

MONTGOMERY WARD

L.I. - Standard Wednesday, April 26, 1944
Sunoco

~~was~~ In Chicago, ^{tonight,} ~~the~~ soldiers of the United States Army took over one of the great mail order houses of the nation -- Montgomery Ward & Company. A platoon of military police took possession of the offices of the Company -- three ^{truck} ~~trucks~~ loads of soldiers, fully armed, with field-packs, rifles, and sub-machine guns. ^H This followed the Company's refusal to abide by an order issued by President Roosevelt, -- an order directing the Federal Government to ^{assume} ~~assume~~ control of the Company, its property to be administered by the Department of Commerce. This presidential order was presented to Montgomery Ward and the officers of the Company refused to abide by it, saying it wasn't legal. The next thing -- the President instructed Secretary of War Stimson to take any action that might be necessary.

That ^{meant} ~~that~~ Army intervention if the Company still refused to ^{obey} ~~abide by~~ the presidential order,, Montgomery Ward did refuse, and in came the soldiers.

Late news relates that the Company resistance is understood to be a move to have a complete record of

refusal - so that Montgomery Ward may go to the Federal Courts and sue for an injunction.

The whole thing began with a labor dispute in which Montgomery Ward refused^d to sign a contract with the union on the grounds that it had not been shown that the union represented employees of the Company.

PATTON

The latest about General Patton is a statement just issued by the War Department. This denies that Patton was setting forth the Army's own views when he declared in England yesterday that the United States, Great Britain and Russia are, in Patton's words, "destined to rule the World."

The first reports were that the explosive general included only America and Britain in World rulership, but the Army stated later that he actually had included Soviet Russia. Even so, the new Patton proclamation is not going over any too well, with plenty of people pointing out that the whole business of ruling the World might not sit so well with various of our Allies - China for example, France, or, the smaller nations.

~~For example~~ Senator Johnson of Colorado says: "Such talk is not only nonsensical, but also mischievous." ~~And Senator~~
~~Bushfield of South Dakota makes reference to the matter of~~
~~General Patton's promotion. His permanent rank, as~~
~~distinguished from his temporary war status is scheduled to be~~

RUSSIA

After a lull of eight days, the violence of war has flared again between the Russians and the Germans - with the Red Army resuming its offensive in the Rumanian province of Bessarabia. We have the word from Berlin, with Moscow saying nothing about the new drive. Moscow often remains silent until their military operations have accomplished something definite.

ITALY

In Italy American troops have scored another advance on the beachhead - pushing forward their positions to within twenty-four miles of Rome. This new thrust followed what is called - "the voice of Doom". The voice consisted of a broadcast to the Germans in which the Americans boldly announced their intention to attack and advised the Nazi soldiers to surrender. This advice was promptly accepted by four German soldiers, who came over with their hands raised.

The next utterance of ^{the} voice of doom was of a different sort - much louder. A timed crash of five thousand shells hit a sector of the German lines, after which American infantry pushed forward. They captured a string of German positions, and four more Nazis came forward and surrendered as prisoners - answering the two-fold voice of doom.

AIR WAR

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In the air war against Nazi Germany, today was in striking contrast to the day of April eighth. On that occasion, American heavy bombers hit the city of Brunswick. This great aircraft manufacturing center lies within the defense belt of Berlin and the opposition was ferocious. The American air-mada lost thirty-four bombers and twenty-five fighters - with a-hundred-and-forty-eight Nazi planes shot down.

Today Brunswick was once again the target, and the aviation plants were smashed up in devastating fashion. So what were our bomber losses? None. Not a single one of the flying fortresses and Liberators in the attack failed to return. The German fighter defense was nil - in sharp contrast to that last previous bombing of Brunswick on April the eighth.

The American daylight assault was succeeded ^{as}
^{usual} ~~shown~~ by a British ^{night} attack in the subsequent hours of
darkness. ^P ~~The~~ late bulletin from London states that
tonight RAF bombers ^{hammered} ~~attacked~~ the Nazis at various
places, concentrating on Essen, Germany's greatest
~~armament~~ armament center.

