

L.T. SUNOCO. MONDAY, MAY 8th, 1944  
STANDARD

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The bombers of the Eighth Air Force today attacked Berlin and Brunswick. The German capitol was raided for the second time in 24 hours. At Brunswick they aimed principally at the aircraft factory. Our losses--36 bombers and 13 fighters. And the American gunners shot down 119 Nazi interceptor planes. An estimate in a Swedish paper is interesting if true. This military expert guesses that Hitler now has a first line fighter force of only 1500 planes left. Most of them based in Germany and western Europe. All of which has a decidedly optimistic sound. Today's attacks on Berlin and Brunswick followed night raids by the RAF from dawn to dusk nearly 4,000 Allied planes based on Britain attacked the Nazi fortresses all the way from Normandy to Berlin. Adding up the last 54 hours, that is the 54 hours ending at dusk tonight, Nazi positions have been bombed by no fewer than

eleven thousand five hundred planes, including raids on Rumania by planes based on Italy. One high authority tells us that the raids by the Mediterranean air forces, raids on Rumania, have been exceedingly effective also. General Ira Aker, Allied Air Commander in the Mediterranean, tells us that the Rumanian oil fields have been damaged so badly now that they can operate at only 25% of their former capacity. The American bombers that attacked Berlin today met with savage opposition from German fighter planes. When the Nazi airmen failed to shoot down our Flying Fortresses and Liberators, in their desperation they rammmed them this time, willing to destroy themselves provided they could destroy one of our planes.

A new American ace, Captain Bob Johnson, of Lawton, Oklahoma, who today shot down his 26 and 27 German plane, putting him in first place among the American fliers in the European theater of war. And equalling the record of Major Dick Bong of Poplar, Wisconsin, ace in the Pacific. Both has broken the

record of 26 planes shot down by Captain Eddie Rick-enbacker back in the First World War. Bob Johnson by the way flies a Thunderbolt. Well, back in Oklahomas the news was broken to Captain Johnson's pretty young wife and it didn't seem to make much difference in her day's work. She went to her job at the local drugstore as usual. Mrs. Johnson is confident that her ace husband will return to her. As she explains it: "Bob and I had a definite understanding between us that he's coming back."

An American airman, Captain Hiram Conant of Cambridge, Massachusetts, had one of the narrowest of escapes. He's a bomber pilot, and on his way home from a mission over France he suddenly heard a thud and then a rumble outside his plane. As he looked out, there was a big bomb bouncing along on his left wing. It had been dropped from another American plane flying above him. Conant saw the thing rolling around and figured it was due to explode before long. He was afraid to rock the wings of his ship; afraid he might



jar the bomb loose and he was afraid he wouldn't. Finally the bomb slipped off on its own account and fell down among the Germans where it belonged; whereupon Captain Conant flew on home getting there safely figuring he had been exceedingly lucky. One day last December a large formation of Uncle Sam's heavy bombers carried out an attack on the great Naval and Air base at Bremen. Among the Fortresses knocked out of the formation by Nazi fighters was one that carried as radio operator Technical Sergeant Forrest Vosler of Livonia, New York. The Messerschmitts were pounding hard at that flying Fort and it looked as though the big bomber would crash. Vosler asked permission to jump out of the plane just in order to lighten the load to jump with or without a parachute. The Commanding Officer refused to permit this, so Vosler, although already severely wounded and almost blind manned one of the guns and kept firing at the Germans. All the rest of the crew were wounded. Vosler fought the enemy interceptors off almost single handed in spite



of his own wounds. And the plane got back to its base. All but three of the others in the crew who were not wounded fatally in that Bremen attack were killed in action on later missions. It was announced that the Congressional Medal of Honor will now be given to Technical Sergeant Forrest Vosler of Livonia, New York.

## RUSSIA

The Russian front came to life again today at Sevastopol. After a lull of three weeks the Red Army broke through the main German defense belt around the Crimean fortress, so says Moscow. They are now fighting the Nazis in the outskirts of the city. This new attack has been made by the 4th Army of the Ukraine and the independent coastal arm. Berlin admits the attack but gives a different version. The Nazi acknowledged that the Red Army penetrated the German lines on the southern sector after bitter fighting, but were repelled on the northern section. The Nazis also claim to have destroyed 130 Soviet planes, with one second lieutenant shooting down 14 Red Army aircraft in one day, so say the Nazis.

## WASHINGTON

The Senate today in Washington approved the prolonging of lend-lease, prolonging it for another year. But the lawmakers tied a string to that. They made a proviso that President Roosevelt is not to make any post-war commitments either military or economic, by way of settlement of lend-lease. In the debate which proceeded the action there was a valient protest by Senator Ellender of Louisiana who declared that there was altogether too much hush hush business about this whole lend-lease program.

Another jump for our national debt limit. Last year Congress raised it to \$210,000,000,000. Many people predicted at the time that it would not be enough. Today the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives recommended that it be increased to \$240,000,000,000, even that is \$20, 000, 000,000 less than the sum recommended by the Treasury. The National obsevers are remarking that this debt limit business seems to have become purely cademic. It used to mean that the country could not borrow



## WASHINGTON

money over a certain sum, all it means now is that the government goes to Congress every ~~xxxx~~ year and asks for another increase of the limit. John L. Lewis no longer wants to bring the United ~~xxxxxx~~ Mine Workers back into the AF of L. He formally withdrew tonight his request for readmission into the American Federation of Labor. And Lewis described William Green's Federation as the puppet of a political organization and in fact no better than a political company union. Lewis pointed out that the application of the United Mine Workers for reaffiliation had been pending for a year. Throughout that period he went on a majority of members of the Executive Council of the AF of L have lacked the courage to vote either yes or no. And said John L. Lewis today: "That's an amazing exhibition of base hypocrisy, approximating moral turpitude."

