

P. J. - Sunoco. Thursday, April 22, 1943.

Montgomery and his Eighth Army have captured another fortified town. At the point of the bayonet. Takrouna; a Nazi stronghold on a mountaintop. The report describes the Germans as being hurled screaming to their deaths from lofty cliffs.

It appears this mountaintop just west of Enfidaville, was held by Nazi gunners.

Montgomery's army reports the fiercest fighting yet seen in Africa, with the British using bayonets, hand-grenades, and knives -- long, heavy sharp knives especially designed for hand-to-hand fighting.

At the same time the Eighth Army drove its wedge deeper into the Nazi mountain defense-ring, to a depth of three miles.

And while that was going on, General Kenneth Anderson's First Army, to the north, drove ahead until it is now within twenty-four miles of Tunis. Von Arnim tried to counter-attack, but was hurled back with a loss of some twenty-seven Nazi tanks and hundreds of prisoners.

The British were making use of paratroops -- fighters floating down behind the Axis lines. The Germans counter-attacked on an eight-mile front -- with everything they had -- their seasoned troops. But, supported by heavy artillery fire the British &x drove them back.

CHURCHILL

~~A good many people were rather astonished by a statement made~~ In the British House of Commons today by Prime Minister Churchill, ^{was} ~~a member~~ asked ~~him~~ whether he anticipated an attempt to invade England between now and Hitler's next birthday. Churchill replied that the possibility must not be dismissed entirely from Allied calculations. Then he used these words: "The improbability of invasion depends upon the high degree of preparation maintained in Britain." ~~And~~ he added: "For myself I cannot help feeling that anything like a serious invasion would be bound to leak out."

~~Which~~ statement lends a bit of interest to something said by Nazi Propaganda Minister Goebbels. ~~Germany,~~ ^{Goebbels:} ~~he~~ said, [^] is preparing to make, what he called, an appropriate reply to the British and American air raids on Axis-occupied Europe. ~~The venomous little~~

~~He~~ ^{He} added that the time has not yet come to disclose what form ~~that~~ reply ~~will~~ take.

EXECUTIONS

The latest example of savagry on the part of the Japs has done more than anything in memory to arouse the American people. Not only at home but overseas the news has provoked a storm of fury without a single dissenting voice.

At the headquarters of the American Army's European theatre of operations, a spokesman said: "We have never heard of such barbarity." And he added: "This is the first time in military history".

Unofficially, the words of our soldiers, from private to high ranking generals, were eloquent and fiery. Some even going so far as to say that our air forces in Europe should pack up and go to the Pacific, on the theory that the Royal Air Force is now strong enough to keep Hitler plenty busy. And many are asking for the chance to bomb Tokyo again.

But here is an interesting thing. In all this sweep of resentment, not one single fighting man expressed any suggestion that we retaliate on Japanese prisoners. What our troops want is simply a chance to get at the Japs. Not next year, but now!

~~There were some who called for reprisals. That is, several Congressmen today were demanding quick retaliation.~~

The official view was expressed by Under-Secretary of War Robert Patterson who, said: "Reprisals would lower us to the level of the Japanese without touching the individuals who are responsible". Meaning of course, the Japanese general staff. The Under Secretary for War said further; "We shall have our reprisals, make no mistake about that! But, they will be directed against the officials of the Japanese government who ordered these ~~x~~ crimes". Then he went on: "We have faithfully lived up to

our commitments under the articles of the Geneva Convention, and shall so continue to do."

One voice was heard demanding that entire cities on the Japanese islands should be razed. Yes, that demand came from Roane Waring, National Commander of the Mx American Legion. Said he: "That will impress upon the American people more than anything that could have happened that the ~~xx~~ war with Japan is not a secondary war. Those executions now make it clear to everybody that this is a war to the death."

~~One of the survivors of the Doolittle raid, Captain Harold Watson, who is still at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, recuperating from his crash in China, remarked: "As for any of us bombing non-military targets, that's a plain lie."~~

Captain Ted Lawson, who is also at Walter Reed, added: "We lived with all those fellows for a year or more and knew one another's families, children and problems. As a body, we were referred to as Doolittle's family. And Colonel Doolittle (now Major General Doolittle) was our Old Man -- our Dad."

Robert Bellaire, former manager of the Tokyo Bureau of the United Press, ^{who} happened to be one of those who saw the Doolittle raid from the bars of a Tokyo prison camp cell, comes forth today with the word that all ~~in~~ Jap civilians killed outside military and industrial areas, were killed by their own pursuit pilots. Which, he explained this way: - "The American bombers swept over the city at a maximum height of sixty feet. And they were so well camouflaged that Japanese pursuit planes trying to dive upon them missed with most of their machine gun fire and actually hit their own countrymen in the streets."

