous bombing.

~~These fires, veritable tempests of flame, seemed to have been some of the worst ever - burning with full fury after twenty four hours.~~

One thing much discussed today is - the state of mind of the German people. (~~How do the German masses feel, with so much disaster in Russia and so many bombs rained down on them? The answer we get today is punch-drunk.~~) The British Information Service issues an analysis of German morale, based on the latest reports from the land of Hitler. The analysis notes what it calls - "a growing apathy among the German people, which does not seem to respond to any stimulus."

The report illustrates this by a description of the mood of Germans who endure the constant air raids. "Cases are reported," it says, "where bombed citizens have become so listless and dispirited that they stroll aimlessly about, watching burning buildings and refusing to lend a hand to fire fighters. Except, sometimes, to remove and retain any portable loot."

How does this punch-drunk condition bear upon

the course of the war? The British study warns that the apathy of the Germans does not make the Allied task any easier because it minimizes x the chance of a revolt to overthrow the Nazis.

ITALY

American troops have broken through the Nazi Gustav Line on a four mile front. In the Cassino area, they smashed their way through the stubborn hedge-hog defenses and have reached unfortified ground. If they can exploit the break-through properly and pour forces through the gap, it would put ^{a powerful} ~~an awful~~ squeeze on nine German divisions, more than a hundred thousand men ^{who are} threatening ^{ed with} ~~ing to~~ outflank ^{ing} and encircle ~~ing that~~.

The fighting in the forcing-of-the-hedge-hog ^{German defenses} has been of a violence that is best described by a French veteran. Among the ~~assorted~~ American forces are French units, some of the officers of which are veterans of the last war. And they say that the German mortar ~~fire~~ fire on the Cassino front had ^S been worse than the stupendous barrages at Verdun in the last war. The epic of Verdun set a record for massed German cannonfire, but this has been exceeded by the deluge of mortar

LEAD MARSHALLS

Say, Fred, you have expressed my sentiments exactly! Because of my regular hour on the air I miss hearing you fellows. And that's sad for me! The big news tonight is still the story from the Marshall Islands, here's the latest:

The American forces going ashore on Kwajalein atoll are carrying posters announcing rules and regulations--these proclaimed by Admiral Nimitz, the new Governor of the Marshall archipelago. The posters are printed in English and Japanese, since the Japs have been in possession out there for twenty years and have taught the natives their own lingo. In other words, formal American possession is already ~~in~~ in sight.

Admiral Nimitz says the Japs were taken completely by surprise. They must have known an American attack was coming. The incessant air bombing must have informed them of that well in advance; but they appear to have thought the American thrust would be launched against some other atolls--like Wauje or Jaluit, which are nearer.

shells flung from the hedge-hog defenses around
Cassino.

with a bridge.
And the Nazis played a neat trick. They blasted
the span, ~~knocking~~ tumbling it down into the Rapido River.
Then, with the steel bridge as a backbone, they built a
dam across the stream. That diverted the water of the
Rapido into the surrounding country - a valley which
for miles became a bog of ankle-deep mud, extending *through*
~~to~~ orchard, fields and ~~XXXXXX~~ mazes of roads.

On the Rome front, enemy resistance is
reported to be increasing steadily, as the Germans
bring up more reinforcements. The focus of fighting is
at two towns about which we heard last night, Campo
Leone and Cisterna. At Campo Leone, fifteen miles from
Rome, the British ~~are~~ driving to cut the railroad from
Rome to Naples, while at Cisterna American troops are
in combat in the outskirts of the town.

GROUNDHOG

Today is groundhog day, ^{and here's} ~~and I was supposed to~~

~~be at the Ground Hog Day banquet in Greenville, Ohio.~~

~~But I didn't go. What was the use? All because of a~~

~~great disillusionment~~ - ^{than} an expose' launched by a

specialist on rodents for the Chicago Museum of

Natural History, a lady scientist, Miss Loraine Lloyd.

