

JAPAN

P.J. - Standard. Wednesday, March 21, 1945.
Sumoco.

The Japs had a black news day today. They were given ominous tidings - these in connection with government decrees for new and more drastic measures of war. ~~The Japanese people were told that an American invasion of Japan itself is expected.~~ The Tokyo War Minister told the Japanese Parliament the following: "The present war situation," said he, "points clearly to the fact that the Japanese homeland will become a theatre for decisive battles." *Invasion expected.*

On top of that, the Japs were informed officially, for the first time, of the fall of Iwo Jima - ~~they getting~~ a dramatic communique telling of the American capture of that all-important island.

And yet the Japs did not get all the bad news - Tokyo keeping silent about the great naval air attacks against the Mikado's fleet in the Inland Sea. Today's continued reports on this tell of Japanese warships so

badly damaged by American air attack, that only smoking and twisted shells now remain. It is possible that the aircraft carriers blasted were the last ones in service in the Japanese Navy. The latest today indicates that at least seven Jap carriers were damaged - and two battleships were heavily hit. The amount of Japanese planes destroyed now rises to four hundred and seventy-five, and add the number of enemy planes damaged, and the figure comes to six hundred.

(Today's bulletin points out that the American fleet operated dangerously close to the coast of Japan, and lined up for action in waters that were within easy range of Japanese land-based air power. The Jap air force struck desperately, but few of its planes got through. The price that we paid is considered a light one - one warship heavily damaged and several others hit, but not seriously.)

PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines American troops have completed the occupation of Iloilo, the capitol of Panay Island. Most of the city was burnt down by the Japs, but General MacArthur informs us that the important harbor with its valuable docks is undamaged. MacArthur adds that the invasion of Panay was a cinch, because Philippine guerrillas had chased the Japs out of most of the island, and enemy troops held only the area around Iloilo.

On Luzon, the Jap strongpoint of Baguio has now been outflanked on the north and northwest, and American troops may be expected soon to capture what was formerly the Philippine summer capitol, ~~but~~, However, fierce fighting is expected from the Japs in that area.

WESTERN FRONT

The war news from the Western Front ~~is a~~ ^{puts a} spotlight on a German industrial concern, one of the most famous - the I.G. Farben Chemical Works. Time and again, during the past years of peace and war, I.G. Farben has appeared in connection with world industrial affairs, a possessor of vital ~~parts~~ ^{parts}, a huge producer in the realm of chemistry - in which science the Germans have always excelled. The I.G. Farben plant is in the City of Ludwigshafen, which accounts for the fact that Ludwigshafen is the greatest German industrial city west of the Rhine. (~~Chemistry, of course, is a key science in this war of explosives, and there is no need of dwelling on the importance of I.G. Farben and Ludwigshafen to Hitler's machinery of battle.~~)

Well, [American Third Army troops today captured Ludwigshafen. Units of Patton's armor fought their way into the city, and tonight the great I.G. Farben Chemical

plant is in American hands.

This is the final touch in the American victory in the Saar and the Palatinate. One communiqué tells us that all organized German resistance west of the Rhine has collapsed. Another states that the only enemy forces that remain to be mopped up are remnants of three divisions, which are believed to number only a few thousand men. These are trapped along the Rhine, a stretch of the river without bridges - the section of riverbank between Ludwigshafen and another important industrial city, Karlsruhe.

In the bridgehead beyond the Rhine, First Army troops and tanks battered ahead today for an advance of three and a half miles. They surged forward on a seven mile front along a plain that borders the river. ~~They reached a stream called the Sieg, a stream that is described as only a weak barrier.~~ The expanding bridgehead

becomes an ever increasing threat to the industrial Ruhr, just to the north.

The indications are that the Ruhr will soon be under one of the greatest storming attacks in history - not only from the bridgehead, but also from areas farther north. There, we are told, great masses of British, Canadian and American Ninth Army troops are prepared and poised for a mighty surge across the river - and straight into the Ruhr.

All of which is having a tremendous prelude, an overture from the air. Today's news indicates that Allied air power on the Western Front has struck its ~~with 10,000 Allied planes taking part~~ greatest blow. All day long, massive airmades smashed the industrial Ruhr. It is said that the sorties flown may exceed the record number established on D-Day-of-the-invasion-of-France. *With 10,000 Allied planes taking part.*

British mosquito bombers did a dramatic stunt

today - flying to Copenhagen and making a pin-point attack on Gestapo headquarters in the Danish capital. They hit and smashed the six-story building, whereupon Danish patriots quickly rushed the place and rescued many hostages that had been confined there by the Nazi Gestapo.

And tonight mosquitos are over Berlin, subjecting the German capital to its thirtieth air raid in as many days.

EASTERN FRONT

The Soviet night bulletin makes no mention of the Eastern Front facing Berlin, but the Germans continue to tell of the imminence of a great Russian drive. Moscow contents itself with announcing the capture of several towns and gains of five miles on the road to Danzig.

