

L. S. March 9, 1944. Sun *Thursday.*
AIR WAR *Standard.*

The once proud capital of the Kaisers was still blazing from the terrific bombardment of yesterday, when the Fortresses and Liberators arrived over it again today for the third attack in four days.

Again they were escorted by an almost equally great armada of fighter-planes.

A story from Washington says that these concentrated attacks on Hitler's capital are just an experiment, to discover whether it is possible for air power to compel the complete evacuation of a city. Such, we are told, is the belief of military experts on the banks of the Potomac; based on reports from Stockholm, and from Switzerland, reports that the Nazi government is considering whether or not to abandon Berlin. It is considered significant that the big planes have been concentrating more on the dropping of incendiary bombs than on explosives.

We hear today that these three great American air assaults on Berlin have done as much damage as the best

three nights the Royal Air Force ever had in its attacks on Hitler's capital.

The correspondent of a Swiss newspaper says that today's holocaust destroyed not only apartments and streets, but also the last hope that the Germans had in the effectiveness of their ground defenses.

Travelers who arrived in Stockholm from Germany reported that all Wednesday night big fires burned in the industrial suburbs of Berlin.

Secretary of War Stimson had something to say today about the Berlin air raids. They have shown, he told his press conference, that daylight no longer is any protection for German cities.

Neither flak, nor fighter defenses, nor clouds, nor fog can stop the Allies from smashing the big German towns. From now on, there will be no rest for them, said our War Secretary.

Late tonight we learned that not only Berlin, but Hannover was bombed by General Doolittle's airmen on this latest air assault on Germany.

RUSSIA

The Soviet forces have won victory on a different part of their long battle line. This time the Third Army of the Ukraine, under General Malinovisky. The announcement comes directly from Premier Stalin. Malinovisky's men forced the passage of the Ingulets River in the Southern Ukraine and drove the Germans back on a front a hundred-and-six-miles long. They advanced at some points nineteen miles and at others thirty-seven miles. And in so doing, they penetrated the Easternmost positions of Hitler's Army. Marshall Stalin reports that to do this the Third Ukraine Army defeated three German tank divisions and six infantry divisions, and captured two cities and two hundred smaller places, in the Nicolaef region, near the Black Sea and Southwest of Krivoi Rog.

~~In addition to the approaching so close to the Black Sea,
the Malinovsky Army cut the railroad between Nikolaef and Dolinskya.
That ~~put~~ away from the Germans the last longitudinal supply line
they had inside the Bend of the Dniester river.~~

For three days, the Germans had been admitting that violent battles were being fought beyond Krivoi Rog; but, ~~all along~~ they have been claiming that the Russians were ^{being} repulsed. Now even the commentator of the official Nazi news agency admits the Red Army has accomplished a major breach in the German lines southwest of Krivoi Rog.

Another Soviet column, under General Zhukov, is advancing on the railroad between Odessa and Lwow. In fact, that vanguard of Zhukov's is only seven miles⁵ from Proskoróv, an important junction on that railroad.

Later, ~~in the day, Premier~~ Stalin, as chief Marshal of the Red

Army, came out with another announcement, a second order of the day.

^{That}
^ the Red Army has captured another most important place in the Ukraine,

a big German defense ^{area} ~~place~~ near Proskur'ov. ^{TP} ~~(correct)~~ And, at latest

reports one of the Red columns in the Western Ukraine was actually

fighting in the streets of Tarnopol, ^{a vital} ~~an important~~ rail junction in

old Poland. [#] The latest movements of the Soviet armies indicates that

Stalin has mapped out a pincers movement in the hope of trapping the

^{armies}
German [#] in and around Proskur'ov.

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~~(note to LT: Stand by for a late Pacific story which will not be~~

~~released until six pm)~~

ITALY

Extra not counted

The fighting in Italy today has been almost entirely in the air. Both Allied and German air forces have been raiding each other's supply lines. ~~There is every~~ ^{The} indication ^{still are} that Kesselring is preparing for a fourth attack on the Fifth Army ~~lines~~ ^{at} the Anzio beachhead. It is intimated that this may be decisive attack, consequently the Allied planes have been bombing every German supply route and particularly the ^Mmarshalling yards at Rome.

In the mediterranean, a formation of fifty German planes attacked a large Allied convoy off the coast of North Africa. They were met by a defense force of Airacobras flown by French pilots and Beaufort fighters of the Royal Air Force. Five German planes were shot down, and the convoy continued its course undisturbed, although, the Germans claim to have damaged five transports.

