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Sunoco.

PACIFIC

The battle of the Western Pacific continues, with ~~Admiral~~ Halsey's fleet turning its air power against the Japs in the Philippines. Luzon ~~was~~ hit!--

That's the latest word. (The action ~~that~~ began ten days ago with an assault against the Ryukyu Islands south of Japan, and then went on with a giant stroke against the key island of Formosa, and now sweeps on southward to the Philippines.) ^{of this great battle} On the tenth day, American Carrier

Planes blasted Japanese military concentrations on Luzon - the American fleet now ranging at will along the line of ^{Japanese} home communications, ~~of Japan~~.

Admiral Nimitz today announced new figures for Jap losses in the two days' naval and air action. Three hundred and thirty-eight ships and small craft have been destroyed, and one-hundred-and-thirty-four ~~Japanese~~ planes ~~have been~~ demolished. -- ^{Such is the} huge havoc accomplished by the planes of ^{Halsey's} ~~the~~ fleet. And, another island ~~has been~~ taken, an atoll in the Western Carolines. Little resistance was encountered on that

bit of coral called Ngulu -- two hundred and ten miles north of Palau.

The reason why the main fleet of Japan avoided action at a crisis of battle off Formosa is made more clear today. The Japs apparently figured that their massive land-based air attacks would cripple the American armada, and then the Japanese fleet, coming up, could polish off what was left of the American Warships. But ^{the} Jap air attack was beaten off, and when the Mikado's main fleet appeared, its commanders found Halsey's warships in full fighting trim -- an array of sea power that sent the Jap fleet scurrying back to cover.

What the Japs saw may be surmised from a statement made in Washington today by Secretary of the Navy Forrestal. He states that right now the United States has two major fleets in the Pacific, each of which is powerful enough to defeat the entire navy of

Japan. Secretary Forrestal mentioned the Third Fleet commanded by Admiral Halsey, and the Fifth Fleet ■■ commanded by Admiral Spruance, both of which are operating in the far Pacific. And if either one should get into a fight with the full Navy of Japan, it will be strong enough to win the victory.

Yet Tokio continues its fantastic claim that Halsey's Fleet was annihilated in battle. Or Tokio sometimes says -- crippled. Even the Japs, however, can't deny the fact that the American Warships are still out there, hurling their carrier plane attacks. This Tokio explained today by saying that the annihilated or crippled fleet of Halsey had been what a Tokyo Broadcast in English called - "Replenished." The Jap propaganda version was that two other American Squadrons have joined Halsey.

The Japs are pushing their story of ■■ a great victory so hard that today a celebration was announced - A celebration thus described by Tokyo:—

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"Extra and large rations of Saki will be issued to all the emperor's subjects," says the Tokyo Radio. I

suppose the idea is that the extra large rations of

the nice wine, called Saki, are necessary to keep the

illusion of ~~fx~~ victory alive ~~--~~ ^{--- something} along the order of

seeing pink elephants.

FOLLOW PACIFIC

Just go give the Japs more reason to drink Saki, Here's the latest from MacArthur. More bombs hitting Jap war centers guarding the Philippines. One hundred and fifty American war planes smashed at Japanese islands strongholds south of Mindanao. Ninety tons of high explosives were judiciously distributed. Ships were sunk and installations battered.

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PEARL HARBOR

In Washington tonight, the Secretary of the Navy stated that it won't be long before he receives the Navy report on the Pearl Harbor disaster. Army and Navy boards have been investigating the question of the blame, and the Navy version is expected soon.

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NAZIS

The grim fury that may develop in the last-ditch battle for Germany is indicated in a Hitler proclamation issued today. ~~Grim fury -- that will mark the downfall of the Nazis, if the German people obey the merciless edicts.~~

Hitler today ordered the mobilization of every German man and boy from sixteen to sixty years old, for a fight to the finish inside of Germany. And Himmler the **K**iller, who is the Nazi Home Front Commander, stated: "Every block of houses, every village, every farmhouse, every ditch, every bush, every wood -- will be defended by men, boys and old folk. And, if necessary, by women and children." ¹⁾

Today's Hitler order decrees that men and boys from sixteen to sixty shall be conscripted and organized in what are called -- Storm Units. They will be drafted, not by the German Army, but by the Nazi Party, which will control the Storm Units and force the fight to the last man or boy.