Bellaire said further that Japanese with whom he was allowed to speak later admitted that their own planes were responsible for the deaths of civilians.

However, Bellaire says that the ^{torture and} Japanese ^{the} executions of American fliers surprised nobody who really knows the Japanese. ^{He said that} ~~as a matter of fact~~ during the first week of the war, the Japanese Government announced that all prisoners, especially fliers and parachuters, would be executed if they were captured in Japan proper, regardless of the provisions of the Geneva Convention or any international law.

^{Says} Bellaire: ~~says further~~ "I traveled with the Japanese army in China before Nineteen Forty, and personally saw them behead dozens of Chinese prisoners." ^{He adds also that} "Many Americans who were in Japan after Pearl Harbor were tortured to death; others tortured into insanity. The State Department has documentary evidence on scores

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of these cases," says this reliable American reporter.

Bellaire further points out that Japanese who resort to such barbarity are not out of the ordinary, not freaks, that they are trained to be that way, and consider deeds of savagry as highly praiseworthy.

The Japs themselves have given out an official statement about the executions, repeating their boast and pretending that they were justified. The statement included this phrase: "Don't forget - make sure every flier that comes to Japan has a special pass to hell, and rest assured it is strictly a one-way ticket."

And this radio pronouncement went on: "American authorities appear to have a one-sided illusion that only American planes can carry out long-range bombing. But remember, two can play at that game. You raid us; we raid you. It's all part of the war, Americans." So shouts Tokyo.

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What does Berlin have to say? Oh, the Nazis are expressing approval of the Jap attitude; in these words: "The execution of the American assassins will be considered just punishment in the view of every right-thinking person." Which gives a fair summary of the Nazi point of view -- from the people who laid London waste and made a shambles of Coventry, Bristol and many cities and towns in Britain.

DOOLITTLE - RICKENBACKER

In hotels, on trains, in taxicabs, ~~and~~ everywhere that I happened to be today, the topic of conversation was this latest sample of Japanese infamy. In Philadelphia where I spent part of the day the newspapers were full of it, both on their news and editorial pages. The Daily News in an editorial put it this way: - ^{TP} "Japah will know -- and soon, we hope -- that the wrath of our people is something to meet and fear". Then referring to the torture of the Doolittle flyers and the executions it adds that this has aroused our nation "to its highest pitch of fighting anger since the war began". And, goes on: "We believe now that anger will be vented, not in useless words, but in action -- in ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{factories,} on farms, bond booths, and to the remotest corner where Americans are dedicated to the pledge that our winged martyrs shall not ~~be~~

have died in vain". ^{Also} ~~And~~ that now, "we are aware, even the least informed of us, of the kind of warfare we face in the Pacific -- the brand of beasts we must meet and conquer".

In the new Union Station in Philadelphia I saw a pile of books with Captain Eddie Rickenbacker's picture on the cover. A book selling for only ten cents a piece. I picked one up out of curiosity and found it contained a graphic, and not too long life story of Captain Eddie -- written by Walter Kiernan, and the famous columnist and short story writer, Damon Runyan. ~~It is~~ ^Q superb ~~in~~ job, both in word and picture. And every American should have a copy of it.

One part of the account of Captain Rickenbacker's life that particularly interested me today was the way in which his prophecies have

come true, mainly about aviation. Back in Nineteen-
Thirty-four Eddie Rickenbacker said: "The next war
is going to be the most terrible, and the most
horrible the world has ever known - for it's going
to be fought in the air. Every housetop is going
to be a battlefield".

He also stated in Nineteen **Thirty Four**:-

"Entire armies will be moved by plane and dirigible.
There will be artillery battles in the air ~~xxx~~ as
well as on the land. Tanks will be transported
by plane over enemy lines to ~~xxxx~~ crush fortifications".

■ And on October Second seven years ago,
before the Pearl Harbor sneak punch, the man who
to many is our Number One National Hero, Captain
Rickenbacker, said: "Our most dangerous enemy is
Japan; and our planes should be designed to attack
Japan. **R** Just about everything that Rickenbacker
predicted has come to pass.

BONDS FOLLOW EXECUTIONS.

One immediate consequence of the news of those executions was to step up the sale of War Bonds. Said ^{the} Secretary ~~Morgenthau~~ of the Treasury: "The people are angry and I think they want to scrape the bottom of the barrel to give all the money they possibly can spare."

