

Still Another landing in the Philippines. (8)

MacArthur ^{disembarked} ~~landed~~ a force of battalions from the Eleventh Division of the U. S. Eighth Army on the West coast of Batangas, south of Manila. They landed and drove their motorized equipment up the same beaches where the ~~Nx~~*Nips made one of their landings more than three years ago.

They caught the enemy completely off base, And did not lose a single American. forty one miles to the southwest of Manila. So now MacArthur is threatening the Japanese garrison of the capital from three directions, north, south and west. It begins to clear tonight that the final battle for the Philippines is about to begin.

What the officers are worried about, principally, is that the Japanese may sack and destroy the city before our people get there. As they did at Tarlac, -- a Jap scorched earth policy.

The Tokyo radio has been broadcasting reports that American warships are now off Corregidor, at the ~~mouth of Manila Bay. It may be that these are part~~

mouth of Manila Bay. It may be that these are part of the fleet that invaded Subic Bay.

~~I notice you object to the word Nips. It is the word that men returning from the Pacific front themselves use.~~

RESCUE

That hair raising tale from Luzon is the talk of the country -- how a small party of commandos of the Sixth Ranger Battalion, a hundred and twenty-one Americans and two hundred and eighty-six guerrillas, filtered twenty-five miles behind the Jap lines.

Seventy miles north of Manila was a prisoner of war camp. The Rangers and the Philippine guerrillas took the enemy completely by surprise. This bold raid went off with time-table precision.

They annihilated the Jap garrison, set free five hundred and ten Allied prisoners, mostly Americans from Bataan and Corregidor, and only lost twenty seven of the attacking force.

Among the prisoners who were survivors of Bataan and Corregidor, was a cameraman, Major Carl Wing, from Hollywood. Said he: "Those Rangers gave me more drama in fifteen minutes than I expect to see in all of my eventful life". Then he went on to describe how perfect was the timing of the raid. perfect

FOLLOW RESCUE - 2.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry A. Mucci, thirty-three years of age, and a West Point graduate, led the ~~rescue~~ *Rangers and Guerrillas on this epic* party of ~~American Rangers on Luzon.~~ *rescue.*

When his mother, at Bridgeport, Connecticut, was told what her son had accomplished, she ~~manifested~~ *didn't* ~~seem~~ *seem* ~~little~~ surprised. "He always wanted to be a soldier since he was big enough to carry a broomstick for a gun," she remarked.

Colonel Mucci was at Pearl Harbor at the time of the Jap attack, and has been in the fray ever since. During a furlough last September he mentioned that he had been in a few battles, but said little else.

Today he is being hailed as the hero who led a Ranger force that drove off six thousand of the enemy from Luzon and the Lingayen Peninsula. Indeed, one of the most dramatic exploits of the war!

was the timing of the raid. ^{It} Actually, ^{this foray} ~~it~~ saved the lives of ^{these} ~~those~~ five hundred and ten prisoners, ^{who} ~~because~~ ~~they~~ had just heard that the Japs were planning to use them as hostages. They were ^{all} taken to an evacuation hospital in Luzon, and today General MacArthur paid them a visit. The first man he met was Lieutenant Colonel James Breen, a veteran of almost forty years' service in the regular Army. MacArthur recalled the fact that thirty-five years ago, it was he who promoted Breen from private to corporal. →

Gen. MacArthur ^{today that} said, no incident of the campaign
as this rescue.
had given him such personal satisfaction. And here is

the most picturesque part of the story:- Some of the
rescued men were in ^{deplorable shape,} ~~pretty feeble,~~ emaciated condition,


^{from} living in the filthy camp the Japanese had provided for
them. After they were rescued, ^{the feeblest} ~~those not well~~ rode in
carts, drawn by carib^{oo,} ~~oo,~~ rode all night. Everywhere
they went, they were cheered. Among them were privates,
lieutenants, and colonels, ^{and} soldiers, sailors and marines.
Most of them were Americans, but there were also a ^{few}
~~handful~~ of British, Dutch and Norwegians.

At the head of the column marched six Americans
in bare feet, carrying the regimental flag of the
Twenty-Sixth Cavalry that fought at Bataan. In spite of
the three years of Japanese occupation of Luzon, that
flag, piped in gold, had never touched the ground!

^{had been}
Its first bearer ~~was~~ killed as he rode into battle.

For a while it was hidden, sewn inside of a pillow, and kept by a Filipino. Then it was used by a band of three thousand guerrillas who were hiding in the hills.

