

ADD PACIFIC

P.M. - Standard. Friday, May 5, 1944.
Sunoco.

The latest is -- Wewak hit again, that Jap base in New Guinea smashed by a hundred-and-five tons of bombs -- in the aerial campaign to make Wewak useless, and neutralize the base.

On the ground at New Guinea the news continues -- Japs are surrendering. They are not so determined to die for their Mikado any more. Dispatches indicate that the enemy troops are now aware that they are encircled, with no chance to escape, and are not likely to receive supplies and reinforcements. So they are described as -- half starved and dejected. And they are staggering in to surrender.

PACIFIC

In the Pacific, Paramushiro in the Kurile Islands has been hit again. Long range Navy planes bombed the big base to the north of Japan. Enemy positions exploded, and huge fires swirled high.

~~And away to the south, Naru Island was bombed. That bit of land is on the southern flank of the Carolines, and is one of the Japanese bases that is being pounded steadily - in the American air offensive in the Central Pacific.~~

JAP ADMIRAL

There is something curious about the death of the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese fleet - Admiral Koga. This occurs less than a year after the previous enemy Commander, Yamamoto, was killed - Yamamoto who boasted he would dictate the terms of peace in the White House. Both lost their lives under the same circumstances - while flying. In fact, Tokyo uses almost the same words intelling about Koga as it did about Yamamoto - "killed while directing general operations aboard an airplane in the front line." And in both cases the announcement was made about a month after the event - with Tokyo being exceedingly vague about what really occurred.

All of this gives rise to ~~the~~^{the} belief that in both cases there may have been some kind of hari kari, the Japanese Navy commanders taking their lives because of defeats incurred by their fleets. It is unusual for

the Commander-in-Chief of ^a ~~the~~ Navy to go flying in
front line air operations, as reported in the cases of
both Yamamoto and Koga. Could they have taken that way
out, with suicide flights in battle? That question is
provoked by the strange coincidence in the deaths of the
^{successive} two commanders-in-chief of the Japanese Navy.

And once again the news puts emphasis on that
dramatic feature of the weather on there - the monsoon.
The great rains are scheduled to begin in two weeks,
and we hear that the strategy of the British counter-
offensive is to knock the Japs out of their established
positions before the monsoon comes, ~~so that~~
~~the deluge from the sky~~
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fashion as to turn the Japanese retreat into a rout.
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BURMA

In the battle area of eastern India, the British Imperial forces have launched a general counter-offensive at Kohima. ~~Mountbatten headquarters tells how today, British Indian armored columns struck deeply into the Jap siege lines around the city.~~ The reports are brief but they indicate that a major battle is in full swing.

And once again the news puts emphasis on that dramatic feature of the weather out there - the monsoon. The great rains are scheduled to begin in two weeks, and we hear that the strategy of the British counter-offensive is to knock the Japs out of their established positions before the monsoon comes, ~~so that the enemy~~ ~~defeat will be completed by~~ the deluge from the sky - which is calculated to disrupt communication^s in such fashion as to turn ~~the~~ Japanese retreat into a rout. In other words, the counter-offensive is timed with the monsoon.

GANDHI

~~There is late word from India. A bulletin~~
~~just in states that~~ *Mahatma* ~~Gandhi~~ *to be* ~~is being~~ released. The
Mahatma will emerge from his place of imprisonment
~~at eight o'clock~~ tomorrow. ~~morning.~~ His release is
unconditional, without any concession or promise
on Gandhi's part. *TR* The reason for this sudden and
surprising move is given as -- ill health. Gandhi
has been ill, suffering from malaria. ~~And the British~~
~~Indian Government states: "In view of the medical~~
~~report on Mr. Gandhi's health, the Government of India~~
~~has decided to release him unconditionally. This~~
~~decision," the statement adds, "was taken wholly on~~
~~medical grounds."~~

Gandhi's imprisonment began two years ago,
in August of ~~Ninetyx~~ Nineteen Forty-two. At that
time the Japs were sweeping along on a tide of
conquest. They had seized Burma, and it looked as
if they might ~~highly enough invade~~ *sweep on into* India. That was
the occasion for the Indian Nationalist party, headed
by Gandhi, to stage a civil disobedience campaign --

pursuing its demand for independence. There were disorders, rioting and bloodshed. The British Indian Government took vigorous action -- by arresting Gandhi, together with Pandit ^{Jawaharlal} Nehru and ~~the~~ host of other Nationalist leaders. The aged and wizened little Mahatma was confined in the palace of ^{the Aga} ~~the~~ Kahn, near Poona, a sumptuous prison. And there he has remained ever since. He went on a hunger strike, but survived. His wife was with him, and she died. And Gandhi himself fell ill -- it looked as if he might not survive much longer.

