

AFRICA

A report late this afternoon states that Tripoli has fallen. *An*

enemy broadcast quotes

radio morocco broadcast is quoted as saying that the British

have taken the City. This is in line with reports all day that the place was about to fall. Apparently the Axis forces were putting up no real defense, were conducting nothing more than rear guard actions.

The British closed in swiftly, and captured all important defensive

positions. *TR* Radio Morrocco reported that General Montgomery's eight

army had seized nearby heights dominating Tripoli, and from these

vantage points *B* British artillery was bombarding the city.

So it's likely enough that right now the British are marching into

that ornate metropolis on the shore of Libya. *TR* It's an historic

place, a famous haunt of the *pirates* ~~Barbary pirates~~ of old, whose corsairs

terrorized the mediterranean for centuries.

TR A London story indicates that the British eight army has sent out a strong column to by-pass Tripoli to the south, in an attempt to cut off the Nazi Afrika Korps. *TR* The army that once won victories for Rommel is retreating toward Tunisia, and its route leads to the south of Tripoli. A fast British column by-passing the city might be able to get around in front of the Afrika Korps and catch it in

a trap. However, the probabilities would seem to be that the German force that mere weeks ago was at the gates of Alexandria would be able to make its way into Tunisia and join the Axis units there.

These units ^{even} seem to be scoring some success in driving allied troops back at one point. Today's news tells ^{us} that the Germans are continuing to thrust forward in Northeastern Tunisia - south of Pont du Fahs. Two armored columns are striking down parallel valleys. In that sector, French troops, who came over to the side of the United Nations, have been driven back for some miles. Axis advances have been reported on previous days, and another push is in the news today - that double drive by two columns through parallel valleys.

BURTON HOLMES

We are all interested in North Africa, now that hundreds of thousands of our American boys are fighting over there. And one of the best ways to find out about North Africa - Dakar, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Malta, Libya, and on to Suez - one of the simplest ways to learn more about it, is to go and hear Burton Holmes. And by the way, this is his fiftient season, on the platform, telling us about this rapidly changing world. That's an all-time record. And it probably will never be broken again. There is only one Burton Holmes.

R A F

British air power struck at the Nazis again today. London tells us that the R A F carried out what it called "Large Scale offensive operations over Belgium and Northern France."

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Meanwhile, a London spokesman of the inter-allied supreme command broadcast a warning to the people of occupied France. The spokesman told them that their territory would become a theatre of war operations. He referred to the fortifications the Nazis are building along the French Mediterranean coast, and the use of the harbors of Marseilles and Toulon as submarine bases. He said the allies would not allow the Germans to proceed unmolested, and warned ^{the} French people to stay away from military areas that are likely to be bombed.

FORTRESS

And now let's consider the definition of a word, the word -
Fortress. A Fortress is a strong place that can take a lot of
punishment, and still keep on shooting. With that definition in
mind, let's go on to note that no mistake was made when the name
was given to that giant type of american bomber - the Flying

And
Fortress. From the news today we have *another* story to illustrate *this*.

London tells us how a ~~F~~ortress was flying back to its base after
bombing the Nazis in France. Enemy fighter planes appeared, and
six of them, diving in pairs, attacked the ~~F~~ortress. They got in
some well aimed shots with their cannon, and shells burst inside
of the big bomber.

The tail gunner, staff sergeant C S Johns of California, knocked
down two of the Nazi fighters, which fell in flames. But just then
a cannon shell ~~p~~ierced the rear gun turrett, and exploded. The
heat of the explosion was so intense that an oxygen mask nearby
melted, and the ammunition box caught fire. The crew put out the
blaze, and went on shooting. Technical Sergeant Oliver Moore of
New Brighton, Pennsylvania, bagged a third enemy plane, which flamed
and fell.

~~and~~
More Nazis showed up, and attacked. How many? Technical Sergeant Richard Sutterfield of Fairmont, West Virginia, gives the answer in this West Virginian fashion; "They were thicker than revenue officer^s in the mountains," says he.