## POLITICS

Politics growing hotter every week. The Democrats of Missouri held their state convention at Jefferson city today with Senator Truman making the keynote speech. He tore into the Republican party savagely said they were using the war for political purposes. The sentiment at Jefferson City is strong for the Reelection of Franklin D. Roosevelt. The permanent chairman said that if the Democrats of Missouri have their way, FDR will be renominated and reelected. Meanwhile, the 16 delegates from the State of Washington held a meeting and they unanimously decided to vote for Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York at Chicago next month. Political figures in Washington have been adding up figures and they estimate that Dewey has already upwards of 480 delegates of those who have so far been chosen. All he needs -- 530. There will be primaries and party conventions in five states this week. However, those 480 Dewey delegates are not formally committed, just *informally*.

## Roosevelt

A reporters diary of President Roosevelt's vacation will be consoling to fishermen who return home with empty creals. It seems the President went fishing in fact fished for several days during April without a bite. Quite aside from being President it's known that FDR is an expert angler. In three days running he got no fish. The fourth day all he could catch was a mess of eels. A matter of no pride to a man who prides himself on prowess with deep water game fish. More than two weeks elapsed before the President really got one. Meanwhile all the newspaper men landed was a lot of wood ticks along with Falla the White House scottie who got plenty too. Not until April 22nd did the President have a really satisfactory strike. Then he got a five pound blue; then he came home with 25 blues and 6 bonito. Judging from the President's diary that was the best day he had, for the next time he went out all he caught was a few whiskered cat fish.



Well, President Roosevelt back in Washington received reports today from party leaders in Congress. Senator Barkeley says that they told Mr. Roosevelt that legislation is getting along quite well. He added that they did not discuss the seizure of Montgomery-Ward by the Army. **THE**

## PACIFIC WAR

The Japanese attacked again on a big scale in the Manipur hills in eastern India. A dispatch from Mountbatten's Headquarters reports that they are pushing from all fronts to regain their forward positions which they lost recently. Their strongest pressure was around Kohima. Mountbatten claims that they were repulsed with heavy losses. Until recently British newspapers paid but little attention to the war against Japan, on days when our own big dailies played up the Pacific news heavily, the London Press dismissed it with an inch or two in the inside pages. But the Japanese advances in India has aroused the British editors. Several of them publishing severe criticisms of the Allied conduct of the war in Burma. Lord Windybat in a recent issue of the Reynolds News declared that many operations are in progress on the Burma front but none of them are very impressive. No very coherent plan emerges, Lord Winster wrote. And that lends color to the belief that Mountbatten's instructions appear to be to attempt nothing on a

grand scale but to pin prick the enemy everywhere and anyhow. Lord Winster continues to say that the Japanese have appeared to brush our attacks aside. They are already farther into the State of Manipur than they should have been allowed to go said he. As for Mountbatten, British Lord Winster describes him as a young officer who somewhat ~~gxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ strangely holds high rank. His advancement has been unusual say Winster and not based upon any particular achievements. His Lordship goes on to say that Mountbatten's ambitions are probably limited by his resources. The British Lord also criticises the British censors in India. Our military success in Burma cannot be kept secret he says. And he adds that to refrain from making the facts known for fear of assisting the enemy, why it's all nonsense because the enemy knows about them. As for China, the Japanese have made fresh advances along the railroad from peiping to Hankow. The Chinese now hold only about twenty miles in that sector and they are rapidly clearing the Chinese



out of those remaining twhehy. At just one point the Chinese were able to check the invaders. They stopped an advance on the key city of Loyang in Hukwang. All in all the fighting in China is going none too well. And here's a late one just in. A late bulletin from the Navy. One to cheer us up a bit. Perhaps you remember Guam the island we once held in the Pacific east of the Phillippines. Of course, we all do. Some Americans wanted to fortify it, but it would be sure to fall into the laps of the Japs too easily of a war came anyhow. Others were afraid that if we did fortify it we might offend the Japanese. So we did not fortify it to amount to anything. And now the Japs ~~have~~ ho,- it. They have had it almost since we first were pulled into the war. Well, our Army and Navy Libera-tors took some measure of requittal. They bombed ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Guam in a daylight raid. The big bombers ran into a heavy fight. 25 Jap interceptors rose to meet them. But our bombers shot down seven of the Japs, three more perhaps and damaged two others.

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At the same time there were raids on Truk, Ponape and other places in the Pacific.

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## DOCTOR INGE

Great Britain's famous gloomy dean is still glooming. The Very Reverend Doctor Inge, former Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral. He draws a most lugubrious picture of the future of the British people after this war. Nobody will have any money he says. The people most heavily hit will be the landed gentry of Britain. Next will come the professional classes. Says Dean Inge, the only people who will have any money will be film stars, prize fighters, labor leaders, and people who make tobacco, motor cars, newspapers, and candy

bars. The gloomy dean doesn't confine his gloom to his own country either. He says that we will not be much better off. He remarked also that the president of one American labor union collects \$25,--- a year. Ah, but American union members can tell him different on that. They can tell him of a number of union ~~officials~~ officials who do rather better than 25. At any rate the gloomy dean is still gloomy. And now Hugh, who is never gloomy.