HESS

Over in England there is a man who hears the roar of bombers overhead, and it has driven him nearly mad. He is Rudolf Hess, that strange prisoner of war in Britain - the former Number two Nazi who flew to Scotland on a fantastic mission of peace. At his place of detention somewhere in England Hess can hear the fleets of bombers overhead day and night as they fly to bomb Germany. He is a flier himself, and knows what it means - the doom of Naziland

Yet, they said that at first Hess was not impressed - so we are told by the London magazine "Commentator". "He thought at first," says the British periodical, "that we were putting on special fake shows to impress him." To which one can only remark that it would be like a meglomaniac Nazi to think that the air war was a spectacle staged for him alone.

2. HESS

This illusion vanished, however, as the loud thunder of the bombers continued day after day, week after week, month after month. And Hess began to realize that it was the real thing. He became more and more despondent, until now the roar of the bombers has almost driven him insane.

And today's news tells of two other high German prisoners of war, but of a very different temperament. They are Generals von Arnheim and von Thoma, who were captured in Tunisia and are prisoners in England. Being ground officers, they are interested principally in the second front invasion. How will it be launched - at what point and according to what line of strategy? They have plenty of time on their hands, and amuse themselves by working out possible Allied invasion plans.

PACIFIC

In the Pacific the usual assortment of Japanese bases have been bombed. In the Marshalls the last remaining atolls held by the Japs were blasted by one hundred and thirty eight tons of high explosive. And they were subjected to the most violent kind of ~~gunfire~~, strafing attacks.

~~These were extraordinarily heavy, with fighter planes of the Marine Corps firing more than twenty-three rounds of ammunition into the Japanese positions on one atoll alone.~~

All of which is taken to indicate that the mop-up in the Marshalls is in its final stage.

~~And the ^TJaps in Kuriles were hit once again, three ^{the} bases bombed and strafed.~~

~~In New Guinea we hear that the advance from the capture of Hollandia beachheads continues and the news of the seizure of two enemy air bases and nearby may come at any moment.~~

ADD PACIFIC

And still later news tells of ^a whole series of new blows against the Japs in the Kuriles. ¹⁷ In New Guinea ~~the~~ late information ^{tells of} the capture of two air bases in the Hollandia sector. After the swift blow that seized the town of Hollandia, American troops moved promptly against the real objectives -- three Jap flying fields. Two have been captured as just announced, and our forces are closing in on the third.

INDIA

The news from India is mostly about northern Burma, where the Chinese troops, commanded by General Stilwell have thrust forward for seven miles. They are now within thirty miles of the important enemy base of Mogaung. The news dispatch explains that General Stilwell's Chinese are hurrying to do what they can before the coming of the monsoon, the rains that tie up everything.

In India the Jap invasion forces have sustained another ^{sharp} ~~sharp~~ reverse in front of Imphal. There the British captured a strategic hill and seized large quantities of booty abandoned by the retreating Japs. At Kohima - only patrol activity is reported.

COCHRAN

Out of the sweltering, steaming jungle war in Burma, has come one of the great legends of the war, a legend featured by two names - Wingate and Cochran. British General Wingate, commander of the famous Jungle Raiders, who was killed in an airplane accident! and American colonel, Philip Cochran, of Erie, Pennsylvania, who represents the aerial phase of the Wingate epic! Yes, an almost fantastic legend - and in Washington I heard the inside story.

It was given to me by ~~Franklin~~ General H. H. Arnold commander of the Army Air Forces who reverted back to the days when offensive operations against the Japs in Burma were being planned. He told me how at that time he passed the word along to the various air force officers, asking them to pick out a particularly tough pilot, the toughest flyer of them all - and send him along.

"And so, one day," General Arnold related, "in walked a little Irishman. Tough?" "Why, from his attitude I thought he wanted to pick a fight with me," said the general.

His name was Phil Cochran, and he asked: "What am I here for, sir?" To which the general replied: "How would you like a difficult and dangerous assignment?"

"When and where," snapped the little Irishman. "Let's hear more about it."

