

~~A late news flash tells us that~~ Italian

Gen. Clark's

troops are now in ~~the~~ Fifth Army, fighting alongside

the British and Americans. All along, Marshal Badoglio

has stated his determination to put the Italian army

back into the war-- on the other side, battling

against Italy's former Allies, the Nazis. And now this

has happened in a regular military way -- with

Italian units joining the Fifth Army in the

campaign for Rome.

A late dispatch from ~~the~~ American correspondent with ~~the~~ Italian troops in action states that they went into battle at six-twenty A.M. today.

Badoglio's forces consisted of Italian

Regulars who escaped from the African war, and Alpine shock troops. At an artillery observation post was Crown Prince Humbert, son of Victor~~ia~~ Emanuel. The weather was dim, and we are told that the Italian artillery fired blind into the German positions on a mountainside, whereupon there was an infantry advance, with cheers and laughter as, apparently, the Italians ^{had} never cheered and laughed when going into battle against the Allies.

The Germans, veteran fighters, came back at them with bayonet and hand grenade. The Italians withdrew, and we are told by the American correspondent

that they pulled back stubbornly, and with hard fighting.

The Italian General in command is quoted as saying: "We are losing good men, but we want the world to know Italy is on the side of America, Britain, and France."

After which the Allied artillery laid down such a barrage that the Germans' retired and the Italians advanced again.

All of which is interesting because it represents one of the most astonishing change^s of sides in history.

ITALY

The war news from Italy tonight features the drama of ^a~~the~~ mountain. The Italian peninsula has a surplus of mountains, ^{with} peaks and summits to spare.

And, day after day, the strategic situation has revolved around the Allied capture of tall peaks. This time it was Mount San Nucro, another of those towering eminences that formed a giant barrier of granite for the German Winter Line. The Fifth Army had captured most of the string of Nazi-held mountains, but the summit called San Nucro remained - to provide some spectacular dramatics of war today.

~~Massed~~ Massed American artillery began with a thundering overture, hurling a mighty barrage of shells against the German positions on the mountains. United Press correspondent Reynolds Packard tells us that the clustered guns blasted the slopes with shells at the

rate of several hundred every minute. And within a quarter of an hour the whole mountain was blotted from view by clouds of smoke and dust. ~~The murky clouds~~ ^{clouds} ~~rolled up to the summit, which was shrouded by~~ ~~the smoke and dust mingling with the white mist.~~

~~it was~~

Then the infantry went into action, scaling the steep slopes of Mount San Nucro, and ~~they~~ as they climbed they dragged along with them - bazookas. This was a big occasion for the bazookas - those light rocket guns which discharge a ~~rocket~~ self-propelled missile on the principle of the sky rocket. The bazooka boys, making their way up the shell scarred mountain, attacked one Nazi pill box after another - hitting them with the whizzing rockets. They demolished fourteen pill boxes on their way, until finally they

climbed out of sight - and disappeared among the clouds, ^{that hid} ~~and hid~~ the summit. There they cleaned out some more pill boxes - blowing them up with rockets from the bazookas.

On the opposite side of the peninsula, General Montgomery's Eighth Army has driven forward to new positions - with an advance along an eight mile front north of the Moro River. The Germans are burning villages - signs of a general retreat. And tonight the Eighth Army is described as driving toward ~~xx~~ the important harbor of Pescara, now only twelve miles away - Pescara, with its transverse road to Rome.xx This - while General Clark's Fifth Army is pushing ~~xxxx~~ along the direct road to Rome - a highway that runs through the town of Cassino. That town, by the way, is at the foot of the hill called Monte Cassino - one of history's famous places.

The devastation along the battlelines in Italy has caused many a person of scholarly bent to wonder about ~~one particular point~~ which the ~~Allied troops are now approaching~~ Monte Cassino -- and its famous monastery, the first monastery of the Western world in fact. It was on the summit known as Monte Cassino that St. Benedict, in the early part of the Middle Ages, built his abbey and founded the Order of the Benedictines -- the first religious order of the Western Church.

As the centuries went by, Monte Cassino became the ~~de~~ ^{de}pository of historic treasures, works of art and ancient manuscripts. So what will happen ~~to these~~ ^{to these} ~~to Monte Cassino~~ as the Fifth Army drives toward ~~it~~ and the blazing lines of battle close around that historic monastery?

A dispatch from Switzerland informs us today that the treasures and archives of Monte Cassino have been moved, transferred to Rome. By the Germans. They are not destroying the treasures and archives--in this case it would all come under the head of loot.

As for the Monastery itself, Swiss advices tell us that at Rome the Pope has received assurances from both the Allied and the Nazi side, that the venerable buildings would be, in the words of the Swiss dispatch - "safeguarded." I don't quite know what "safeguarded" means in the storm of war, but apparently an attempt will be made to spare the Monastery of Monte Cassino.

