

In the Philippines, the battle on Leyte Island has been resumed after a deluge of tropical rain had held up the fighting for days. The weather has improved and the rainy season is at an end. Today General MacArthur's troops drove forward all along the line. The key point of the fighting was along ^a ~~the~~ river ten miles south of the Jap base of Ormoc. There American infantry forged across the stream today -- breaking through the Jap ~~line~~ ^{line}. ^P Air news tonight tells of a whole series of American bombing raids along a thousand mile front -- the Japs hit all the way from the Marshall Islands to the Volcano Archipelago.

The Japs have again reported American planes over Tokio, saying that they were a small force, which dropped no bombs -- reconnoitering apparently. The enemy doesn't say what kind they were, but they must have been B-29s.

JAP THREATS

Once again the Japs make a sinister threat against American fliers who bombed Japan. This is in response to an inquiry made via the neutral Swiss government - an inquiry asking Japan for a declaration about the treatment of prisoners of war. The Japanese Government replies that it will not follow the rules of civilized warfare in the case of bombing attacks against Japan. The Japs say they will, in their words, "hold fliers responsible", responsible for breaking what the Japs call "established practices of warfare."

This is the same line of talk they used when they announced the execution of airmen who took part in the Doolittle bombing of Tokyo. The Far Eastern enemy threatens the same kind of ferocity all over again - coolly passing over the huge amount of indiscriminate bombing the Japs themselves have done, as in China or at Manila, early in the ~~19~~ war.

BOMBING JAPAN

We have some exceedingly candid statements about the bombing of Tokyo - the raids by the B-29s. At the Saipan base of the Superfortresses, it was admitted today that the whole thing ^{has} ~~had~~ been mostly experimental. They say some damage was done to Tokyo, but the bombings have been what the ^{Saipan} dispatch calls - "only partially effective."

The story from Saipan puts this in the following words: "The object of the B-29 bombing program is to select a certain target such as an aircraft factory, and destroy it through precision bombing. In the first four raids," adds the dispatch, "this was not achieved."

~~There is reference to what we heard last night - the official statement that in the assault on the Nakajima Aircraft Works in Tokyo, the target was not destroyed. Today this is expanded with the following~~

statement about the second bombing of the Nakajima plant. "It was," says the dispatch, "the most successful of the raids, but it was not satisfactory."

Reference is made ~~again~~ to the high tail winds which ^{have} impeded ~~the~~ accuracy of aim. And we are told:

"Many strings of explosives have landed outside of the target area," ~~says the dispatch from Saipan.~~ "Moreover, the Superfortresses are not carrying the bomb loads of ten tons which have been announced as their capacity. The weight of bombs that the B-29 drops on Tokyo is cut down by the length of the flight - more gas, less bombs."

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NEW BOMBER

It was disclosed in Washington today that the Army is developing an air giant even bigger, much bigger, than the colossal B-29.

In testimony before a congressional committee, it was stated that several new types of super-bombers are being built. One - the B-36, which will completely outdo the present Superfortress in size and range. The B-36 now being developed is described in the following words: "the largest airplane that has been attempted in this country."

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JAP AIRCRAFT

Here's an official statement that confirms information we've been hearing. Recently I talked to an American war flyer just back from the Pacific, who told me that the Japs are turning out new types of planes which are technically very good, most formidable. And today in Washington, Secretary of the Navy, Forrestal declared that Jap aircraft production had ^S improved in quantity and quality, so much so ^A that right now the technical advantage of the American Air Force is, what the Secretary called "very slender".

GREECE.