The Hitler Proclamation gives the German People a gloomy picture of the Allied Armies at the Gates of Germany, and he states that the final hope is a defense so bitter and unrelenting that the Allied Nations will get tired of it. [The ~~more~~ realistic explanation is that the Nazis in their own downfall are determined to drag down all of Germany and the German People to ruin and destruction.]

Nazi Leaders state that the sixteen-to-sixty year old storm units will not wear military uniforms, but will wear special armbands -- arm bands inscribed with the Nazi Swastika and the words "German Peoples' Storm Defense Force." They describe this as being, in their own words -- "According to International Conventions." This is obviously a Nazi device to put the Storm Units in the category of soldiers, and thus entitle them to treatment as prisoners of war if captured. The laws of war provide that civilians who are caught fighting against regular military forces may ^{be shot.} ^

~~be shot:~~

~~We wonder how the Allies will regard the
Nazi device of using arm bands to classify the Storm
Units as regular soldiers and not Guerrillas? It's a
question all the more to the point today because of
another piece of news: Supreme Headquarters announces~~
that an Allied Plan for the Military Government of Germany
has now been completed -- and the plan provides the
death penalty for Guerillas -- German civilians who
oppose the Allies. Any partisan warfare inside of
Germany will be crushed relentlessly. Resistance by the
civilian population will be suppressed without mercy.
The death penalty will be imposed on irregular fighters
and on civilians who are caught helping the Nazis.

That news coincides ominously with the
formation of the Storm Units, the organization of
which was ordered by Hitler today, for the bitter-end
defense.

Now Hugh, your Stan. & Cal.
message and then I'll continue.

WESTERN FRONT

The savage and bitter turn the battle for Germany has taken is pictured in the ruin of a Dutch Town tonight. It is occupied by the British now, they having just completed the capture -- at about midnight, Central European Time.

The town is Venray, near the German Border -- at a point where a new British drive threatens to rip into the Ruhr Valley nearby -- Germany's great industrial center. So the enemy held on there with a mad sort of stubbornness, and the Canadians fought in Venray for six days.

It was a battle amid the surroundings of an inferno, wreckage and fire - the town shattered, blazing. The scene was the more diabolical because of the mingling of the two opposite elements -- water and fire. It has been raining in Holland -- A downpour falling on Venray. But the water had little effect on the fiercely burning fires -- and the battle was fought ^{amid} ~~amid~~ flames in the rain.

Fanatical Nazis held out to the last gasp.

Isolated groups resisted to the death, sometimes groups of a mere two or three, sometimes a single Nazi diehard. The British Tommies had to clear them out with hand-grenades and bayonettes -- taking one bit of wreckage after the other, while flames leaped high in the rainy night.

At Aachen, defended with equal bitterness, the story is just as fantastic. The capture of the city is almost complete, but small bands of Germans are still holding out -- and they are lurking in positions of the most bedeviling kinds, tunnels, underground passageways.

Tonight American Soldiers are engaged in a sort of subterranean warfare, invading the mazes of tunnels under the city, fighting savage battles against Germans holding out to the end. It is much the same story as at Cassino, ~~that~~^{the} Medieval City in Italy where American Forces were held up for so long by underground defenses.

At Cassino the subterranean passages dated back to the Middle Ages. At Aachen the story is even

more ancient -- going back to the time of the Roman Empire. Beneath the city are ancient Roman tunnels, and ~~it~~ it is believed that these radiate from the Cathedral - that famous Cathedral of Aix-La-Chapelle, where ^{the} German Emperors were crowned and where Charlemagne was buried. Roman tunnels for a weird battleground in this modern war.

From Military Headquarters in London we have word that Allied Armies are fully prepared for a winter campaign. As we heard before, the High Command no longer believes that a German collapse this year is likely, and Troops are in training for fighting in bitter cold. They are being hardened to low temperatures in Scotland and in the American Northwest - learning how to surmount obstacles of snow and ice and freezing mud.

The Americans and British have the advantage of lessons learned by the Russians in their winter campaigns. Soviet Officers have ^{been} giving demonstrations of how to operate massive tank forces in deep snow,

~~and how to arrange airfields in the coldest of weather.~~

All of which is ~~factual and detailed~~ evidence that the hope of an early Nazi collapse has been abandoned, and that the Germans may wage a battle of grim fury to the last man -- the last cripple even.