All along, the British Indian government refused to release him -- unless he gave a formal pledge that he would do nothing to impede the war effort. This, Gandhi consistently refused to do. And now he's been released unconditionally, without any promise -- because of his illness.

This, of course, can be ~~imx~~ interpreted as a striking victory for the little Mahatma.

It's apparent that the British do not want him to die on their hands and become a martyr.

But, on the other hand, tonight's news dispatch makes the point that one reason for the release of Gandhi is the fact that the situation in India has changed a lot. The menace of an all conquering Japan has vanished under the blows of Allied victories.

So, tomorrow the skinny little man in the loin cloth will shuffle out of his palace prison-- Gandhi free again.

FLYING FORTRESS

Tales of heroism and fortitude become so common these ~~ix~~ days that you might almost say -- a dime a dozen. But I suppose there is little danger of us becoming blasé ~~ab~~ about them, because ^{along,} they flash ~~is~~ one more extraordinary than the other. Take the contribution ^{that} tonight's news makes to the history of valor -- imagination could hardly reach that far.

A flying fortress was striking at Nazi targets along the invasion coast when a big ~~in~~ chunk of flak tore through the nose of the plane -- and hit the bombardier. The navigator grabbed him before he fell and with his own finger held the vein. In that way he staunches he see? The bombardier, quite nonchalantly, was ~~ix~~ ~~sighting~~ sighting his bombing instruments with one hand. And with the other hand -- he was holding his jugular vein, which had been cut, severed. Gushing blood covered the hand, ~~that was holding together the severed ends of the vein~~ and the blood ~~could~~ spurt ^{ed} with each beat of

the bombardier's heart. Yet he held the vein ^{together} and went on aiming his bombs.

The navigator, Lieutenant Davis Shoss of Houston, Texas, stepped forward to help him, but stopped when he saw that the bombardier was about ready to release his bomb ^{load.} "He was as cool as ice," says the Lieutenant, "and in a few seconds the bombs were dropped."

R Then the bombardier began to slump, his hand holding the jugular vein grew weak -- released its hold, and dropped. The Lieutenant grabbed him before he fell and with his own fingers held the vein. In that way he staunched the flow of blood so well that when the fortress reached its home base the bombardier was a case for the surgeons, not the undertaker. And the surgeons patched him up -- to get him well.

ITALY

Tiddings
~~the news~~ from Italy tonight duplicates a striking bit of news that we had almost a year ago. It was ⁱⁿ May of last year that bombers of the British Royal Air Force carried out one of the most brilliant strokes of the war - when they bombed great German dams in the Ruhr Valley, and loosed a disastrous flood upon enemy industrial areas. And tonight we hear about the bombing of dams - this time in Italy.

Into the Adriatic Sea flows a river called the Pescara - ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a river across which a great dam impounded the waters for electrical power and irrigation. ~~Pescara is just across the peninsula from Rome, and a short distance up the coast from the British lines.~~ A bursting of the dam and flooding of the waters would wash out enemy positions and communications along the Adriatic front. So, they hit the dam - dive bombers plunging in with well aimed

high explosive. The great Pescara¹ dam was smashed,
and the deluge poured down the valley, and ~~it is~~
~~telling only the half of it to say that~~ tonight the
Nazis in those parts are all wet.

waterline of communications. Soviet warships and
military planes have flung a blockade around the
beleaguered stronghold, and today's news tell of the
sinking of eleven enemy vessels including five troop
transports which were trying to evacuate Germans from
Sevastopol.

And now Roger - take
over for a moment

RUSSIA

Russian news tonight tells principally about sea and air action - which sounds more like the Pacific Ocean than the Steppes. But the new siege of Sevastopol is on, with the Germans trying to keep open the waterline of communications. Soviet warships and military planes have flung a blockade around the beleaguered stronghold, and today's news tell of the sinking of eleven enemy vessels including five troop transports which were trying to evacuate Germans from Sevastopol.