This afternoon British warplanes went into action against the insurrectos in Athens. Spitfire fighters made strafing attacks against Left Wing forces near the Acropolis - that citadel and symbol of the grandeur that was Greece. The Spitfires whirled low, with the spitting of fire by machine guns against the forces of the ELAS - the Left Wing military organization. At last reports, the ~~forces of the ELAS were being attacked on the ground by British and Greek government troops, and~~ ^{ELAS} were retreating up the hill, the ^{historic} slopes of the Acropolis. Bitter irony, indeed, ^{if} that most famous ruin of classic Greece, ^{were} being further ruined in the civil war between Greeks, the ~~trife~~ ^{trife} in which the British liberators of Greece are participating

The ~~British~~ Spitfires likewise attacked, and made six strafing runs against an ELAS stronghold ^{on} ~~at~~ Arditos Hill - ■■ that hill where twenty-five hundred years ago, the Philosopher Socrates was tried and condemned to drink

the hemlock.

British tanks were in the Athenian battle today when the headquarters of the Left Wing organization was captured - in the center of Athens. There was savage fighting in the building, and the Elas forces had to be cleared out - room by room. ~~There were~~ a number of casualties, including a British soldier - killed. Forty prisoners were taken, ~~xxx~~ among them a lieutenant colonel and a major of the Elas. The nearby officer^s of the Left Wing youth organization was also seized, as were the officer^s of the Communist Party. ~~The~~ Communist headquarters was taken without much fighting, ~~and~~ shortly after the attack began - the white flag was raised.

Tonight the ~~B~~ battle in Athens continues, with Elas holding sections of the town. ~~One bitter struggle is raging around the Metropolis Hotel - where, as we heard last night, conservative partisans~~

were defending themselves. Shooting everywhere, between
Elas forces and British troops aided by Greek government
units. These include ~~the~~ veteran Greek outfit hardened
~~in war, veterans of the battles of the desert in North~~
Africa. British tanks and armored cars are smashing
resistance. On the road to the port of Piraeus, a
British officer was killed in a fight with Elas,

two British lives lost today in the fighting - 2 at least
The latest is - more British killed.
And The Elas insurrection has spread to other
of unhappy Hellas. For instance
parts ~~in Greece. He are told of fighting at the port of~~

~~Patras - where Left Wingers seized stocks of arms and
ammunition. These were captured later by the British.
There is fighting in Salonika, and from many parts of
Greece comes word of Elas insurrectos marching to
support the Left Wing in its battle for Athens.~~

BRITISH POLICY

As the Civil War rages in Greece, the line is now clearly drawn between British and American policy with reference to matters of government in liberated countries -- like Greece. (Today in the London House of Commons Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden gave a reply to the declaration issued yesterday in Washington by American Secretary of State Stettinius. The American statement, as we heard last night, referred specifically to Italy -- where the British ~~saxthare~~ ^{have} said "No" to Count Sforza, refusing to let that famous one-time anti-Fascist exile take a position of power in the present Italian government.)

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The American Secretary of State told the world that ~~the~~ ^{Stettinius} policy of the United States was to let the peoples of liberated countries decide upon their governments all by themselves -- with no outside interference. ~~And Stettinius added that Washington has no objection to Count Sforza.~~

Foreign Secretary ~~Anthony~~ Eden was asked about this in Parliament today, and he took an opposite

stand -- reaffirming Britain's "right" to pass on members of governments in liberated countries. ~~Eden~~

~~took it the same stand that he did previously, when he said that Count Sforza would not be what he called "a happy choice" as Italian Foreign Minister. Today~~

~~He~~ declared: "I have nothing to add to my previous statement."

All of which is causing plenty of excited debate in Britain. The Stettinius declaration of yesterday ~~fx~~ caused a furore, and today in Parliament the Churchill government had a rough time, -- with M Ps ^{contending} ~~declaring~~ that the British policy in Italy -- and in Greece -- was causing a split with the United States -- not to mention Soviet Russia. Today the influential Manchester ~~Guardian~~ stated, "Whatever popular American suspicions there may be about the genuineness of British Democratic policy, they are ^{shared} ~~shared~~ in an even higher degree by our other great Ally, Soviet Russia."

