

LEAD ITALY

*B.I. - Standard Tuesday, May 23, 1944.
Suisco.*

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The latest from Italy gives a report on the results of the big beach head offensive launched today. As darkness closed down, the planned ^{objectives} ~~objectives~~ were being reached -- "reached on schedule with mixed resistance - heavy in some sectors and light in others" says the official communique. In some places the Germans are fighting with stubborn fierceness against the American-British push, while in others Allied soldiers have been having an easy time, as they ^{thrust} ~~pushed~~ forward. *TF* This is the latest on the first day of the beach head offensive, a day that began with flame in the darkness -- sea against land in the black of night, off the Anzio shore.

In the hours before dawn Naval forces, headed by battleships, opened a thundering bombardment -- hurling salvos from their big guns against German positions. And this began ~~with~~ the new offensive that was launched today from the beachhead. ^π When dawn came the Naval artillery was joined by planes and their bombs, with massed squadrons of Allied air power hurling high explosives on the Nazi positions. ~~facing the beachhead.~~ Then, in broad daylight the infantry attack began, with American and British troops surging to the assault. They pushed across fields of what the news dispatch calls -- "blood red poppies." ^{across} The major thrust was toward the town of Cisterna, [^] what the soldiers call: [^] ~~--~~ ^{"the} bloody mile." [^]

^π The direction of the attack was down toward those other Allied forces that are fighting in front of Terricina, ^L and a Swiss report tells us that today's beachhead offensive made such swift gains of ground that it has reached a point only nineteen miles from Terricina. ^h

Down in that sector the Allies are thrusting

forward again, after a halt caused by heavy German counter-attacks. Terricina is the anchor point of the new German defense line. It seemed about to be captured by the Americans-- our patrols ^{were} ~~are~~ in the town. But the counter-attacks forced a retirement behind Terricina -- until today ^{when} the advance was resumed. A force of tanks pushed forward, but they had to retire when they encountered a barrage of high explosive from a tall cliff. ^{is} Beside the Appian Way, a cliff seventy feet high -- and ^{there} ~~there~~ German troops were concealed. As the tanks moved along the foot of the cliff, the enemy high-^{fired} above ~~dropped~~ explosive charges, ^{from bazookas} and these put several of the ^{all of the} tanks out of commission, ^{and the armored} ~~the~~ ^{thrust was halted.}

The latest is an American infantry move, with Fifth Army soldiers ^{trying to drive} ~~moving~~ around and threatening the encirclement of Terricina.

Farther inland the British Eighth Army, after being inactive for some days, smashed forward and drove a wedge into the enemy positions. We are ~~ix~~ not told just where this occurred, but it is believed to be in the

valley of the Liri River.

The broad picture is one of a two-fold offensive, with drives launched from the beachhead and from the area of Terricina -- drives to catch the Nazis in a nutcracker. And ~~in~~ between those two points -- a

parachute invasion from above. Swarms of paratroopers

descending from the sky

~~dropped~~ to cut the Appian Way, the enemy life-line between

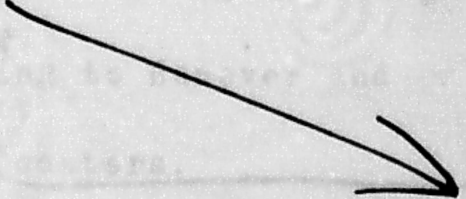
the two points.

What a sight that would have been for Appius Claudius who built the Appian Way!

In today's news of the war in the air, we can feature that old phrase, far-and-wide. The American sky forces based on Britain signalized the fifth straight day of the current offensive with one of the most far flung series of assaults. They hit the Nazi all over the place from western France on into industrial Germany, bombing a great variety of targets, which included many of the key points along the German Atlantic wall.

The bombers numbered seven hundred and fifty. These were escorted by a record-breaking swarm of fighters - a thousand fighter planes. ~~They appear to have deterred the enemy, because we hear that only a few Nazi planes were encountered. Apparently the German fighters kept clear of the swarm that with~~ weaving patterns across great distances of the blue in the far flung raids that struck so far and so wide.

The daylight action followed one of the greatest night raids against Nazi Germany, with a thousand planes of the R.A.F. dropping four thousand, four hundred and eighty tons of bombs on six targets in France, Belgium and Germany.