— 0 —
And now Roger — take
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METHODISTS

Today the Methodist Church declared itself on the subject of world organization after the war. At a general conference in Kansas City, it was decided to amend the social creed of the Methodist Church, amend it with the following resolution, which was passed unanimously.

"Christianity," says the resolution, "cannot be nationalistic. It must be universal in its outlook and appeal. War," the resolution goes on, "makes its appeal to force and hate, Christianity to reason and love."

"The time is at hand," the resolution ^{proclaims,} ~~proclaims,~~
"when the Church ~~must~~ must rise in ^{its} ~~the~~ _^ might and demand an international organization which will make another war impossible."

SEDITION

~~Today~~ Q rather startling contention was made in the sedition trial at Washington. One of the lawyers for the defense, James J. McLaughlin, is accused of misbehavior in court and of making what are called "scurrilous and scandalous" charges against the Judge, Judge Eicher. And today, in defense of this lawyer, another of the attorneys for the defense took the witness stand and testified that he had been told certain things by what he called -- a prominent Iowa Democrat. He said this Iowa Democrat had informed him that ~~Judge~~ ~~the~~ Judge Eicher had become a Federal judge -- as a personal favor to President Roosevelt. The witness said that the President had asked Eicher to serve on the bench because, in the words of the witness -- "The President had certain litigation coming up, and wanted someone to handle it who was ^{favorable} ~~favorable~~ to the New Deal." ~~and~~ The defense claims that this litigation is the present sedition trial. All of which is the

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gravest kind of charge to make, and it would take
this country feel any better, but here's news that the
much evidence to persuade one to believe it.

Tax payers of London contributing seven and a half
million dollars for a water wheel that has been out of
existence for one hundred and fifty years. The story is
a classic of old England. In the year of Fifteen
Eighty-one, when good Queen Mary sat on the throne,
there was a Dutchman named Peter Rowice,
headed
and a hard-headed sharp-looking Hollander named he.
He built a waterwheel, which was the first mechanical
gadget ever used for the London water supply. It pumped
water from the Thames into the city. And he made a
deal whereby he and his heirs were to be paid for
the water wheel *at the rate of* fifteen thousand dollars annually for
five hundred years. In other words -- until the year
of two thousand, eighty-one.

As the London tax payers started paying, the

LONDON

I don't know if it will make the tax payers in this country feel any better, but here's news that the tax payers of London ^{are} contributing seven ^{and} a half million dollars for a water wheel that has been out of existence for one hundred and fifty years. ^P The story is a classic of old England. In the year ~~of~~ Fifteen Eighty-one, when good Queen Bess sat on the throne, ~~of England~~ there was a Dutchman named Peter ~~Morice~~, and a hard-~~hearted~~ ^{headed,} sharp-dealing Hollander was he. He built a waterwheel, which was the first mechanical gadget ever used for the London water supply. It pumped water from the Thames into the city. And he made a deal whereby he and his heirs were to be paid for the water wheel ^{at the rate of} fifteen thousand dollars annually for five hundred years. In other words -- until the year ~~of~~ two thousand ^{and} eighty-one.

So the London tax payers started paying. And

they've been doing so ever since. The water wheel itself disappeared one hundred and fifty years ago.

It was torn down when *they* demolished and replaced

the old London Bridge, the original London Bridge. *Even*

so they went on paying, that is grants
~~And still London went on paying fifteen thousand~~

~~dollars a year.~~ To date five-and-a-half million dollars

have been paid, and the contract still has a hundred

and thirty-seven years to run. That canny Dutchman! *The*

heirs of
Peter Morice, *has long since been dead, or*
~~has been dead long since, of course. And~~

the Dutchman's
~~his heirs~~ have disappeared. However, shares in ~~the~~ water

wheel ~~investment~~ were sold to various people long, *long*

ago; and they still collect. *TP* Right now the Metropolitan

water board of London is making out fifteen hundred

checks of ten dollars each -- this year's payment to

the numerous share-holders in the long vanished water

wheel. ~~It is estimated that~~ The only other alternative

would be
to buy the remaining rights to the water wheel *that exist.*

But, it is estimated that this would cost about half a million dollars. So think that one over, ~~one~~ American taxpayers!