When the column of ex-prisoners finally arrived at camp, the six barefoot Yanks at the head were singing "California Here We Come!" They marched up to Major General Oscar Griswold, commander of the Fourteenth United States Corps, and there presented their battle flag to him. Griswold had tears in his eyes as he said to the men: "This is one of the most touching incidents of the war." And he added: "I accept this flag for the United States Government - accept it in humility, in the presence of the brave soldiers who carried it. To you men, the American flag has never ceased to fly over Luzon."



BURMA - CHINA

Contrasting news from Burma and China, some of it good, some of it ~~quite bad~~ ^{not so good.} ~~Taking the bad part first,~~ the advancing columns of the Mikado's army have pushed east along the south bank of the Chen River. They are wiping out Chinese forces that had been trapped in that region. This is the first consequence of the capture of Kukong, reported yesterday; ~~It was~~ the last place where the Chinese were holding out along the railroad from Hankow to Canton. With Kukong in Japanese hands, ~~it means that no Allied landing can take place on the~~ ^{is feasible along a great} ~~stretch of~~ ~~east~~ China coast. Tokyo also claims to have captured one of the few air bases still in Allied hands in eastern China.

In Burma, on the other hand, the Allies scored another important success. Troops of the Fifteenth Corps of the Indian Army have seized Kangaw, a center of communications on the west coast of Burma. The British

attacked it in an amphibious operation two weeks ago.

Kangaw is at the base of the peninsula south of the important seaport of Akyab.


As for Mandalay, British columns are only twelve miles away ^{now,} ~~at one point.~~

PACIFIC

Another raid on Singapore. More than a hundred Superforts, based on India, bombed the Japanese garrison at Singapore for an hour and a half - in broad daylight.

The B-29s had to fly three-thousand-five-hundred miles round-trip for the operation. This is the third raid the Twentieth Bomber Command has carried out against Singapore. General Arnold reports that they destroyed the great floating drydock at Singapore, the largest in the world. And that would be a serious loss to the enemy.

Other Superforts bombed installations on the Japanese home islands of Shikoku and Honshu, for the third day running.

The Chinese believe that the growing air offensive against Japan will force the Mikado's government to move the capital north. They might evacuate to the northern tip of Honshu, or they might even go to the adjoining island of Hokkaido. However, this is all wild speculation. The Chinese base this on the fact that Tokyo is worse situated than any other world capital. 

It lies in a low coastal basin. Consequently, there is always danger of large areas of the city being flooded, since the water level is only a few feet under ground.

Air raid shelters, ~~which are~~ good enough to protect people against bombings, must be made of reinforced concrete, at a huge cost, and even then can be undermined by water seepage. If the government offices were moved to Hokkaido or northwest Honshu, they would be out of range of Superfortresses based on the Marianas, in China, or even on Luzon.


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We've had a lot of cheerful news tonight — and there's more to come. But first a word of cheer from Stan. of Cal.

RUSSIA

A Stockholm story today has the Soviet patrols in the outer suburbs of Berlin!

One thing is definite:- the Russian advance has not slowed up, as a story from Moscow foreshadowed three days ago. On the contrary, it appears to have accelerated, and one now wonders where is that formidable Todt Line-of-Defense that we heard so much about?



A ~~later~~ dispatch from London reports that the Nazis are preparing to defend Berlin as the Russians defended Stalingrad. All reserves have been mobilized, barricades and anti-tank barriers have been thrown up in the city, and there is no sign of panic among the Nazis. The deputy press chief told foreign correspondents that Berlin will be the bloodiest disappointment the Soviet armies have ever had.

Trenches are being dug around the city and civilians are being trained in the use of anti-tank weapons and machine guns.

Throughout the day the American Air Force has been at work bombing not only Berlin but other German railroad ~~BBBA~~ centers, to prevent the Nazis from sending reinforcements to either the eastern or the western front. Tonight the Royal Air Force took up the job and a thousand big planes bombed all the most important railway yards in Hitler's Reich.

The Nazi high command tonight admits that the advanced Soviet tank columns have reached the Oder River, northwest of Küstrin. That would put them in a region only ^{about} thirty ~~to thirty-nine~~ miles from the German capital, roughly as close as Trenton to Philadelphia, or Baltimore to Washington.

~~But it is a moot point whether or not we should~~
~~any take that announcement with a grain of salt. For~~

~~For some reason, the Nazis, instead of playing down the~~

~~ness of the Russian advance, appear to be actually~~

~~Moscow, however, makes~~
~~exaggerating it. Moscow makes~~ no such claims as the

~~Germans admit. Furthermore,~~ TP Stalin tonight announced

for the first time that the advancing Soviet armies had

surrounded the railroad junction of Schneidemuhl in

Pomerania, and that the garrison ^{there} is being annihilated.