Altogether, for the period of twenty-four hours, four thousand and five hundred allied planes were assailing ~~the~~ the ~~millions~~ ~~and~~ ~~millions~~ of Hitler. And a total of seven thousand tons of bombs was dropped. The latest is word from Germany which states that ~~the~~ British night bombers are at it again tonight. The Germans ^{calculate that this time} ~~figure~~ they are flying to Hanover and Brunswick, ~~those~~ key industrial centers.

The effect of the interminable bombing on the people of Germany is a dominant question of the day, and now we have some new observations - given by a Swiss newspaperman who has recently returned from Naziland. He says that the bombing is slowly cracking the morale of the Germans.

"The Allied air offensive," he relates, "has not yet succeeded in breaking the resistance of the German people, but it is obvious that resistance has already been greatly impaired and is irresistibly being worn down. Workers gradually slacken. Owing to the terrible uncertainty, life loses ~~xx~~ all sense. Hence," he goes on, "there is a general attitude of - 'why make an effort, when everything will be finished tomorrow?'"

The Swiss journalist sums it up in these words:

"It is a kind of unpolitical defeatism that develops;

and the number of people who simply cannot go on
fighting or working, ~~steadily~~ ^{is} increasing." "

A.A.F. prisoners of war, who were killed in what the
German describe as an escape attempt. An account
widely published has been stating that these fliers
were massacred ^{when / prison camp} by their ~~German~~ guards - lost their
heads. This is denied by the British Air Ministry,
which ~~stated~~ declared: "It can now be stated that
nothing of the nature described in this report took
place at the camp in question."

FLIERS

Here's a late story from London, denying a report that the Germans massacred the forty-seven R.A.F. prisoners of war, who were killed in what the Germans describe as an escape attempt. An account widely published has been stating that these fliers were massacred ^{when /} ~~by~~ *Larissa camp* their German guards - lost their heads. This is denied by the British Air Ministry, which ~~xxxxxxxx~~ declares: "It can now be stated that nothing of the nature described in this report took place at the camp in question."

FLYING STORIES

The news brings a couple of weird ones from the embattled skies over Nazi Europe. For example, the story of the Allied flyer who accepted an invitation to come into a Nazi airfield. Flying Officer Crofts of the R.A.F. was on a night bombing mission, and ~~it~~ happened to fly near the base of a fleet of German night fighters. He saw a flashing of green lights, the Nazi night fighter station signalling - "Come in." They had mistaken the British plane for one of their own, and Flying Officer Crofts thought he might as well continue the illusion. ~~So~~ ^{He} in he flew. At the last minute, the Nazis recognized the newcomer - a British mosquito bomber! ~~Next~~ Hastily they signalled with red lights - "Go away." By this time the mosquito was over the field, and Crofts put a five hundred pound bomb squarely on an intersection of the runways, blowing up that vital point of the enemy night fighter base.

Then there's the story of American Lieutenant William Oberstreet of Clifton Forge, Virginia - one of the weirdest in the war. Lieutenant Oberstreet flew over enemy Europe for an hour and a half - while unconscious. In a Mustang fighter plane escorting bombers, he had just crossed the Channel at twenty thousand feet, when something went wrong with his oxygen mask. With not enough oxygen to fly at that high altitude, he went unconscious - blacked out. What happened during the next hour and a half he can't guess, save that he must have kept on flying - while blacked out. Finally, he came to. His plane was in a spin, plunging, and the heavier air at lower altitudes caused him to regain consciousness - and he flew home.

How's that for a tale?

~~The medical officers of his outfit can offer only one explanation - that the unconscious pilot must have flown with his reflexes - as in the occasional case~~

~~of a prizefighter who, knocked unconscious by a blow,
may perhaps go on through the motions of boxing.~~



And now Hugh James, for
a moment, while I look over
the news about our war with
Japan.

INDIA

The monsoon is on in India and Burma, and yet the Japs are launching two powerful attacks. In spite of the coming of the great rains, the enemy has taken the offensive in one section of Burma, and, in India.

