

NEW BRITAIN

L.J. Standard. Thursday, Dec. 30, 1943.
Sun. Hollywood.

Cape Gloucester and its air fields have fallen. This was announced tonight by Allied headquarters in New Guinea. The Marines after five days of fighting at the tip of New Britain Island, have seized their major goals -- the two landing strips built by the Japs. The landings ^{were} ~~was~~ made on both sides of the air base and in five days of fighting converged upon it. They battered their way forward with tanks, artillery and flame throwers and yesterday took ~~an~~ air strip number two, while air strip number one fell today. Whereupon Lieutenant General Walter Kreuger, Commander of the New Britain landings, flashed a message to General MacArthur saying: "I have the honor to present to you Cape Gloucester as a New Year's present.

The possession of the air fields now gives the American air forces a ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ convenient base

New Britain - 2

from which to bomb the Jap stronghold of Rabaul -- at the northern tip of New Britain. And, at the same time, the seizure of Cape Gloucester means complete Allied control of both sides of Dampier Strait -- the narrow strip of land that separates New Britain from New Guinea -- that is, from the Huon Peninsula the capture of which by the Australians is now complete.

MARSHALLS

There's been heavy air fighting in the central Pacific, with American bombers carrying out three raids against the Marshall Islands. Jap Zeros were in ~~fm~~ force to meet them and planes whirled in ~~xxxx~~ mazes of combat high in the Pacific sky. We lost three heavy bombers, Liberators. While the probably Jap loss is numbered at fifteen Zeros. This was announced by Admiral Nimitz tonight.

TOJO

by the way,
The reports are, that Tojo is not getting
along so well with Hirohito. The Chinese have word

that the Japanese Premier is losing face with the

Mikado -- and when a Jap loses face with the Sun of

Heaven his name is the Far Eastern equivalent of --

mud. *TP* They say that Tojo, with all those stories of

Japanese victories against the American and against

the Chinese was kidding ~~it~~ not only the Japanese

people but the Emperor himself, and now Hirohito is

finding ~~himself~~ *out.* *In fact* ~~himself~~ Tojo has got himself in such

a tangle of lies and contradictions, ~~that~~ *that* he has fallen

out of the imperial favor. *TP* This we are told ~~was~~ *was*

vividly ~~described~~ *and pointedly brought home at* a recent dinner party

given by the Mikado. It is the ^{Tokyo} ~~custom~~ *custom* that the

members of the Cabinet are invited to ~~such~~ such affairs,

But, -- nothing doing. At the recent imperial party,

Tojo and his ~~Cabinet~~ Cabinet were conspicuous by their

absence. ^{Not even} ~~they were~~ invited. ^H Instead, the guests at the imperial table consisted of thirty-eight other officials -- nearly all ^{of whom are} ~~of the~~ moderate party, ^{and} not Tojo militarists. All of which is taken as a sign that Tojo is in dutch with Hirohito.

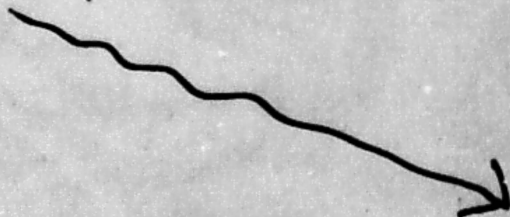
^H It is always awkward to be caught in a pack of lies -- especially by the Emperor.

ADMIRAL KING

Today Admiral King, Commander-in-Chief of the Navy, added his voice to the others ^{that} ~~who~~ are saying -- Nineteen Forty-four. In this the Admiral agrees with General Eisenhower, who the other day predicted that Germany could be finally defeated before the end of the coming year. "I am hopeful and expectant" said Admiral King today "that Germany will be defeated during ~~Nineteen~~ Forty-Four."

And he went on to explain that the armed forces are all set about what to do in that event. The Admiral said, "studies have been under way for several months looking to a shift of power from the European theater to the Pacific theater. Not only when Germany is defeated -- but when her defeat seems near at hand". To which one may stop and wonder -- what an immense transfer of armed power from one side of the globe to the other. But, it's all

planned, as is the strategy for the defeat of the
Far Eastern enemy. "The main lines of attack on
Japan" declared Admiral King "are already determined".