~~Also, further advances in isolated East Prussia - near~~

~~Denigsberg~~

Now Hugh, I'll hold up for a moment until you give us your evening message from Stan. & Cal.

AL LODWICK

The news from Russia takes us to a theme concerning which we have some information from headquarters. Al Lodwick, a veteran of aviation, has just returned from a trip overseas as special consultant to the War Department. Al is an old friend of ours, and I have asked him to tell us something he encountered that was particularly significant.

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AL:- Well, Lowell, I spent quite a bit of time with the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces in Britain and France, and with the Twelfth and Fifteenth Air Forces in Italy, and I can say this -- if Germany had had as much air strength as we have, the outcome of the war would be entirely different.

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L.T. And anything else Al? Where all did you go?

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AL:- The trip I made took me all along the Western Front: France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and into Germany. And I saw the dough-boys in action in Italy. I can tell you how much they value General Arnold's American Air Forces. General Spaatz has done a

tremendous job as commander of the Strategic branch -- and so has General Doolittle with the Eighth Air Force, and General Eaker with the Fifteenth Air Force. Their support of the advance on the Western Front has been headlined, but not so much attention has been given to the American air aid that the Russians have been getting.

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L.T.:- Well, it's a long flight from our bases in Britain, France, and Italy to the Western Front.

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AL:- Yes, it is, but just the same, the Russian ~~ax~~ advance on the road to Berlin has been aided greatly by the American strategic air forces. These have been hitting at German war centers immediately in front of the Soviet advance -- making devastating attacks on communication centers, oil refineries, armament plants, railroad and marshalling yards, bridges and supply lines. Had it not been for the help given by the American Air Forces, the Russian Drive would undoubtedly have been slower.

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L.T.:- By the way, Al, you might refresh us about the difference between strategic bombing and tactical bombing.

AL:- Well, tactical bombing is immediate support of the Army front lines. Strategic bombing consists of long-range attacks on industrial targets and centers of communications. In other words, tactical bombing is like kicking over the milk pail each day, whereas strategic bombing is like killing the cow.

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MORGENTHAU - RUSSIA

At luncheon with the Secretary of the Treasury at noon today, a group of us were asking questions about Bretton Woods, the plan for a world bank, and international finances in general. I happened to ask Mr. Morgenthau a question which brought out a story that has never been told, and that undoubtedly should have been in the news long ago. In answering my question as to whether we could depend on Russia when it comes to international problems of economics, the Secretary of the Treasury responded that in his twelve years of contact with the Russians, he had found them honorable in everything, square shooters, always keeping their promises. And as one of his illustrations, out came this story, never told before:

It was in the autumn of Nineteen Forty-One, after the Russians had become involved in war with Germany, and before they were getting Lend-Lease from us. They wanted to buy some things in this country, and our government

broke a precedent by ~~loaning~~^{lending} them money to make the purchase, with nothing to back up the loan. The Russians said that they would send over a shipment of six million dollars in gold, and get it here within ninety days.

They shipped the gold from Murmansk, on a British cruiser. The Nazis sank the cruiser. Down went the gold. Our Treasury officials thought they ^{Russians} would do the usual thing ^{and} say: "Well, we'll take it up with the British, see if we can get a settlement," and ^{then} the whole thing ~~might~~ hang fire for years." Instead, they said: "Will you give us another ninety days? If so, we'll ship you another six million in gold." And they would send it this time by way of Alaska.

Sec. ^{dispatched} Morgenthau ~~sends~~^{sends} a Treasury representative to Alaska to await the arrival of the gold. In a few weeks, into an Alaskan harbor came a Russian vessel. Not a man on board could speak English. ^{But} They had the gold on the ² ship. It was up in the bow, covered over with a lot of garbage.

The Treasury Department arranged for three Army planes to fly the gold to Washington, the Treasury official going in one plane with part of the gold. And he was the only one who knew what was in the heavy boxes. The weight was so great, the planes had trouble taking off, and the pilot^s said: "We can easily solve this. Let's dump those boxes overboard!" The Treasury official rather meekly implored them to try it again. *So, they barely* ~~They~~ got off, and the gold duly arrived in Washington.

~~To sum up, the Secretary of the Treasury again repeated that all his experiences, with the Russians, convinced him that they are going to do their part in building a new world, and a decent world, on a sound economic foundation.~~

FOOD

There is a lively wrangle about food in Washington, with government officials charging that the American Meat Institute had been trying to create a famine scare. Today War Food Administrator Marvin Jones declared that Americans will still continue to have plenty of food -- "even though they may have to take a new hitch in ~~thxx~~ their belts to help starving peoples abroad."

The meat packers respond by denying they're trying to create a food scare. They charge that the O.P.A. is, in their words - "price-fixing us into bankruptcy."