In the Arakan Hills of Burma, the Japs have made gains of fifteen miles. And in India, the invaders launched a sudden assault southwest of Imphal. Today's news account from Mountbatten headquarters describes the Japs as being - "in great force." A new enemy army moved apparently across the difficult hill country and has launched a new offensive. ^T ~~These blows are regarded as being an enemy attempt to force the British to withdraw troops from northern Burma, and thereby bring to an end Allied hopes of continuing their offensive in those parts during the monsoon.~~

In north Burma, ~~Itsein~~. Allied progress has slowed down at Myitkyina - where the Japs, after

having lost the all important airfield, are holding the town. The enemy troops are resisting fiercely, and the rains are pouring down without mercy. The deluge of the monsoon, (is swiftly turning the country into the bog that it always is during rainy seasons. Rice fields are filling with water and becoming shallow lakes. And the roads and trails are turning into rivers of slush.) ~~The Japs appear to be determined to resist to the end in the expectation that the monsoon rains will disrupt the Allied supply line and force a withdrawal.~~

CHINA

China announces ~~some~~ ^{some} successes in the fighting in Honan Province, central China. There disaster seemed to impend when the Japs struck all the way to Loyang, ~~in~~ their big attempt to sieze ~~the~~ Central Chinese railroads. The Chinese in Loyang are still holding out and meanwhile Chiang Kai Shek's troops have started a whole series of offensives, thrusts ~~in~~ at one place or another, driving the Japs from key positions. The Chinese have again cut the railroad ~~between~~ from Peiping to Hankow, and hold a sixty mile stretch of the rails.

ADD PACIFIC

In the southwestern Pacific tonight, the name is -- Biak, another one of those curious names so common in New Guinea . Biak, is the latest target, succeeding Wakde, as the bombing feature of the day. We've taken Wakde and the latest tells of a new push forward in that sector along the ^{north} coast of New Guinea. Now the prevailing target has been moved forward, farther West along the coast to -- Biak where the Japs were saluted with one-hundred-and-fifty tons of bombs. Biak is four hundred and seventy miles west of Hollandia and only recently Hollandia was the target of the day -- before it was captured, which gives an impression of the swift advance of ~~General~~ MacArthur's ~~for~~ forces along the New Guinea shore.

ICELAND

A new republic is due to appear on the roster^{of}
of the nations of the earth - Iceland. Today the people
of that island up toward the Arctic Circle completed a
referendum in which they ^{definitely} decided to sever their bonds
with the King of Denmark, and become entirely independent

Iceland was a republic before - ^{long, long} ~~in its earliest~~

^{ago.}
^{ago.} The Icelandic Parliament is more than a thousand
years old, having begun its history in the Year Eight
Hundred and Thirty, ~~That goes back to~~ ⁱⁿ the dim historic
^{days} ~~that~~ of the Vikings, the sea-roving Northmen who sailed
across the waters of the north and settled in Iceland.

And there they retained their parliamentary form of
independence for four hundred and thirty-three years,

until Twelve Hundred and Sixty-Three, when the King of
Norway acquired the rule of Iceland. ^{Later, Denmark,} ~~a century after~~

~~that, both Norway and Iceland came under the domination~~

~~of the King of Denmark. Centuries after that, Norway~~

was separated from Denmark, but Iceland remained a Danish colony.

In Nineteen-Eighteen, after the previous World War, ~~Iceland~~ ^{the island} became a sovereign state, with the King of Denmark as its monarch. And now that last tie which

~~remains~~ is being severed. Denmark is, of course, under Nazi domination, and Iceland ~~has become a~~ ^{has become a} base for Allied

troops - especially Americans. The Danes are protesting that the Icelanders, in ~~his~~ breaking the last tie, should have waited until after the war - and then ~~done so~~ by

~~mutual arrangement. But the Icelanders have gone right ahead and after the referendum that ended today,~~ ^{now} a formal

proclamation will be issued on June Seventeenth -

declaring Iceland an independent republic. Will it be a

European republic, or one belonging to the Western

Hemisphere, Iceland being in the middle. [?] Today the

Icelandic Premier said it will be neither ~~one nor~~ ^{one nor} the other. "We will be the Republic of Iceland in the North Atlantic," said he.

TEXAS

An uproarious political convention was held ⁱⁿ Texas today, with the loudest kind of argument, ^{with a} ~~and~~ ^{halt-a} ~~two~~ ~~advisors~~ ~~two~~ ~~marshes~~ out of Convention Hall. At Austin, Texas ~~to~~ select ^{ed} ~~ing~~ delegates to the Democratic National Convention, ~~and~~ ^{were} ~~are~~ there two factions - one in favor of ~~an~~ uninstructed ~~list of~~ delegates, the other demanding a list pledged to President Roosevelt. The first battle came today with the election of a temporary chairman to preside over the state convention. ~~The advocates of the uninstructed list supported former Governor Dan Moody. The pro-Roosevelt group favored former Governor Allred. A vote was taken, and Moody was chosen - The pro-Roosevelt people losing out.~~ Whereupon there was a bolt, with advocates of a fourth term ~~stepping~~ ~~out of the hall.~~ They were out for two hours, and then returned to take part in ^{They} another debate. ~~This~~ ^{ing} concerned a proposal that all