The shells bursting inside the bomber tossed the crew around like the pins in a bowling alley. Technical Sergeant Joseph Morris of Miami, Florida, was hurled with such force that he was paralyzed *for a few moments.* The pilot, Captain Tribbet of Thornton, Indiana, was thrown from the controls by the concussion of a shell, and co-pilot Lieutenant H T Reardon of West Los Angeles was knocked out of his seat. And the **F**ortress was left without anybody flying it.

Damaged by the shell fire, the giant bomber plunged and took a dive of seven thousand feet. It was three thousand feet from the ground when the half stunned pilot managed to pick himself up and get back to the controls. He brought the ship out of the dive, and got it back to its base in Britain. So you see there is no mistake when they call them - Flying Fortresses.

RUSSIA

The latest important point captured by the Russians is the city of Salsk—a key railroad junction in the north caucasus. Salsk is a hundred miles southeast of Rostov, and its loss is another ~~and~~ heavy blow to the system of railway communications on which the Nazis must depend. ^{TP} The most impressive news of the grave situation of the Germans in southern Russia comes, not from Moscow today, but from Berlin. The German High Command announces bluntly that its army before Stalingrad is surrounded and that Red Army forces have broken through its defenses. The Hitler High Command uses these words; "The German group in Stalingrad is closely encircled by the enemy." And ^{Berlin} the official communique goes on to state that Soviet forces have crashed through from the west and have compelled the Nazi ^s before Stalingrad to withdraw their lines.

^{TP} So now the German people know that the army which so proudly was supposed to take Stalingrad has been encircled and faces annihilation. It consisted of twenty-two divisions in the first place, but the Russians now say that heavy losses have ^{vastly} reduced it, ~~so much that it can now be counted by the thousands.~~

The German High Command today made another grave admission - stating

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that along the entire southern front the Soviet armies are
breaking through.

Speaking of the movement of German troops in the Caucasus , the
Berlin bulletin uses this phraseology - "They have detached
themselves from the enemy." Which is Nazi language for admitting
setbacks - retreats.

NORTH CONWAY

There are some thousands of young men in this country who are wondering tonight whether they may not soon be fighting in Russia. I mean the men of our mountain and sky regiments. Not that they have been told they are likely to go to Russia. But they are being trained to fight across the snow and in the mountains. And that might mean Russia. Or it might mean Norway, when we get ready to invade there. Or it might mean the Brenner Pass country after Italy collapses and the United Nations get ready to storm their way into Central Europe.

At any rate, the call has gone out again for more young men of the out-of-doors, to join our mountain troops who are now training high up in the Rockies of Colorado.

I came up to North Conway, New Hampshire, this morning with a crowd of young men who are training and

hoping to join the U.S. Ski troops. They came here to get a preliminary workout under the old maestro, the veteran of them all, Hannes Schneider, and his corps of experts, Benno and Toni and the rest.

Lester Sprague of North Conway made a remark to me this afternoon, that I thought rather striking. Said he:- "Skiing is the only sport that has actually supplied troops for the American Army. So, ski, and get tough, and join the Army!"

JAP PRISONERS.

On this island of Guadalcanal, there is one place that you would not expect to be so cheerful and gay - the camp where Japanese prisoners are kept. You picture captured Japs as sullen and nasty, and they are that - at first. When made prisoner, they behave themselves with sour resentment. But presently they realize that they are being treated like human beings - and are fed more than they ever got in their own army. ^{Whereupon} their demeanor changes. They get over their sullenness, ^{they} and chatter and laugh.

^{Jap prisoners} The marine officers permit them to have self - government, ^{So} writes sergeant Samuel Shaffer, marine corps combat correspondent,

The Japs arrange their own entertainment program every night. ^{And,} They

go in mostly for wrestling and American jazz. The favorite song at the Guadalcanal prison camp ^{among the Japs - what would you} is - "My blue heaven." And the way the Japs yap ^{it - the time -} ~~the time~~ makes it bluer than ever.

^{quizzily} The prisoners pick up ^{also} American slang; and this takes us to - the eight ball. That expression cropped up when a couple of marines went to the camp for a bit of study. They were learning Japanese and to polish up their knowledge of that twisty lingo, they spent some time talking to the prisoners.

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imagine?