Prime Minister Churchill indicated today that Russia is not going to get any Italian warships. He told the House of Commons that the Allied governments are not going to make any immediate change in the status or disposition of the Italian Fleet. The subject has been under discussion, he admitted, and there was some question of reinforcing the Soviet Navy either from the Anglo-American Fleet or ^{from the} ~~of~~ Italian resources. Italian ships and Italian crews are now taking part in the common struggle against the enemy in theatres where they operate, and that situation will not be altered, *said Churchill.*

STRIKE

That strike of coal miners which began in Wales has spread to Scotland. And it shows signs of growing no better. Already some ninety-seven thousand Welch and Scottish miners have struck. All of which may constitute a grave threat to the prosecution of the war. If it continues, it may delay the date of invasion.

The war effort of the Allies is also being impeded by strikes in Australia. These have been so persistent that the Coal Commissioner of the Commonwealth has taken over the mines on behalf of the government.

PACIFIC

In the Pacific there has been a Japanese attack on American positions at Eniwetok. The first time the enemy has struck back at us out there since our Marines, Infantry and Navy seized Kwajalein Atoll on February Twenty-Second.

But it all ended with our planes dropping Thirty-Seven more tons of explosives on five enemy positions in the Marshalls. Thirty-Seven tons sounds trifling, if we are thinking of the tonnage which the RAF and U. S. Eight Army Air Force have been dropping on Berlin. But, Thirty-Seven tons dropped on a small area in the Marshalls is the equivalent of a much larger volume in a European raid.

The U. S. planes started fires and destroyed Jap installations and vessels.

PACIFIC

We learn today that the force of American Cavalrymen which captured Momote on Los Negros Island was only a thousand strong and held the place against four thousand Japs. It's spoken of as one of the most audacious operations in the entire Southwest Pacific campaign. Today nearly all the four thousand Japs are dead, and the American troops are in full control of Los Negros.

Today we also learn that Uncle Sam's Navy is making still more progress with its campaign to cut the life lines of the Japanese Island Empire in the Pacific. Our Submarines sinking sixteen more ships, including five transports and one tanker.

PACIFIC

More news from General Mac Arthur; his fighting men on the Northern coast of the island of New Britain are nearing the town of Talasea, and may capture it anytime now. Our people are using tanks in this South Pacific battle.

In an air battle over the Northern coast of New Guinea, the first in weeks, American fliers shot down seventeen Jap planes, definitely, and probably ten others. Our losses were slight says Mac Arthr's report.

Meanwhile more than one hundred bombers and fighters from the Solomons have again raided the area around Rabaul, dropped some fifty-six tons of bombs. Also Kavieng on New Ireland.

Tokyo reports that the navy and troops of the Mikado have



begun a general attack on American bases on Bougainville island. The Berlin radio went so far as to claim that the Japs had taken one of our airdromes these and had almost completed the capture of another.

Gen. McArthur
~~our own high command~~ has nothing to say about that.

Secretary of War Stimson announced this afternoon that ^{on} ~~the~~ total of ~~the~~ casualties of ~~our armed services~~ now amounts to ~~one~~ - hundred and sixty-two thousand, two hundred and eighty-two. Of these, by far the largest number ^{are} ~~were~~ in the army.

But the Secretary also told us something ^{that's} ~~which is~~ good to hear. The chance of ^a ~~our~~ wounded soldiers ^{ing} ~~for survival~~ in this war is nearly twice as great as it was ^{in World War One.} ~~twenty-five years ago~~. And that is based on ~~actual figures~~. The Surgeon General has reported to the Secretary that only three-percent of American wounded have died in this war as compared with six-point-one percent during the last World War.

^{Which} ~~That~~ is all the more remarkable, when you consider that some of our battle fronts today are in the tropics. That ~~naturally brings~~ a ~~great increase in the number of men who need to be hospitalized~~ for ~~diseases~~. But, we should not let that alarm us. The ~~annual average death rate from tropical diseases in our armed forces has~~ been only ~~one-half of one per~~ - thousand.

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(NOTE: ~~IT: Have sent the above just as insurance in case the Navy story does not amount to much.~~)

General Holcomb becomes a diplomat; ~~yes~~, General Thomas Holcomb, the man who brought the U. S. Marine Corps to the greatest height of fighting efficiency in it's history. It was only two months ago that he retired as Commandant of the Leathernecks and today President Roosevelt announced his nomination as Uncle Sam's minister to the Union of South Africa.

The President ^{also} announced several other nominations today, but ^{few} ~~some~~ of the names means ^{much} ~~anything~~ to us except ^{Gen.} Holcomb's. The General receives an exceedingly pleasant post. Capetown is an attractive city, and the climate of South Africa is ideal, ^{even if the political situation down there is explosive and ticklish.}

ROONEY

~~The fans~~ ^{fans} of Mickey Rooney will be interested to know ^{what} ~~that he~~
~~may soon be in the armed forces of the United States.~~ ^{happened today.} His draft
board at various times has classified him as one-A, four-F and then
again one-A. He wanted to go to war but the doctors said no, heart
trouble and high blood pressure. But today ^{Mickey} ~~he~~ passed the army physical
examination and expects to be called for active duty in three weeks.