General Arnold told him that the assignment had to do with the Burma jungle.

To which Cochran remarked: "That sounds like sissy stuff to me."

The general told him to keep his shirt on and, as for sissy stuff - it was something that people were saying was too tough to be possible. "I want you to take some planes," he explained, "hook gliders to them, and land troops a hundred and fifty miles behind the Japanese lines - land them at a secret point in the jungle, and at night."

3- COCHRAN

That made Cochran blink and take notice - it really was tough. And General Arnold went on to explain the plan, which eventually was to materialize in the shape of Wingate's Raiders and Cochran's glider fleet. In other words, the campaign of those fabulous jungle troops - called the Chindits.

Today we can see that from a military point of view, the failure of the Japanese invasion of India has been partly because of the operations of the Chindits in central Burma - where they have been slashing at enemy communications and supply lines and disrupting things generally for the Japs.

There was one thing that General Arnold did not tell me - a thing that I find stated in the Army newspaper, Yank. It is - that the whole thing, the almost incredible air-borne strategy of jungle war, originated with Hap Arnold himself.

4. COCHRAN

The first landing of Cochran and his glider fleet was in a secret jungle clearing, an abandoned rice paddy cut up by buffalo bogs and the footprints of elephants, and strewn with logs of teak. It was one of the most desperate landings on record, but they made it - and quickly turned the abandoned rice paddy into a landing field. Cochran's gliders came in every night for five nights - bringing Wingate's Raiders, the Chindits. And thereafter Cochran operated a regular glider supply line to the jungle fighters behind the Japanese lines.

Some of the things that happened were like a nightmare of the impossible. One glider, carrying a four thousand pound piece of machinery in its cabin, got out of control and came down directly between two trees, less than ten feet apart. The wings hit the trees and were ^h_hscared off and the sudden jar tore loose the piece of machinery in the cabin. The ponderous mass of metal shot forward, flew past the pilot and co-pilot, missing them luckily, and kept on right through the nose. That hunk of machinery smashed right through the nose and ended ten yards in front of the glider.

5. COCHRAN

Phil Cochran has still another name. You may know him by that moniker - Flip Corkin. General Arnold told me that the aerial hero of the jungle war in Burma is a close friend of Milton Caniff, who draws the comic strip, "Terry and the Pirates". In this, one fabulous fellow is Flip Corkin, who is modeled on Colonel Philip Cochran - the names have an obvious similarity. Anyway, Phil Cochran is the real life Flip Corkin.

~~(Note to Mr. T. - I left out the mention of Buck Rogers because it seems two comic strip references might be confusing.)~~

KELLY -

In Pittsburg, today, there were two disconcerted human beings. Both named Kelly. Now ~~xxxx~~ when a Kelly is discomfited, ^{that's news,} ~~it is really surprising.~~
But, take the case of Sergeant ~~Charlie~~ Commando Kelly and his mother, who is known by the simple name of -- Mom. ^R Today Commando Kelly and Mom sat in a position of high honor, ^{as} Pittsburg ~~and~~ paid homage to the Congressional Medal of Honor man, who in colossal exploits of valor, killed forty Germans in Italy, in a stately public square, ~~where~~ seven thousand people cheered, ^{and} ~~and~~ the band played - "Has Anybody Here Seen Kelly"
The President of the City Council whose name is Gallagher, read a War Department document praising the exploits of Kelly and a chorus of school girls sang -- "America The Beautiful". ^R Later, Commando Kelly and Mom led an automobile parade through the city, while thousands lined the sidewalks and showered them with confetti. Enough to make anybody happy you'd say. But Sergeant Kelly only blushed, he grew red in the face and red around the ears. And as for Mom, -- she cried all

the time.

Two victims of war and the glory of war -- so modest and unassuming that they were just embarrassed.

When a visitor to our shores is a bit discouraged, the proper thing would seem to be to speak some words of heartening good cheer. Sometimes, but not always. For example, ^{there's} ~~that of~~ Mrs. John Curtin, wife of the Prime Minister of Australia -- who today in Washington, expressed some misgivings. Mrs. Curtin was talking about Australian war brides who married American soldiers and are destined to make their homes in this country. The Prime Minister's wife said she thought that these war brides would be likely to have, what she called, "a rude awakening!"