They've paid ^{of} 5,000,000 already and 2½ million yet to go, for another 137 years, for a water wheel that hasn't been there for a couple of centuries!
Traditional England.

KENNEDY

A late story from London gives us some sidelights on that latest international marriage which is soon to be held -- the wedding of ~~the~~ Captain William John Robert Cavendish, Marquess of Hartington, and son and heir of the Duke of Devonshire to Kathleen Kennedy, daughter of the former United States Ambassador to London -- Joseph P. Kennedy. We hear that for the first time since Sixteen Ninety-four, Two hundred and fifty years ago, an heir to the Dukedom of Devonshire will be married outside of the traditional family chapel at Chatsworth. The reason is that the chapel is Anglican while the bride to be is Roman Catholic. Hence the ceremony will be solemnized on what may be called neutral grounds, the Caxton Hall Registry Office. And, moreover, the wedding reception will not be held in the town house of the Dukes of Devonshire, because that edifice was blitzed, wrecked in the great German air raids on London.

This will ~~not~~ be the first matrimonial alliance between the Dukedom of Devonshire and these United States. Some while ago Lord Charles Cavendish married Adele Astair, sister ~~sister~~ and dancing partner of Fred Astair. And today she, Lady Charles Cavendish, told what Eddie said. She calls His Grace the Duke of Devonshire -- Eddie. Said Lady Cavendish, "Eddie told me last night it will be grand getting some nice new American blood in the family."

No doubt it will, not to mention how nice it will be for ^{the lovely} Kathleen Kennedy of Boston to become the Duchess of Devonshire, as she is scheduled to become some day.

*And now you know you
of a few weeks*

BABY

In Chicago, Arthur Lang drives a truck for a^e
delivery company, and today he had to get his wife to
a maternity hospital in a hurry. There wasn't any
other means of conveyance, so he drove her in his truck.
As it happened, the baby was born on the way to the
hospital.

The laugh in the story is found in the sign
3/2 painted on the outside of the truck, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ one of those advertising mottoes.
It says: "We deliver anything."

4 And now Roger, will you
deliver - a few words.

AIR WAR

The air war today struck at the Nazis from opposite points of the compass, north and south. The northern blow was impeded by bad weather, as has been the case for the past several days. Thick clouds and violent gales have held down the long range activities of ~~Lieutenant Colonel~~ Doolittle's Eighth Air Force.

And still, some squadrons of the heavy bombers were able to lash out against the Nazis in France, while the lighter types flew in swarms for the usual bombing of the invasion coast and the lines of communications which feed it. ^R ~~Travelers passing from France to neutral~~

~~Spain report that the incessant bombing of the French and Belgium railroad lines have begun to disrupt the whole Nazi transport system in western Europe. German troops, under orders to travel, have been immobilized because of the break-down of the railroad system, and a series of important rail centers are described as~~

~~Having been isolated for days.~~

The blow from the south hit the Rumanian oilfields, with bombers based on Italy hurling new devastation upon those all-important sources of petroleum. ^{and} The railroad communications with the oilfields were bombed.

~~Another target was - Budapest, which is like a hub from which the German war transport radiates. And a force of liberators bombed enemy points in Jugoslavia cooperating with the Partisan insurgents. The~~

^{TP} The weather in southern Europe was excellent today, and that fact is reflected in long range bombing raids, hurling destruction afar.

WIFE

In Boston, eighteen alleged bookmakers are on trial, charged technically with conspiracy to violate the law against taking bets on horse races. And the wife of one of them spoke up in his defense. It is always an inspiring thing when a wife tries to shield her husband - although it certainly can get hubby all tangled up sometimes.

When the wife in Boston was informed of the conspiracy charge against her husband, she cried, indignantly: "Conspiracy! Why he was never mixed up in any conspiracy. All he ever did was to make book on the horses!"