Somewhere in North Africa, there is going to be a ceremony in which the principal actor ^{is} Sergeant Charles Kelly of Pittsburgh, Pa. ~~Pennsylvania.~~ ^{Kelly is} Charlie ~~is only~~ ^{Charlie} one of seven sons of Mrs. Irene Kelly, ^{seven are} all ⁱⁿ the armed forces. Kelly's record of distinction began September thirteenth in Italy. He was then only a first class private. The officers called for volunteers for a patrol and Kelly became one of them. That patrol managed to find several dangerous Nazi machine gun positions, knocked them out, and thereby eliminated a serious obstacle to the advance of the United States Army on that sector.

^{TR} The next thing Charlie Kelly of Pittsburgh did was ~~to~~ walk and crawl for a ~~whole~~ mile under a withering fire from enemy machine guns, rifles and mortars to get information about one of the strong points of the Nazis. Then he joined another patrol and helped ~~to~~ destroy some more machine gun nests. ^{TR} An army report uses these words: "Having effectively fired his weapon until all the ammunition was exhausted Kelly secured permission to obtain more at an ammunition dump."

^{TR} That dump was located near a store house on the extreme flank of

Kelly's regiment. When he arrived there he found the Nazis were attacking furiously. When he got his ammunition, he was detailed to the job of protecting the rear of the store house. This he did, holding his position throughout the entire night.

On the following morning, the Germans attacked again. When one of the American machine gunners was killed, Kelly took over his station. He fired so quickly that two automatic rifles became overheated.

Then, says the citation, Kelly picked up sixty millimeter mortar shells, pulled the safety pins, and using the shells as hand grenades, killed ^{ing} at least five of the enemy.

It presently became apparent that we could not hold on to that storehouse and must retreat. Kelly volunteered to take over the job of protecting the retreat, ignoring the warning of his Sergeant to come away from there.

"As the detachment moved out," said the citation, "Kelly was observed deliberately loading and firing a rocket-launcher from a window."

As other men in Kelly's regiment put it "where there is a tough battle, there 'is Kelly." and that 'is why, next Saturday somewhere in Africa Technical Sergeant Charles E. Kelly, only twenty-three years old, will receive the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The government of his most Britannic Majesty is going into the business of teaching basic English. What is more, Uncle Sam's government is probably going to do the same.

All this we hear not from Washington, but from London. Prime Minister Winston Churchill told it in the House of Commons today. "His Majesty's government," said the Prime Minister, "are impressed with the great advantage which would result from the development of basic English, not as a substitute for the established language but as a supplement." Then he added that ^{TP} ~~he~~ ^{when he} discussed the matter with the President of the United States ~~and~~ he learned that the teaching of Basic English plays a very considerable part in the United States in respect to foreigners, ^{— — —} teaching citizens who have not completely mastered the English language.

All of which will be news to most Americans. As a matter of fact, there is an article in the current Harpers Magazine, ^{by one} ~~whose~~ [^] ~~writes~~ ^{who} Rudolf Flesch, points out that Basic English is neither basic nor English. ^{that} So far from achieving simplicity of diction, it does the very opposite. ^{that} If you stick to basic English, you actually

to have to use more words than you do in ordinary English. For instance, if you want to translate the sentence, "meet my cousin Mary" into basic English, it becomes: "Come across Mary, my father's sister's daughter."

And here's another sentence: "We ate an old fashioned holiday dinner with Turkey and pumpkin pie." If you want to express that in basic English, you say something like this: "We took as food a chief meal of a day of rest from work, not in the taste of the present day, with a great bird and a great round yellow fruit with hard skin and a great number of seeds, covered with paste and cooked in the oven!"

~~Huh, well, here's Ben, with a few words of everyday English - hope.~~

1/2 If I had more time I'd try to introduce ^{Ben} ~~him~~ in Basic English. But evidently in that it would take many sentences just to say: here's Ben.

SMALL BUSINESS

If small business is to be preserved, some exceedingly strong measures must be taken. So says Ex-Congressman Maury Maverick, chairman of the small war plants corporation.

For some time it has been no secret that small business was in a bad way. If we are going to save it, we ~~shall~~ have to quit treating it as a stepchild.

Chairman Maverick points out that the destruction of small business in other countries has been a prelude to Fascism. The first thing that happened in Germany, he said, was cartels. Between them they crushed little business. Thereupon the government took over the management even of big business. When that occurred, little business starved to death.