Texas delegates to the Democratic Convention should pledge themselves to support the Democratic nominees - no matter who they might be. The advocates of ~~the~~ ^{an} uninstructed delegation opposed the pledge, while the Roosevelt supporters were for it. ~~In fact, they entered their hall, returned to the hall, persuaded by the argument of one of their number, who proclaimed: "If the convention refuses to pledge electors for the Democratic nominees, then let's give them an honest to God old Roosevelt convention."~~

~~So what happened when a vote was taken?~~

IT

The fourth term supporters lost out again. ~~The Texas Democratic Convention voted against the pledge to support the Democratic nominees.~~ Whereupon ~~they~~ ^{there} ~~retired~~ ^{retire}

was a

~~bolting scene.~~ Amid a pandemonium of hoots and howls from the majority, they ^{4th Termers} hoisted a huge picture of

President Roosevelt, and marched out.

FOLLOW TEXAS

~~The latest from Texas is that the quarrel has been patched up. The fourth term bolters, having held a separate meeting of their own, came back to the convention, where their cause was still in the minority. ^{And now} The convention ^{has just} ~~has just~~ voted to send an uninstructed delegation to the Democratic Convention.~~

In Georgia, the Republicans had a split today -- after a rumpus in the ⁱⁿ State Convention over a question of seating negro delegates. One faction, called The Lily Whites, opposed any Negro delegates, whereupon the other faction bolted and held a convention of its own. Each group named delegates -- The Lily Whites -- uninstructed. The group supporting ~~the~~ Negro ~~delegates~~ delegates -- pledged to Dewey. However, the Lily Whites though uninstructed are ^{also} in favor of Dewey. ^{So these} ~~uninstructed~~

choice of a candidate did not enter into the dispute. ^{So Carolina is going to have a Negro Democratic convention in addition to the white.}

In Maryland the Republican State Convention today pledged its thirteen votes to Dewey; while in New Jersey a Democratic State Convention called on President Roosevelt to run for ~~in~~ a fourth term.

WINE

In case you are thinking about the high cost of refreshments over here, take some prices reported from London today. They had an auction for the benefit of the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross Fund, and among the things donated to the auction were various bottles ~~xxxxxxx~~ and barrels from the finest cellars in England. And did they bring prices! ^{TP} A dozen bottles of especially fine champagne sold for two hundred and eighty-two dollars. That was cheap compared with double magnums of a famous vintage of champagne that brought a hundred and ninety-four dollars a bottle.

And then there was a hogshead of port, ^a ~~those~~ rare old wines dating back to the days of yore when England was a port drinking country. The hogshead was auctioned off for four thousand, two hundred and forty-two

dollars. ^{TP} ~~xxxxxxx~~ And now Hugh you seem to be bubbling over, so how about a few verbal ~~And now Hugh, how about a spot of that ancient~~ magnume from you?

ITALY

Johnson.

The latest from ~~the battle front in~~ Italy tells of a paratroop battle that might well be a decisive factor in ~~the~~ linking up ~~of~~ the southern front ^{with} the ~~the~~ *Anzio* beachhead. Fleets of American planes dropped large forces of paratroopers along the Appian Way between the southern sector ^{and} of the beachhead. And there you have a startling contrast -- the Appian Way, the oldest of those famous Roman roads, built in the centuries before Christ; and, -- that most modern mode of war, the soldiers who descend from the sky ~~But the~~ Current military meaning of it is clear -- the dropping of paratroopers to cut the Appian Way, which is a dominating line of communication ~~between the Nazis around the beachhead and the Germans.~~ *From the Beachhead area* ~~defending the line further~~ south. So no wonder we are told that the enemy brought forces hastily to oppose the paratroopers.

This is the latest on an eventful day that began with flame in the darkness -- ~~the~~ sea against land in the black of night, off the *Anzio* ~~beachhead~~ beachhead. ~~the~~

PACIFIC

In the central Pacific, the news tells of new bombings of the Wotje Atoll. In previous days, the target of American sea and air forces had been another atoll, Jaluit ~~atoll~~ hit by two hundred-and-forty tons of bombs. Now the offensive ^{has} swung over to Wotje, where two hundred-and-thirty tons of explosives were hurled upon the enemy. Both of these atolls are in the Marshalls, and the present operations represent a continuing clean-up of Japanese garrisons that are virtually isolated.