~~The Germans told us this on Monday. Similarly with the~~

~~city of Torun on the Vistula. Stalin announced this~~

RUSSIA - 4

Küstrin

~~where the Red advance guards are supposed to be, is just a few miles ^{to} of the north of the city of Frankfurt-on-the-Oder, and due south of Stettin, the great seaport on the Baltic. The Nazis announced that they were about to launch a tremendous counteroffensive, but no sign of it is in evidence.~~

~~At Torun, the Russians wiped out the entire German garrison, they say. A hundred and thirty-seven miles~~

~~northeast of there, Another "White Russian army ^{surrounds} is all around the flaming city of Königsberg. There are a~~

~~Q hundred and fifty thousand refugees ^{are} inside the walls ^{there,} and stories report the utmost confusion, ~~almost~~ anarchy ⁱⁿ~~

~~facts on inside the capital of East Prussia.~~

Through three great provinces of Germany, battles are raging on a gigantic scale. Huge Soviet armies are spreading terror and devastation in Pomerania, Brandenburg and Silesia. Their battlecry is, "Remember Stalingrad!"

WESTERN FRONT

In the west, the Allies advanced a few miles laboriously and slowly into Germany. North of Luxembourg, General Hodges's army attacked the main defenses of the Siegfried Line at three points. ~~The Yanks there found some pill boxes and guns abandoned, which indicates a German withdrawal. However, in the Monschau Forest, they met with some resistance from the Germans.~~ The Ninth Division advanced nearly two miles over ~~slush and~~ muddy roads. They are less than twenty-five miles away from Cologne.

~~Patton's Third Army reported bitter cold, the ground hardened by a heavy freeze. On the Third Army's front, neither side is using armor. Patton, because he does not want to at this time, and von Rundstedt because he has none to use, he has none at his disposal at that part of the front.~~ Patton's men advanced two and a half miles, *further.* ~~and both armies captured several German towns and~~

He now has a
~~villages. Patton's~~ bridgehead ~~is~~ seven miles wide.

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The best news of all comes from the south of the Western Front. Correspondents report the German line is crumbling. The French First Army and the United States Seventh are attacking. The French have been advancing steadily for the last three days, capturing German points as they go.

U-BOATS

Today, in the House of Commons, First Lord of the Admiralty A. V. Alexander gave out some interesting information on German submarines. He ^{said} ~~told that~~ the Nazis have now discovered a method for charging their U-boats under water, and consequently have done away with the risk of coming to the surface to recharge, as heretofore. It was during the recharging period on the surface that many a submarine was sighted by ~~the enemy,~~ and thereby met its doom.

In answer to a bombardment of questions from members of the House, Alexander stated that "the publication of any further details would not be in the public interest."

STRIKE

Labor troubles in Hollywood! There will
be picket lines around all the ~~the~~ larger picture
studios tomorrow morning. ^{At any rate so} ~~he~~ says the business
agent of the screen players union, ^{Who goes on to say that} ~~he~~ represents
something like three thousand extras. ~~he says.~~

MANPOWER

The work-or-^{fight}~~join~~ bill is well on its way

to becoming law. The Representatives passed it tonight and sent it to the Senate, the bill to force every man between eighteen and forty-five either to take a war job or freeze him in the one he has.

~~Furthermore, he has to join a union, like it or not. That will put the whole force of the U. S. Government now behind the compulsory recruitment of labor unions. People who object will have no redress because it has been calculated that there is little likelihood that the Supreme Court will have anybody.~~

WALLACE

~~The Senators who don't like Henry Wallace came within an ace of defeating his nomination for good and all.~~ It was a day of parliamentary jockeying in the upper House of Congress, with the galleries jammed, standing room only. Many of the spectators appeared to be Left Wing New Dealers, Wallace's partisans.

The move that nearly disposed of the ex-Vice President was a motion by Senator Bailey of North Carolina to discuss the matter at once and dispose of it. If that had been done, Wallace would have been scuttled then and there.

In the nick of time came a letter from the White House. It said that Mr. Roosevelt was perfectly willing that Congress should deprive the Secretary of Commerce of the R.F.C. and the loan agencies. He would, he said, approve the measure. Fortified with that letter, Senator Barkley, as Majority Leader, was able to

scrap up a bare majority, forty-three to forty-one, to defeat that motion. That saved the day for Wallace and his friends. The Senate now will consider first the George Bill, to strip the Secretary of Commerce of control of all the loan agencies.

Senator Taft of Ohio made the statement that the only reason for the bill is that the Senate has no confidence in Henry Wallace and does not believe in his philosophy. Taft added that he would be against Wallace under any conditions, loan agencies or no loan agencies, just doesn't consider him up to the job. — and

now H - always on the job.