MONTGOMERY WARD

The House of Representatives today voted an investigation of the government seizure of Montgomery Ward and Company. ~~A special seven man committee is to conduct the inquiry.~~ The Senate has already voted a quiz of its own - so there will be two investigations of the military occupation of Montgomery Ward, with the Company President ousted by two soldiers. ~~In the House~~

~~today, there was acrimonious debate, with Democrats charging that the investigation was a move to undermine public confidence in President Roosevelt, while the Republicans countered with the contention that the President had exceeded his constitutional powers.~~

~~When the angry oratory was over, many administration supporters who had talked against the inquiry, voted for it, urging that it be a fair-minded study, not only of the presidential seizure, but also of the Company's defiance of the federal government.~~

GERMAN NERVES

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

The way German nerves are said to be cracking under the strain of the incessant bombing ~~was~~^{is} illustrated by a story told in Stockholm. A neutral traveler from Berlin states that a wild alarm was spread in a suburb of Berlin. ~~That section of the city, like all others, had repeatedly felt the havoc of Allied bombs, and their response to the frantic warning was wild and excited. In a panic they started for air raid shelters.~~ Somebody shrieked, "They're coming." And sure enough, on the horizon appeared several silhouettes flying in V-formation. ~~Nearly everybody was in the shelter~~^{They fled to} ~~when~~^{s as} the V-formations flew over. And then it was noted that there was no roar of airplane motors. The V-formations of supposed bombers were - flocks of wild geese.

TAXES

The other evening we noted that there was so little opposition to the new bill for simplification of taxes that it was likely to pass in a hurry. And that was borne out today, when the House of Representatives put its okay on the bill - the measure that will relieve some thirty million taxpayers of the burden of making any returns, and will simplify the forms of those who ~~had~~ do have to make returns. *P* The bill now goes to the Senate, where once again the word is that it is likely to be passed in a hurry. And then it will be sent to the ~~White~~ White House, where the President is ^{*sure*} ~~going~~ to sign without delay - because he took the lead in proposing the simplification of the tax forms, saying they were so intricate that certified public accountants were unable to unscramble them.

SUBSIDIES

Word from Washington on that old and much debated question of - subsidies, money paid to food producers instead of giving them a rise in prices. The Washington word is that Republicans are considering ~~axxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ a change of attitude on the subject of subsidies. They have been bitterly against the Administration program hitherto, but now they may change about and stop their opposition.to food subsidies.

This was rumored in Congress, as Democrats and Republicans fought and wrangled over Republican charges that the Administration is playing politics with rationing - abolishing meat rationing with a view to the November elections.

ADD MONTGOMERY WARD

In the arrest yesterday of the Montgomery-Ward official who tore down a government poster - we now find he was not fingerprinted by the F.B.I. The F.B.I. agents merely carried out orders to arrest him. Whereupon they turned him over to the Attorney General's office, where he was fingerprinted.

PLANES

A disastrous air crash was narrowly averted in New York today, when at LaGuardia Field a big four-motored transport almost ran into another plane. The airliner had just taken off and was gaining altitude, when suddenly in front of it the other plane rose from the ground -- mysteriously, as if out of ~~nowhere~~ nowhere. The pilot of the transport sent a radio message that he had run into -- Gremlins. And the Gremlin, in fact, was a plane without a pilot, just buzzing up without any control. Actually it was a model, but a big one -- a power-driven model with a wing span of seven feet. And any regular plane running into it would mean disaster.

The explanation is clear enough -- some model flying enthusiast turning loose his large contraption at New York's great airport. Models like that can buzz around in the air for a long time, and can rise to

considerable attitudes, which makes it quite an idea. Planes without control flying around at a place where passenger planes are coming in and going out all the time. The police made a search and found a man and two boys who were flying model planes a mile from the field. And one of these, a big ~~one~~^{one,} had gone whizzing over to the airport.

POLAND

There were new ructions today in the case of the Polish American priest, who went on a Mission to Moscow -- F~~a~~ther Orlemanski, who^{is} said to have a plan for settling the dispute between the Soviets and Poland, and was received with much ceremony by Stalin.

~~At~~ The committee which claims to represent six million American citizens of Polish ancestry continued previous denunciations of the Reverend Orlemanski, who, in their words -- "tried to preach the doctrine of Communism," and they sharply critized the State Department for giving a passport visa to the priest for his Mission to Moscow. They say that the granting of the visa was, as they express it -- "evidence of American solidarity with the aims and methods of Soviet aggression."