The contention is repeated that the Churchill government is supporting the Conservative elements in

On the Western Front, the entire focus of news tonight is on Patton's Third Army, which today smashed forward for a seven mile advance and drove into one of the important cities of the industrial Saar Valley, the town of Sarreguemines. At last reports, two-thirds of that place had been captured.

And, at the same time, Patton's troops today forced four more crossings of the Saar River, below the Siegfried-Line-fortress of Merzig. American soldiers got across the stream in assault boats, and met with only the fire of small arms - rifles and machine guns.

(Pushing through this, they drove their boats ashore and quickly established beachheads - four more, as Patton's Third Army methodically goes on breaking through the Nazi defense line along the River Saar.)

On other fronts, action dwindled down today.

Before Cologne, for example, there was little more than

mere patrol skirmishes - as Hodges's First Army awaits

for
~~the~~ new supplies to be brought up. Always ~~there is~~

that question of supplies, more ammunition, more shells-

of which there is a shortage.

RUSSIA

The Russians tonight are within forty-six miles of the border of Austria - this after new advances today. Soviet troops are extending their front along Lake Balaton, the big water barrier that lies in front of Vienna. Berlin reports that new Red army forces have been thrown into the offensive to encircle Budapest.

capitals when they have been captured by Allies. It is expected that the Sub-Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff will be set up in these cities, now held by the Axis.

Danzig, the great seaport east of East Prussia, which was a free city before the Nazis grabbed it. The State Department expects Danzig to be captured by February First.

Copenhagen, capital of Denmark, February First.

Prague, capital of Czechoslovakia, March First.

Vienna, capital of Austria, April First.

What about that most important capital of all - Berlin. We have no prediction - the State Department is not asking funds for the opening of an office in Berlin.

FORECAST

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Today we had some guesses about when various European capitols now dominated by the Nazis will be liberated. The guesses ^{are} ~~are~~ from high authority, the State Department in Washington. Today the State Department asked a Congressional Sub-Committee on Appropriations to provide funds for sending American diplomatic representatives to occupied European capitols when these have been captured by ^{the} ~~the~~ Allied ^{forces} ~~forces~~, and inform ^{ed} ~~ed~~ the Sub-Committee of the ^{dates} ~~details~~ by which it expects to open offices in those cities, ~~now held by the Nazis~~.

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ARMY ROBBERY

A startling mystery of crime was reported in England today -- the United States Army robbed, criminals getting away with a quarter of a million dollars in ^{military} cash, an Army payroll destined for American troops in the battle of Germany. The story is printed in the London Daily Herald which states that the whole thing has been hushed up, with all kinds of secrecy. The London newspaper calls it ^{the} "the most hush hush" affair in the history of British crime and adds that it had its information from what the newspaper calls "a high-up". In the American military police this high-up is quoted as confirming the fact of the robbery and saying: "Yes, you're right, but we cannot tell you anything about it."

^{the newspaper}
All the details can give is that the crime was committed in Southwest England and that the army payroll money stolen by the crooks was in small notes contained in sealed steel boxes. ^{We are} told of great and secret activities behind the scenes with ^{the American Military police and} the F. B. I.

joining the British police in a wide spread hunt for the crooks who robbed the United States Army.

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... convicts in the same prison. They broke into the ...
... prison, burst open the cells and seized knives and razors ...
... which they used themselves. One sinister account ...
... relates that while holding out, they amused themselves ...
... by threatening their hostages with knives and razors. ...
... In addition to the four guards, the convicts held in ...
... the prison building, seventy-seven other prisoners, ...
... persons, most of them fellow prisoners, ...
... others were present.

PRISON

This afternoon at Atlanta, Georgia there was an end, apparently, to a prison outbreak of a weird and blood curdling sort. Twenty-five convicts mutined and seized four guards and held them ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ as hostages. They barricaded themselves in a prison building and threatened to kill the hostages if they were molested.