Our food situation over ties in, of course, with the food problem in Europe. In London today, Prime Minister Churchill told the House of Commons that large parts of Europe may face famine conditions next winter, and Great Britain's own food stocks will sink to a minimum. Churchill issued a denial of what he said were statements that had been made in the United States - that Britain has a food reserve amounting to seven hundred million tons.

DULLES

It's announced that John Foster Dulles will not attend the San Francisco Conference with any official status. Dulles, who was advisor on foreign affairs to Governor Dewey during the presidential campaign last fall, was invited to go as personal aide to Senator Vandenberg. Or, suggested the Senator, he might attend as an advisor to the American Delegation. Senator Vandenberg is, of course, one of the prominent Republicans whom President Roosevelt has appointed as American delegates to the conference of the United Nations.

Today Senator Vandenberg made public a letter from John Foster Dulles, in which the Foreign Affairs Advisor to Governor Dewey states: "It is my preference to have no official status at San Francisco." He is expected to attend the conference in an unofficial capacity - "as Chairman of the Commission for a Just and Durable Peace of the Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America."

Here's an important truth clearly
and ^{Ka} succinctly stated. It comes in the course of
a warning against international cartels, a warning
issued by ~~Mr~~ J. Howard Pew, President of ~~the~~ Sun
Oil, ~~company~~ ^{who} ~~He~~ tells us that a number of ~~the~~ plans
represented as "trade accords" are really world
wide cartels, of a sort to stifle American industry.
~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ And he gives us this lucid statement.

"Business and industry," says J. Howard ~~Pew~~ Pew

"render their greatest service to the nation, when
they constantly produce better products and services
at lower prices -- through an efficiency that
reconciles a low cost policy with the payment of
high wages".

ERROL FLYNN

There was a paradoxical interview in Hollywood today, when Nora Eddington was asked whether she was divorcing Errol Flynn. She replied, "I denied divorce rumors before and I still do." She was next asked -- was she married to Flynn. "I'm not saying," she answered. In other words -- divorce denied, ^{and} the question of marriage is left uncertain.

Meanwhile her father, upon being informed that his daughter had become a mother in Mexico City declared "Certainly she and Flynn are married."

FALSE RUMOR

On Iwo Jima today they celebrated the surrender of Nazi Germany, and hailed the end of the European war.

The previous ^{World} war had its false armistice, a premature report that ^{set} ~~had~~ the nation rejoicing - a little in advance.

The celebration on Iwo Jima today was on a smaller scale, but it made up with noisy enthusiasm what it lacked in size. ^{It} The announcement flashed - "Germany has surrendered unconditionally. The war in Europe is over." And immediately the roaring revelry was on, shouts and cheers, songs and fireworks. The marines let loose with everything that would make a noise, and they had a lot of equipment for producing loud sound - rifles, pistols, machine guns, anti-aircraft guns. The island was a pandemonium of jubilation. For an hour Iwo Jima was the happiest place on earth. And then came the disillusion - the cold, dreary, sobering truth. ^{Here it is.} Here's how Iwo Jima got the false news of the end of the European war.

The island - Iwo -

~~Iwo Jima~~ has been conquered, but there still may be a few Japs around, and at one place marines were still in foxholes. In one of these was a walkie-talkie radio operator - and that leatherneck was getting fed up with the whole thing, tired and bored. He needed some entertainment, and thought he'd have it at the expense of a pal of his in a foxhole down the line. So he talked to *the pal* ~~by~~ by walkie-talkie, and gave what pretended to be an announcement of final victory in Europe. And that leatherneck did a convincing job of it - ~~it~~ too convincing.

TP It happened that not far away was a radio truck in which the operator was receiving and typing messages from San Francisco. Somehow, the frequencies got tangled, and the voice of the walkie-talkie jokster in the foxhole got on to the frequency of the official news from San Francisco. *Whereupon* ~~And~~ the radio man in the truck heard these electrifying words: "Germany has surrendered unconditionally!"

In his excitement, he broke speed records in breaking the news to Iwo, ~~then~~ ~~with~~ that headline of headlines. In a few minutes the whole island had it, ships off the shore as well, and the celebration was on.

In his foxhole, the walkie-talkie operator had no ideas of how far his joke had gone, until he began to hear the uproar, the yells and shooting of guns, all the sounds of a great celebration. ^{Then he} ~~He~~ began to have a dawning suspicion, a terrible suspicion, and he sneaked back to find out. ~~And~~ There he heard the news, his own foxhole headline. Badly worried, he went to his commanding officer and ~~there~~ made a statement, which should be marked down as a classic: "Sir," he said, "I think I have done something wrong!" ^{It} It isn't reported what his commanding officer said, or what his leatherneck pals are saying. But you can guess how popular that walkie-talkie jokesmith was, when the word got around - that the good news was not true, the whole celebration going sour.

And now something that is true - from you -

Hugh