Chatting between themselves, one of the marines mentioned something about being behind the eight ball. A Jap who knew a few words of english, asked what that meant - the eight ball. The marines explain whereupon the prisoner told the other Japs about the interesting expression. He translated eight ball into Japanese. ~~It is~~ *and goes like this:* "hachi maru." The captives picked that up, and now one of the familiar expressions around the prison camp is - "hachi maru." Maybe the Japs realize that their own bandit country is ~~way~~ *setting farther and farther* behind the "hachi maru," ~~otherwise known as~~ the eight ball.

TP One of the prisoners has been made a guard. With a gun and an American uniform, he patrols the camp. How come? Well, it's this way. The marines noticed that among the captives there was one who was shunned by the others. They wouldn't have anything to do with him. He talked to the guards, pleading, protesting. But none of the marines at the camp could understand what he was saying. It merely sounded like Japanese to them. Finally, it was discovered that the prisoner was not Japanese, but Japanese. He had been captured by the Japs in Java and put in a labor battalion on Guadalcanal. He didn't look much different from

the Japs, and all he could speak was his native Malay, which sounded like *Jap* to the average Marine. But

When his identity was discovered, he was made a prison camp guard -

with an American Uniform and a gun. And now this

Japanese says he is no longer "hachi man."

ADD SOLOMONS

In Washington, a Marine officer stated today that there were fewer than four thousand Japanese troops left on Guadalcanal Island.

Lieutenant - Colonel Lewis Puller, ^{who} commanded a marine battalion fighting out there, and now back in this country, ~~is~~ states that the Japanese force originally amounted to fifteen thousand men.

Eight thousand have been killed, three thousand made prisoners or eliminated in other ways, so a mere four thousand Japs are left

on Guadalcanal; apparently to fight it out until they all die, or are captured.

MISSING PLANE.

A late Navy dispatch, just in, states that a big seaplane carrying nineteen people, is missing. The big plane flew from Pearl Harbor to San Francisco but at San Francisco bad weather kept it from landing. This was thursday morning. Since then nothing has been heard from the plane. Aboard it were Tenaival officers and a crew of nine.

COAL

The coal mine strike finally came to an end today, when the last group of strikers voted to return to work. The anthracite walkout, which was a protest against an increase in union dues, lasted for twenty-four days, and drew a vigorously worded directive from President Roosevelt, who told the miners to go back to their jobs.

TP During the past several days one local after another has heeded the Presidential advice, and returned to the Coal pits. Today only two were left on strike. This morning, sixteen hundred workers at the number seven colliery of the susquehanna company voted to go back. And this afternoon eight hundred miners of the payne company decided to end the walkout. *And that brought* ~~bringing~~ the anthracite strike to a final close.

Ex-President Hoover is calling attention to a Congressional Committee report, which ~~sxx~~ states that millions of dollars' worth of crops in the southwest were lost last year because they could not be harvested. "And," the former President goes on, "word from farmers in many part of the country indicate that unless their difficulties be remedied, they will be compelled to reduce planting this Spring."

And then he tells us a cardinal principle of modern war. "Agriculture," says he, "simply must be envisaged as a munitions industry. And the farmer must be given men and tools if he is to perform his part."

As for remedies, the former President proposes that removal of labor from farms be stopped, and he recommends a thing they do in Europe - over there farm boys are given furloughs from army service during a few months of planting and harvesting.

COFFEE SUBSTITUTES.

We have some information tonight about - ersatz coffee. This comes ^{to us} in an office-of-price-administration announcement that fixes ceiling prices for coffee substitutes and coffee compounds.

TP A substitute is something that contains no coffee at all. For instance ^{one} called, "Jeep", is a blend of rolled wheat flour, molasses and corn oil.

TP The compounds are mixtures of coffee and something else - like coffee, chicory and chick peas. One, called "Victory Blend," consists of coffee, roasted barley and garbenzo beans.

TP Ersatz coffee is on its way to the grocers shelves and we'll soon be drinking it. Hope you'll like it. ^{And now Hugh let's} ~~especially the kind with the~~ go around the corner to Mc Grath's Diner and get a mug of garbenzo beans. And so long until Monday.