ADD KING

He also said


~~Admiral King added~~ that the way things are

scheduled to go in the Pacific, a major Naval battle

may develop -- a show down with the Japanese fleet.

LEAD BOMBING

The greatest United States Air-mada that ever flew from Britain smashed the Nazis in northern France today. It was the biggest in two ways: being composed of the greatest number of bombers and also the greatest number of fighters. London estimates that the giant fleet of ski fighters numbered fifteen hundred planes, a thousand bombers and five hundred escorting fighters. You can imagine the weight of bombs that hit the targets -- targets which have not yet been identified but which were along the invasion coast of France. This monster American ~~xxx~~ daylight



BOMBING

~~Daylight American raids featured the war
of the air. Today British-based bombers assailed
Nazi Germany once again. The American daylight~~

→ offensive followed last night's monster British assault on Berlin. Two thousand two hundred and forty tons of explosive smashed the Nazi capital in one of the greatest air blows ever struck.

It was a sort of R.A.F. anniversary celebration, just three years since the great Nazi incendiary raid on London -- when fifteen hundred fires were started and large sections of the British capital burned out.

Last night the R.A.F. hit Berlin with from six to ten ~~thousands~~ times the tonnage that the Nazis ~~had~~ dropped on ~~London~~ London three years ago.

All accounts indicate that Berlin has been ~~hardly~~ pretty nearly knocked out of the war and that

last night's terrifying blast has completed the
destruction of almost half of the city.

And ~~the latest~~ tonight R.A.F.
bombers were crossing the Channel
again — heading for Hitler's
^{battered} Fortress Europa.

LAVAL

The Vichy government of France is being reorganized. Why? "To prevent an outbreak of civil war, which is now threatening". So states the pro-Nazi collaborationist Laval, in ordering the shake up. Laval admits that France is on the verge of a bloody insurrection against the puppet Vichyites and the Nazis.

COMMANDER

Here's a report telling us who the second front commander of the American land forces is likely to be. General Eisenhower, is of course the supreme commander of ~~the~~ both British and Americans. But who will be the specific head of the American ~~XXXXX~~ Army in the great invasion? The London Evening Standard answers -- ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ General Patton. The British ~~XXXX~~ newspaper states that the post is likely to go to ~~the~~ Lieutenant General George W. Patton, Old ~~Man~~ Blood and Guts, recently the center of such a storm of controversy.

RUSSIA

Today Stalin, in a special announcement, revealed that the Red Army ^{has} scored a giant breakthrough in the northwestern Ukraine. That's where a violent Soviet drive has been on for six days. And now it has smashed through. Stalin announces the Russians have swept forward for from thirty-one to sixty-two miles on a huge front, a front of one-hundred-and-eighty-six miles. ^R Twenty-two German divisions have been routed, and a thousand towns and villages have been recaptured in the stupendous Russian sweep. - ~~and~~

^{The places taken} ~~these~~ include Jitomir, that key stronghold which with Korosten, was a major goal. Korosten was taken by the Russians yesterday. ^R Stalin's special order of the day indicates that the German front has collapsed and that the Red Army ^{tonight} is rolling at a swift ~~xxx~~ rate toward the pre-war border of Poland.

ADD RUSSIA

And there is also bad news for the Germans farther north -- at Vitebsk. The Nazis themselves announce that Soviet troops have broken into the stronghold and that street fighting is going on inside Vitebsk.

BULGARIA

Hitler has sent six hundred thousand troops into southern Bulgaria, posting ~~four~~ forty divisions on the frontier of Turkey. These forces, with full mechanization, are obviously on guard against Turkey, and are another sign ~~of~~ that the Turkish government may soon join the Allies.

LEAD SEA FIGHT

A late dispatch tonight gives the German version of the sea fighting in the Bay of Biscay -- the battle headlined yesterday by the sinking of three German destroyers. The Nazis say that the conflict has been going on for three days and claim that they have sunk five ~~six~~ British destroyers -- probably six. The Germans ~~themselves~~ admit the loss of only one destroyer and two of what they call torpedo boats.

London's reply to the German claim of British destroyers sunk is that apparently the battle was fought by a couple of British cruisers with ~~not~~ a single British ~~in~~ destroyer in the engagement.