She explained that Australian girls visualize a wife's life in America in terms of the movies -- glittering cafe society and gorgeous pent houses. Mrs. Curtin added that her visit to America has convinced her that some of these Australian war brides may find themselves, not ^{in the} ~~only not~~ glowing glamour and millionaire-surroundings portrayed by the movies, but in just plain American small towns and even on the farm. ^R"The trouble," she said, "is that Australian girls

~~do not~~ know about America, ^{only} from the movies. They think they are going into a big city with plenty of help, but some will find themselves on farms."

Yes, that's only too true -- and some of these

Australian war brides may have the good sense to prefer ^{the} decent plainness of an American farm to all the ^{hoopla} ~~fake~~ ^{night club glitter} and ~~phony of life as~~ pictured in the movies.

2. BRITISH BATHS

1/2
All of which may be true but I hope his Lordship doesn't emulate those lads from Africa by going without that luxury for three months. Even his flowing robes and lordly ermine as a peer of the realm might not be able to disguise the consequences.

As for ~~Hugh~~ and me —
we can hardly wait for Saturday night, and our week-day bath, can we ~~Hugh~~? Roger.

Wed. Apr. 26
Dropped from late,

MONTGOMERY WARD

Here is the latest - soldiers of the Army have just been called upon to take over Montgomery Ward and Company Chicago. This follows the company refusal to abide by an order issued by President Roosevelt - an order directing Government authorities to assume control of the company, its property is to be administered by the Department of Commerce.

The President's order was presented to Montgomery Ward, but the head of the company refused to abide by it - said it wasn't legal. And the next thing - Presidential instructions to Secretary of War Stimson to take any action that might be necessary.

and followed.
Action ~~was necessary~~. After a two-hour conference this afternoon between Under-Secretary of Commerce Taylor and company president Sewell Avery, the Army was summoned to take over Montgomery Ward.

BRITISH BASES

There was criticism in Congress today because of a statement made by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill concerning the bases that were leased to the United States - under the fifty destroyer deal. Congress has passed a resolution recommending that we acquire permanent possession of these bases. Today Churchill was asked about this, and he said - no "There is not", he declared "the slightest question of the cession of British territories; not the slightest," he reiterated.

That Churchill pronouncement isn't going so well in Congress, where various legislators repeat their support of the recommendation that we acquire permanent possession of the bases.

3. HESS

We hear that the two Nazi generals don't agree. One has worked out one kind of plan, while another has doped out a different sort of strategy. And each is sure that his plan will be followed. They are so keen about it that they have made a private bet between themselves, on which plan the Allies will use for the second front invasion. They have a cool detached interest - these two professional warriors.

Dropped from late broadcast.

BOMBING PROTEST

A new protest against the Allied bombings of Nazi cities was made public in London today - the Bishop of Birmingham joining other Anglican churchmen who denounce the obliteration air assaults designed to wipe out Nazi cities.

The Bishop of Birmingham describes the obliteration strategy in these words: "A new and horrible development of warfare which ought to be an outrage to the christian conscience" He addressed his observation to what is called - "The bombing restriction committee", a British organization opposed to air assaults that kill large numbers of civilians.

BRITISH BATHS

Anyone who has lived or traveled in England, will experience a twinge of nostalgic reminiscence upon hearing the following - about British bathtubs. Or rather - the lack of them. They're really not necessary, don't you know.

This was stated today in the London House of Lords, where the question of bathtubs was discussed by a seventy-eight year old Peer of the realm - Lord Maugham, who at one time was Lord Chancellor of England. His Lordship declared that baths are largely unnecessary luxuries.

"As pleasant as it is to have a daily bath", says he, "it is not really necessary to health. Many lads who came back from Africa," his Lordship argued, "have not had a bath in three months - and they will tell you that they were none the worse. A bath, very largely, is a luxury," Lord Maugham concluded.