~~Listen to this Jim Light and the rest of you:-~~

It sounds like blasphemy. "The groundhog," she declares,

"is no weather interpreter. He's only a first cousin

to a rat." And that certainly is putting the poor old

groundhog back in his hole. ~~Cousin to a rat, and~~

~~whoever heard of a rat forecasting the weather?~~

"The groundhog," she explains, "is an

accomplished hibernator, and during the time he spends

in the ground, his temperature drops to just a bit above

freezing, and he sleeps. When the weather warms up a

bit," she goes on, "the groundhog feels it down there

in his hole and comes up for a look. If the outside world feels too cold, he goes back for a nap, but," declares the specialist on rodents, "he doesn't know whether it will be six weeks or six months until Spring."

So that's all he is - the rat. ^{Sad, sad} ~~Sad, bad news~~
news, eh, Roger?
~~for the boys in Greenville. And maybe for Hugh, too.~~

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The other major objective - Kwajalein Island, is at the other side of the lagoon - the naval base. ^{there} American troops are firmly established. Soldiers of the ^{U.S.} Seventy^h Infantry. ~~*Firmly established and pressing the ~~japs~~ Japs back*~~, says Admiral Nimitz.

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~~G E H H.~~ G - E - double H.!

DRAFT DODGERS

It would seem that draft dodgers are insolent enough to have a language of their own, a draft-dodging slang. This was disclosed today by J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the F.B.I., who announced the arrest in Washington of eighteen ~~men~~ evaders of Selective Service. One of these is a prominent Washington swing band leader. And the arrested patriots were kidding the draft boards by the use of bennies.

What's a bennie? Hoover of the F.B.I. explained that it's a kind of drug that causes temporary high blood pressure. The dodger takes a bennie or two before reporting to his draft board, and medical examination shows him to have blood pressure ~~is~~ so high he's about to burst. So ^{therefore} ~~he's~~ he's turned down. That is - turned down until he's caught.

Another dodging device is to pretend nervous disorders, and some of those arrested today tried both at the same time. They took some bennies for high

blood pressure, and also played neurotic. They call the combination - "the song and the story".

Well, for those bennie boys the song now is likely to be - arrest; and the story - punishment.

1/2 And now. Fred, how about a song without a story.

The battleline there is along the foot of the Alban Hills, and that takes one's memory back to schoolboy Roman history. Those classic Alban Hills were named after the town of Alba ~~Longa~~^{Longa}. It was because of dynastic troubles in that antique town of the Alban Hills, that the legendary Romulus and Remus were abandoned in the wilderness as infants, and were suckled by the she wolf, which became the symbol of Rome.

Romulus and Remus, whom tradition says built Rome.

So ^{the} history of the Eternal City stems to those Alban Hills, along the base of which the battle is going on

tonight; the battle for Rome, Americans and Germans fighting there now, instead of Romans and Sabines.

ADD ITALY

The latest from the Rome front is a night dispatch stating that things have grown quiet temporarily, after a series of violent local attacks with neither side making any appreciable advance.

Wendell Willkie today came out with a blast against the tax programs of both the President and Congress. The President wants new taxes to raise ten and a half billion dollars. The ideas of Congress are much smaller, something like two billion.

Does Willkie think the two billion is too much for the public to pay? No sir! He says that ten billion is not nearly enough - he wants it doubled; in other words, twenty billion to be raised by new taxes. His idea is further expressed in these words: "ruthlessly tax every dollar in every income group for the preservation of the American future."

He took cognizance of congressional opinion that the people won't stand for what Willkie calls - "a tough tax bill." He thinks they will. "Give the people an understanding of the issues involved," says Willkie, "and they will do their duty to their country - however incredibly painful it may be".

DEWEY

Today Governor Dewey of New York spoke out on the subject of the soldier vote. He announced that he was opposed to any federal ballot issued to the soldiers which does not include the names of candidates for state, county and local offices. The federal-soldier-vote-bill now being considered by the Senate, provides that the ballots issued to men in service shall ^{have} ~~provide~~ only the names of candidates for national office, like the president.

In a telegram to Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, ^{Gov.} Dewey took the stand that any ballot which did not include state and local offices would violate the Constitution of the State of New York. The State Constitution requires that all candidates be listed, and ~~that~~ a ballot ~~is~~ incomplete without this.

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