Which takes us to a story given out by an American Officer, Lieutenant William E. Byers of Portland, Oregon. He states that his unit recently captured a German soldier with a wooden arm, and an officer who was blind in one eye. The latter had in his possession a paper reading: "This officer is to be excused in case he fails to salute a superior officer. He is blind in one eye and cannot see well with the other."

RUSSIA

Russian forces today drove clear across Czechoslovakia. That country is long and narrow, and one Russian Army was to the north and another to the south. The force at the north staged a drive across Czechoslovakia, and joined forces with the southern army. ^{TT} Everywhere in that area the Russians are surging forward. They have pushed through seven passes over the high Carpathians, and their advance into Czechoslovakia is on a front of ~~one~~^a hundred and seventy ~~one~~ miles wide.

And, Along the East Prussian front the Red Army has cracked the defenses which the Germans call - their East Wall. Moscow announces the capture of an important stronghold in Lithuania three miles from the East Prussian frontier ~~that is~~ the point where the East wall was broken.

HUNGARY

Here's a melodramatic report from Hungary, in which country confusion reigns. For days there has been a mystery about the whereabouts of Admiral Horthy, who as regent proclaimed an armistice with the Allies -- Hungary doing a somersault and joining our side. The Germans countered quickly, installing a puppet government which promptly announced that Hungary was sticking with the Nazis.

Admiral Horthy vanished from the vision of the news, and now we hear that he is holding out in the old citadel at Budapest. He and a party of troops are defending the castle against the Germans and puppet Fascists.

HURRICANE

Southern Florida is having one of its wildest nights tonight -- another hurricane. The big wind hit Havana today, with what Havana calls - "great destructive force". Cuba was prepared for the devastation of the wind, and yet a huge amount of damage was done -- power lines down, lights cut off, transportation disrupted.

The hurricane traveled north, and at two-thirty this afternoon was about forty miles southwest of Key West - headed for the coast of Florida. The most gravely threatened area was the west shore, from the Keys to Tampa.

The violence of the tropical tempest is told vividly in a report from the lighthouse keeper of the Dry Tortugas -- those isles of grim history off the coast of Florida. The light keeper announces that the wind at the Dry Tortugas was blowing at the rate of one-hundred-and-twenty miles an hour.

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Central Florida got set late today for the hurricane that is expected to strike there tonight.

Hundreds of Army bombers from various fields in southern Florida were flown northward late yesterday and today. And, a hundred and fifty Boeing Cadet trainers at ^{the} Lodwick School of Aeronautics, at Lakeland, ^fwere Army Air Force pilots are trained, unable to get out this morning because of low ceiling, have been set right out on the wide airport, with wheels in holes dug in ground to further anchor them, and with stakes fastened to the pavement.

Gasoline trucks have been dispersed around the field in sandy holes to avoid fire hazard, and food supplies for cadets have been prepared for forty-eight hours in event of power failure.

Army hospital patients housed ^d at various mid-Florida bases have been evacuated to the big steel and concrete New Florida Hotel in Lakeland.

GHOST

I don't know much about ghosts, but here's evidence that a spook can sometimes be impartial -- unbiased, playing no favorites. This revelation comes from a court in Hollywood, where an effort is being made to break the will of a wealthy citizen named Eugene MacDonald, ~~who~~ left Seventy Thousand Dollars to a spiritualist. And the allegation is that the specters she summoned had a lot to do with it.

One witness at the spook trial today was MacDonald's former wife, who said that the ghosts called by the spiritualist broke up her marriage. And, the ectoplasmic ~~entities~~ entities went about it in a most impartial way -- utterly free from bias.

"One one occasion", ~~the~~ the witness testified, "when I met the spiritualist, she went into a trace, I received a message", she continued, "that I was spiritually and mentally far above my husband, and that it ~~would~~ would be better if we developed separately."

This might make it seem that the ghost was prejudiced in favor of the wife, thinking so highly of

her. However, the testimony continued as follows: -

"Shortly thereafter", declared the witness, "the spiritualist gave my husband ~~xx~~ the same sort of message -- that he was far above me spiritually and mentally".

That made it even-stephen -- both wife and husband being both superior to each other. Something like the old wheeze about the teacher who says: - "You can all go to the head of the class".

In any case the ectoplasmic impartiality was so unbiased that it ~~xxxx~~ broke up the marriage.

1/2
And now Hugh, with ectoplasmic impartiality, or ~~else~~ something, will you give us your closing message.