POPE

Today in Rome Pope Pius the Twelfth spoke once again of the bombing of the Vatican early last month. At the time, the Nazi story was that ~~an~~ an American plane had hurled the high explosive, which caused some damage to the Papal Palace -- but no one was injured. General Eisenhower promptly countered that with an official report stating that on the day in question no Allied plane had flown within forty miles of Rome. The inevitable surmise was that the bombing was the doing of the Nazis, who wanted to blame it on the Allies, for propaganda purposes.

What does the Pope himself think about it?

This is easy to guess from what he said today. The Pope declared that the bombing of the Vatican was intended, in his words "to remain concealed under a veil of mystery." Its purpose was to arouse, as he explained it:- "the horror and indignation of the

civilized world". And developing that thought,

Pope Pius stated: "The bombing was deliberately planned and unsuccessfully screened against the anonymity of the pilot". In other words, a Nazi job for propaganda purposes.

RAILROAD

The War Department charges that the three holdout railroad unions failed to cancel the strike they ordered. ~~They~~ Merely postponed it. A statement issued by the Army tonight declares ~~the officials of the unions assured General Somervell, ~~gxxxx~~ government ~~in~~ boss of the lines, that they would call off the walk out. Also, that they issued a public statement declaring that a cancellation of the ~~strike~~ strike had been communicated to their union ~~members~~ members. This however they did not do, says the War Department. They merely postponed the walk out and the strike order still stands though action on it is delayed.~~

And the Army states that as long as this situation exists the railroads will not be restored to private control. The ~~gxxxx~~ government will hold them until the whole strike thing has been cleared up.

The response of the three unions is a statement that a strike was voted by the railroad workers, and the ~~unions~~ unions have no power to nullify that vote as long as the wage dispute remains unsolved. (~~They insist that they have no authority to cancel the strike decision and can only determine the time for action.~~)

BANDITS

They are having a big man hunt out here in California, a search for three convicts who escaped from San Quentin Prison on Sunday -- and, who, ever since, have been on a wild career of banditry. They have held up a jewelry store and three drug stores. And the latest, is kidnapping. ^R There's a turn of oddity to the story, which today tells how the three bandits stopped a Los Angeles' man, James P. Ryan, as he was leaving home in his car and forced him to drive them for a while; and, demanded his money. But he hadn't any -- hadn't any amount of cash on him -- only forty cents. He told them this and what did they do? "They gave me a Dollar bill" Ryan stated today and he added that the Dollar bill was from a ^{brown} ~~white~~ bag which he figured was filled with money from other holdups.

So they ^{generously} gave him a Dollar, ^{after which} ~~but they then~~ they stole his car!

ROSE_GARDEN

Up in Alaska there's an Army Air base-- on the wrong side of the river. And this is all because of a government nurse and her garden of roses.

The base was built for operations against the Japs in the Aleutians, and Chief Engineer Wl. Seeley of Leesburg, Florida, started in by picking a good spot on the right side of the river. Work was begun--and then came the uproar.

The big noise was made by a government nurse attached to an Indian hospital nearby. She protested that the big tractors and ponderous bulldozers were ruining a site she had selected for a rose garden. That nurse loved flowers, and longed for the blooming fragrance of roses; and she wasn't going to have any Army Air Base interfere with her flowery plans.

You wouldn't think that one lone nurse could interfere with military strategies for linking the Japs. But, just remember how determined some women can be! The stubbornness of the mule y

can be a soft and timid yielding by comparison -- when some women make up their minds. And, moreover, the government nurse knew exactly what to do. She sent complaints to Washington; whereupon Washington fired inquiries at Chief Engineer Seeley. The nurse kept bombarding Washington and Washington kept bombarding the unhappy Chief Engineer. He says he accumulated a file of correspondence inches thick. Finally he broke down. Rather than have the argument with the nurse and Washington continue forever, he decided to change his plans and build the flying field somewhere else. The only other site was across the river and there he took his grinding tractors and roaring bulldozers.

So Woman had her way! The nurse proceeded to plant her garden and grow some wonderful roses. But, there was the air base on the wrong side of the stream. Which is not so bad from the view point of military strategy, but it certainly was bad for business. The regiment of soldiers stationed at the