FOLLOW ITALY

The Germans admit that they are applying to Italy the policy of the scorched earth. ^Q ~~The~~ Nazi news agency states the following: "Roads and railroads are being blown up, woods cut down and houses blown to atoms." Some twinge of conscience accompanies this - with the German news agency referring to the destruction of vineyards and olive groves. "It is not an amusing job," the Nazi propaganda voice goes on, "but necessity knows no law - and a good artillery position is more important than a beautiful olive grove."

The Nazis are undoing the work of long centuries of civilization. ~~They are~~ turning fertile farmlands back into swamps and marshes - what those farmlands were before they were reclaimed by long labor. The Nazi news agency tells how German sappers are blocking rivers and canals with sandbag barricades

and are diverting the water to ^{turn} the fields ^{into} ~~the~~ marsh and bog. And they are blowing up dams built ^{for} ~~drainage~~ ^{drainage}. One turn of irony will come when they get around to the Pontine Marshes - those historic swamps which Mussolini drained with such a fanfare a few years ago. I suppose that Hitler will undo his partner's work, and will transform the great space of fertile acres into the muddy morass that they ha^d been for long centuries.

The Nazis, in^{the}ir justification of this vandal destruction, hark back to the days of Ancient Rome. They say that in their work of ruin in Italy, they are only doing - "as the Romans did in Hannibal's time." The Romans, they argue, turned good lands into swamp to check Hannibal.. So why shouldn't Hitler do it to check Eisenhower? This reasoning must inspire the

Italians with some painful thoughts on the subject
of Fascism - which led them *down this road to* ~~into the~~ ruin.

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BULGARIA

Tonight the Berlin radio reports that Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, has been bombed ^{again,} We don't know who carried out the assault on that Nazi satellite capital, but it was much to the point -- because Bulgaria is at present the most shaky member of the Hitler system of forced alliances.

Bulgaria is next door to Turkey, which neutral nation may be regarded as the next entry into the war against the Nazis. The latest tells of clashes between Turkish and German troops along the Turkish-Bulgarian frontier.

ROOSEVELT

It was disclosed tonight that President Roosevelt has made a tour of the battlefields of North Africa, an aerial tour -- by plane. The President was on his way, homeward bound. And he took the occasion to fly over the road of victory along which British General Montgomery's Eighth Army drove in its great triumph over Rommel's Africa Korps.

The President's North African survey of victory was made after a visit that he paid on Wednesday -- to a place that not so long ago was called

~~Today we hear that one~~
~~whereby~~ President Roosevelt was today at quite a safe
~~place, but that place not so long ago was called -~~
"the most bombed spot on earth." Malta, which so long
lived and carried on under an almost incessant rain of
bombs. But that sounds like ancient history now,
with Nazi air power virtually abolished from the
Mediterranean.

At Malta,

The President, ~~talking to people there,~~ referred
to the great conferences that he and Prime Minister
Winston Churchill have just had with Chiang Kai-shek and
Stalin. He declared: "The Prime Minister and I feel
that we too have struck strong blows for the future of
the human race."

TP

~~And~~ he presented to Malta a scroll

in token of its heroism under the bombs. He called it -
"a citation from the President of the United States." *And*

The presidential citation echoes ^d the congressional medal
of honor, saying "far above and beyond the call of duty."

RUSSIA

In Russia, the capture of Znamenka by the Soviet troops seems once again to threaten the Germans with an enormous disaster. For weeks the Nazis have been holding out in a huge bulge, the bend of the Dnieper - a salient that could always be threatened by a Soviet drive down into it.

Russian strategy has been to cut into the base of the bulge in an attempt to trap the entire German force in the bend of the river. And they've gone a long way in this effort - with the capture of Znamenka. That railroad junction is on the last line of rail retreat in the northern sector of the bend, and how the German forces will ever get out will surely pose a perplexing question for Hitler's high command.

Of course, they may ^(attempt) ~~try~~ to retrieve the situation by ~~attempting~~ trying to recapture Znamenka and reopening the line. Or, on the other hand, the Soviet

push might keep right on toward the Black Sea - and encircle the whole river-bend army for one of the mightiest disasters in military history. ^{TP} The meaning of the capture of Znamenka was emphasized in Moscow today with gunfire. Stalin ordered a triumphal salute of twelve salvos from a hundred and twenty-four cannon to celebrate the victory.

REFUGEES

The United States has done a great deal in admitting to this country the war-persecuted Jewish refugees of Europe. This was disclosed ^{tonight} ~~today~~ by Congressman ~~Set~~ Bloom, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. The facts that he revealed had been stated by the Assistant Secretary of State Breckenridge Long in testimony that had been given to the Foreign Affairs Committee on November Twenty-sixth. The facts are that in the ten year period of Hitler's rule in Germany, from Nineteen Thirty-three to Nineteen Forty-three, the number of Jewish refugees admitted into this country amounted to five hundred and eighty thousand. — the official count.

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Most of them entered the United States under the quota regulations that applied to various European countries. ~~From~~ Some of the Jewish refugees

~~xxx~~ came in on the temporary kind of visa, and later went to Canada or Mexico to establish their right to come into the United States under regular quotas.

In his ~~xxxx~~ testimony before the Secret session of the Committee back in November, