

L. J. - Sunaco. Wednesday, July 25, 1945-

The stupendous air assault against the Japanese fleet continues. Today twelve hundred carrier planes continued the attacks that began yesterday.

It is more obvious than ever that the sustained air blow has the decisive purpose of knocking out the remainder of the Japanese fleet. The carrier plane assault, which yesterday went to work on the naval base at Kure, was extended today to another big Japanese naval stronghold - Kobe, where Jap warships had taken refuge. Both were assailed by all day bombing.

The Japs put up a ferocious resistance. The anti-aircraft fire was so heavy that one pilot said ~~that~~ the innumerable shell-bursts looked like what he called "a huge flower garden in the sky".

The latest word is, however, that the anti-aircraft fire has been smashed to a considerable extent. A myriad of strafing planes have been shooting up the batteries of guns on the ground, knocking them out with ~~shell~~ ^{aerial cannon} fire and rockets.

The Japs, in fact, seem to be resorting to their second or third ~~ix~~ line gun crews, because one American strafing pilot today said that the gunners on the ground looked like a bunch of bank clerks. They were dressed in civilian clothes - and they scurried to ~~xx~~ cover like frightened civilians, when the strafing planes roared over.

The Jap air force was out in a desperate attempt to save the remnants of the Mikado's Navy, and great sky battles were fought, one significant description is that the dogfights were thickest over Jap air bases. Meaning - that the American fighter planes were hitting the trouble at the source, knocking down Japs right over their own home grounds.

The weather was not too good today for bombing. There was fog and storm, and yet high explosive found its way to major targets - big Japanese warships. At least seven sea giants were hit yesterday and today's assault has reduced Jap naval

strength to what tonight's dispatch calls - just about ~~na~~ zero.

One pilot tells how he hit a thirty-thousand ton battleship with a thousand pound bomb. Ensign Glenn Even of San Diego, California, relates: "I dove into a cloud and, coming, out I saw two battleships, big as life, in fact bigger than life. I dropped my bomb, and saw it blast the superstructure of one". To this the pilot adds: "I know that the plane ahead of me also got a hit on that same ship".

Another battleship was hit by shattering explosive and so were two cruisers, a light cruiser and two aircraft carriers. To which list you can add others, about which the news has not yet come in.

To the carrier assault on the warships, the B-29s today added their own collaboration. That's getting to be the pattern - the one-two punch of naval planes in swarms, and, of superfortresses in ~~pm~~ ponderous formations. Today the targets for the B-29s were three

vital Japanese ~~xxx~~ oil refineries, ~~major~~ major producers ~~xxx~~ of gasoline for the enemy air force. The word is that the Japs are short of gasoline, and that will make them shorter.

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Lt. General Kenny stated some things today that will have a mighty ominous ring in Tokyo. He said that our combat planes in the Pacific now number five thousand, and that figure will soon be doubled. It won't be long before ten thousand fighting planes are in operation ~~xx~~ against Japan. Its just a question of redeployment, and, when the shifting of air power to the far Pacific is complete, five-thousand-ton-bomb raids against Japan will be the regular order of the day.

"It will be the greatest massing of air power the world has ever seen", remarked General Kenny; and he added, " the Japs might as well know about this. They won't be able to do anything about it anyway".

You can warn somebody in advance that an earthquake is coming, and it won't make any difference

whether he knows about it or not. He can't stop the earthquake.

That's the Kenney line of reasoning, as the General went on to predict that the coming American invasion of Japan will be just a matter of walking ashore. The weight of explosive hurled upon the Japs will be such that their capacity for resistance will be knocked out in advance. General Kenney put it ~~in~~ *this way:* - ~~these words~~ "I ~~expect~~ expect our troops will go ~~in~~ ashore anywhere with an almost total lack of opposition as they walk up the beaches".

BIG THREE

There was headline importance in a mere routine announcement today, somebody arriving in London. That somebody -- Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander in southeast Asia. The announcement added that Lord Louis Mountbatten had returned to London from the Potsdam Conference, where he had taken part in the meeting of the Big Three. The specific statement was made that Mountbatten had conferred not only with Prime Minister Churchill and President Truman, but also ^{with} Soviet Generalissimo Stalin.

The importance of this lies, of course, in the fact that the Mountbatten southeast Asia command has to do entirely with the war against Japan. Soviet Russia is not at war with Japan, but here we have Mountbatten conferring with Stalin, as well as Churchill and Truman.

You can draw your own inferences - as to what that may mean ^{and} the question of Soviet Russia joining in the war against the Japs.

Otherwise, the Big Three Conference is marking time while Prime Minister Churchill is in London ^a waiting for the ^{election} returns. ~~of the British election~~
The Big Three held a brief meeting before Churchill's departure, ~~than~~ an adjournment.

It is announced that President Truman is going to see General Eisenhower at Frankfurt tomorrow. At this German city Eisenhower will hold a big review of the eighty-fourth infantry division for the President to inspect.

Here's a late story, word that President Truman, immediately upon his return from Potsdam, will give the American people a radio report of the results of the conference of the Big Three. The President will broadcast to the nation, and discuss the decisions made ^{at} the Stalin-Churchill-Truman ^{get together,} ~~palaver~~.

PETAÏN

In France the trial of Marshal Petain worked up to a height of French dramatics today. Testimony this afternoon was given by former President Lebrun, head of the Republic at the time of the fall of France. LeBrun was old and shaking. His voice was weak and trembled with tense emotion. He gave a picture of the final collapse, as witnessed by the President of France.

He described the historic cabinet meeting that marked the end. He said that the British Prime Minister was there, together with Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, and British Labor Leader Clement Attlee. While the French Cabinet deliberated what to do in the face of defeat, a message was received from President Roosevelt.

Lebrun today stated that the President assured the French that the United States would never recognize territorial changes resulting from German aggression. Roosevelt added that he was sorry he could not offer any more substantial help, because in
— quoting Mr. Roosevelt: —
Lebrun's words today — "only congress can put armies
in motion".

The decisive event at the fateful cabinet meeting was the reading of a letter from General Weygand, who had taken command of the collapsing French armies. Weygand described the ~~xxx~~ hopelessness of the military situation. Then the decision was made to seek an Armistice with Germany. ^{And} The majority of the cabinet was for it.

} Premier Reynaud resigned. Whereupon President Lebrun asked Marshal Petain to form a new government. Today Lebrun stated that Petain pulled a list from his pocket and said -- "there's my government".

This point, the matter of the list, is being brought up against Petain to prove that he had plotted to take power. Today he was asked about the list. All along the aged Marshal had refused to answer questions, and this time he did not give a direct answer, but spoke in a whisper to his lawyers. He said -- "I may have thought of several names, but the list I had in my pocket was not the final one".

The attitude of Lebrun toward ^{Petaine}was - that he could not understand. He spoke of the Marshal having reached the height of glory and said: "What disbolical fate made him do this is something to which I cannot find the answer".

Lebrun's testimony was preceded by fervid oratory from former French Premier Daladier. After having criticized Petaine rather temperately yesterday, Daladier today assailed him with flaming French eloquence -- a roaring voice and violent gesticulations.

At one point a question was addressed to the aged Marshal - about a telegram of congratulations that Petaine is said to have sent to Hitler after the British raid on Dieppe, the raid that failed with such heavy losses. Petaine seemed not to hear. All along he listened, weak and tired, with one hand cupped to his ear - as if trying to catch the sounds. Now he declared he hadn't heard what was being said because he was hard of hearing.

The question about his telegram to Hitler was put to him in such fashion that he could understand it, whereupon he fell back upon his contention that he refused to answer questions.

~~Later~~ ^{and} then a copy of that telegram was produced in court; Petain's congratulations to Hitler.

ELECTION

Tonight in London Prime Minister Winston Churchill is waiting for tomorrow -- waiting to find out whether he has won or lost the election. The count of votes that the British people cast on July Fifth will be disclosed tomorrow, at five P.M. London time, noon eastern war time. Ever since July Fifth, the tabulation of the votes has gone on- principally a matter of adding British soldier ballots from all around the globe to the totals cast in Britain. And the world is waiting for the result.

They are waiting in Potsdam - Generalissimo Stalin, President Truman, and the others who have been taking part in the conference of the Big Three. They are waiting with especial interest in such countries as Greece, Belgium, Spain -- countries in which a change of British Foreign Policy might mean much.

In Greece, for example, public meetings have been forbidden for the rest of the week - because of the tension over the British election. The British are in control of Greece, where there's been such bitter strife between left wing and right wing elements-

--and a labor party victory, with left wing tendencies, might change the Greek situation a lot. So there's fear of outbreaks in the ancient land of Pericles, outbreaks because of ballots cast in London, Manchester, Liverpool.

The belief in London tonight is that Churchill has not won a clearcut victory. The British reckoning is that, to have a working majority in Parliament, Churchill's ~~is~~ Conservative Party will ~~win~~ have to win a majority in Parliament, Churchill's Conservative party will have to win a majority ~~of~~ ^{of} fifty seats. The experts consider this most unlikely. Nor do they believe that the Labor Party has won the majority.

The expectation is that the figures to be disclosed tomorrow will show that Churchill either ^{has} won a skimpy and indecisive majority or that neither the Conservatives nor laborites will have a majority. That would mean the Liberal Party will have a balance of power, and that Churchill to keep control of the British Government, will have to form a coalition with

the Liberals. ^{Which might} ~~That sort of thing would~~ put British politics in a shaky condition -- and nobody knows how the whole thing would work out.

HERO

Here's one of those ironical stories of what might seem to be the incredible - almost the impossible. At Houston, Texas, a Marine Corps Sergeant has pleaded guilty to taking a bribe for assisting a civilian who dodged the draft. And he turns out to be the most decorated hero of World War One.

~~Sergeant "Wild Bill" Feigle, in that previous conflict, earned more medals for heroism than even the legended Sergeant York - seventeen in all!~~
Wild Bill of the Marines won the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, two Purple Hearts, the Silver Star with two Oak Leaves, the French Croix de Guerre, and medals awarded by three French cities. He was honored by cities with names famous in the First World War -- Verdun, St. Michiel, Chateau Thierry.

~~There has been many an argument about who really was the top hero of the A E F of those days. Sergeant York gained the greatest fame - and then there was Sergeant Dan Edwards, who twice in rapid succession was recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was granted one Congressional Medal, and~~

~~the Distinguished Service Cross in lieu of the other.~~
~~And then there was Capt. now Maj. Sam Woolfill,~~
~~At the same time, many thought that the top of them~~
~~all for sheer ~~xxx~~ heroism ~~xx~~ in battle was Wild Bill~~
~~of the Marines.~~

At Houston, Texas, ~~Sergeant Feigle, now,~~
~~forty-seven years old, was in charge of the Leatherneck~~
~~recruiting office,~~ ^{Feigle} a civilian who took a Marine Corps
medical examination, wanted to dodge the draft - on
phony grounds of medical disability. He bribed "Wild
Bill" and another sergeant to alter the record, paying
them each \$25.00. A mere Twenty-five dollars for the
draft dodging fraud to which the hero of the previous
World War pleaded guilty today.

DEER .

Here's the cockeyed story of the day. A Fishing boat put into Gloucester, Massachusetts, with a catch that consisted of hundreds of pounds of fish - and two deer.

The fishermen were working with their nets, when what did they see? Up swamped two deer - and this was five miles out on the ocean. The fishermen took the two exhausted animals aboard their boats along with the ^{or} loads of fish - making it a curious catch, indeed, to bring back to port. Caught in nets at sea - two deer,

CHOW CHAMPION

The Marines who perform such prodigies of valor in battle, are acclaiming another kind of prodigy tonight -- a chow champion. He ~~is~~ has the right kind of name - Private Earl Wolfe. He just wolfs it down.

Previously an Army soldier won some publicity with a display of wolfish appetite. This was not acclaimed so highly by the Army doctors, who described him as - an exhibitionist.

The reaction of the Marines, however, was different - competitive. They have gone ahead and produced a ~~is~~ chow champion of their own.

At Camp Pendleton, Private Earl Wolfe certainly did justify his name when mess time came around. "Wolfe eats like a wolf" said his buddies. So they decided to see how much he really could consume. They took him to a restaurant, agreeing to pay the check. And here's what he ate:

Twelve fish dinners, each with an order of French fried potatoes, a combination salad, and a dessert of jello - four ~~quarts~~ quarts of milk, four

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glasses of orange juice, three malted milks, six pints of ice cream, five cherry pies, six sandwiches and five tomato salads.

The check came to twenty-eight dollars and forty-five cents. His ~~xxx~~ buddies^S paid it, acclaiming ^{him:} - chow champion Wolfe.

And now here's our Blue Sunoco champion, Hugh: —