^{He} ~~Morgenthau~~ then released the news that the government's War Bond drive is already up to eleven billion, three hundred and twenty-two millions, only one billion, six hundred and seventy-eight million ~~xxxx~~ short of the thirteen billions for which the Treasury asked. ~~The Second Federal Reserve District, for instance, is more than over the top. That district includes New York State, northern New Jersey, and part of Connecticut. It had been allotted three billions. In that district already three billion, four hundred and seventy-five millions have been~~

GILBERT

A Jap island stronghold in the Gilberts became the latest target of our war fliers in the Pacific.

The Navy tells us that a large force of Army bombers paid a daytime visit to Nauru, ^{Flying} ~~They had to fly~~ through heavy anti-aircraft fire and ^{battling clouds} ~~they had dogfights with~~ ^{7 zeros,} ~~many Jap fighter planes~~. The U.S. pilots shot down five of the Japs, probably seven. ^{and} In spite of the heavy flak, all our planes ^{are said to have} returned. The Navy tells us ^{was done} ~~they did~~ much damage to Japanese installations.

⁷⁷ Nauru is an island in the Gilberts, mandated to the British. The Japs took it shortly after Pearl Harbor and built a strong base there. It ^{is} ~~has~~ six hundred and seventy-five miles northwest of Guadalcanal.

SOUTH DAKOTA

One welcome improvement has come to pass in this war; ~~and that is~~ the anti-aircraft protection of modern battleships. About fifteen months ago, we learned with dismay of the destruction of two great British ^{warships by} ~~battle wagons by~~ Japanese Torpedo bombers off the ~~east~~ coast of Malaya. Last week we were told that on October Twenty-Sixth, Nineteen Forty-Two, one American battleship in the South Pacific had shot down thirty-two Jap planes in less than thirty minutes' fighting time. ^{And} The Navy described it as the heaviest air attack yet made on a battleship.

Commenting on ~~that~~, the Truman Committee intimated today that this battleship was the new thirty-five thousand ton SOUTH DAKOTA. And the Truman Committee points out that this achievement shows how effective anti-aircraft power can be, ^{from the decks of a} ~~on the~~ modern capital ship.

WEAPONS FOLLOW SOUTH DAKOTA

And here comes a piece of similar news from the Army. In point of weapons, ^{now it on} we have the Axis, ~~countries backed off the board,~~ That statement comes from Major General Campbell, head of the U.S. Army Ordnance, ^{They are} ~~who ought to know. The Axis, he said, is~~ ^{said he,} already out-classed ^{" "} and have no surprises left. ^{while} ~~the other hand,~~ Uncle Sam has a number of new weapons which will surprise both the Nazis and the Japs.

Many of the much publicized high power weapons of the enemy have been a failure, far inferior to what we turn out. So says General Campbell. For instance, he pointed ^{much played-up} to the ~~sensationally advertised~~ German Tiger Tank, a monster sixty-two ton land battle-wagon. ^{the American} Says ~~General Campbell:~~ "We knew about that tank eight months ago, but we were not worried. Our engineers knew we could stop it, and we did. We tried out a sixty ton tank in this country at the

beginning of the war and found it unfeasible."

As for the American Bazooka gun, the enemy has nothing to compare with it and it would take him

at least ten months to duplicate it. With a Bazooka,

he tells us that even our

^ foot soldiers can stand their ground against the

heaviest tanks.

Most Congressmen appear still to cherish the strong conviction that woman's place is in the home. At any rate, the Congressmen in the lower House hold to that idea in spite of all the three bodies of women auxiliaries to the fighting forces. ^{Which} ~~The~~ attitude of the men was caustically resented by the women in Congress.

All this came up over a measure in the House permitting the Women's Naval Reserve to serve overseas. Congressman Johnson from Illinois said that would never do, ^{that} womanhood is sanctified and war ~~is~~ men's work.

Up sprang Claire Booth Luce from Connecticut; "I would remind the gentleman," said she, "that Molly Pritchard ~~Pritchard~~ [^] was the first WAAC." And she continued:

"In my part of the country, the pioneer women beat out the flames of their burning homes with the bloody

shirts of their dead husbands."

And then
Up spoke a Congressman from Pennsylvania, who remarked: "We who served in the last war know the temptation the women would encounter far from their firesides."

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Thereat a lady colleague asked whether the temptations that men ~~wight~~ encounter should deter them from going to war.

Up
~~She~~ Said Congressman Bell of Missouri:
"Never before have we had to bring our women into war, it is a disgrace to our manhood."

The result of all this was nothing. The congressmen adjourned after a few rounds, with no decision.

*And now, ~~until our going~~
~~signs up~~ speaks Hugh.*