Most of the convicts were mental cases, prisoners known to be ~~psycopathic~~ psychopathic. Seemingly one of the reasons for their outbreak was the fact that they were forced to mingle with German saboteurs and spies, convicts in the same prison~~s~~. They broke into the prison barber shop and there seized knives and razors with [^] which they armed themselves. One sinister account relates that while holding out, they amused themselves by threatening their hostages with knives and razors. In addition to the four guards, the convicts held in the prison building, seventy-seven other ~~prisoners~~, persons, most of them fellow ~~prisoners~~ convicts, others prison personal.

They held out in ~~a prison building~~ from Monday until tonight. Various persons pleaded with them to give up one of these was an Atlanta newspaper man, who ~~is~~ is ~~was~~ also a Sunday school teacher. And now the convicts have listened to his plea. They have agreed to surrender tomorrow morning if they are given food. They were starved out. Also -- if ~~the~~ what they call ^{their} "cause" is given publicity. This latter condition is being met by the newspaper-man-Sunday-school-teacher, who will tell about the convicts cause and grievances ^{tomorrow morning} in the Atlanta Journal.

CRASH

A weird story comes from Vancouver, British Columbia, where ~~an~~ a Canadian Air Force Bomber pilot went beserk today, in his plane, and went on a terrorizing rampage that ended only when he crashed and was killed. The pilot with a Billy Mitchell Bomber made repeated dives at airplane buildings, park ~~places~~ and civilian buildings. Again and again he swooped down missing buildings and people by a mere few feet. He performed what the dispatch calls "seemingly impossible maneuvers", and put his bomber through acrobatics, which other pilots declared should have torn it apart. Fighter planes went after him to force him down, but he eluded them and continued to terrorize people on the ground for more than four hours -- until finally his Bomber did a half roll at a thousand feet and took a vertical dive to the ground.

DORSEY

Well, it looks as if we may never know - who virtually sliced off the tip of the nose of Jon Hall, the handsome movie he-man. Did the trombone-playing bandleader Tommy Dorsey take the slash at the classic schnozzle? Or did his actress wife, Pat Dane, undertake to ~~impm~~ amputate the beautiful beezzer? Or was it Gambler Allen Smiley, who was a guest at that now nationwide renowned party in the Dorsey home? We will never know - so far as the courts of law are concerned. For today at Hollywood the prosecution withdrew ~~from~~ the case, the prosecutor saying that the trial had not produced enough evidence to convict anybody.

Jon Hall ~~himself~~ couldn't remember who did the nose carving job. He contradicted himself and got all balled up. And so did the Panamanian sailor and would-be movie actor, Senor Antonia Icaza - who on the witness-stand displayed just about the most extraordinary case of

forgetfulness ever to appear in a court of law.

As a result of ~~all~~ the epidemic of bad memories among the witnesses, the only thing that was proved in court was that the Jon Hall probosis had been severely damaged and was in a bandage, which everybody knew in the first place. Somebody did it - but who? ~~The~~

~~prosecutor admits he can't guess, and so the prosecution~~

Who? Who? Hugh?

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VATICAN

Dec. 6

The Vatican announces an agreement with the French Provisional Government of DeGaulle, an agreement concerning the Papal Nuncio in Paris and several French Bishops. DeGaulle demanded that these prelates be removed because of their ~~adherence to the Vichy~~ ^{relations with the} ~~government headed by Marshal Petain -- now in the~~ ^{Germans and the Vichy} discard, not to say the ashcan. The DeGaulle regime said the Papal Nuncio was unacceptable because ~~he~~ he had been accredited to Vichy and ^{was a friend} ~~had dealt with~~ ~~of~~ ^{the} Petain. And ^{the} several French Bishops were denounced because of their ^{alleged} ~~alleged~~ relations with Vichy and the Germans.

The Vatican refused the demand that these prelates be dismissed, but today a compromise was announced. The Papal Nuncio will return to Rome because, in the words of the Vatican, "his mission is ended." And the several French Bishops will retire -- voluntarily.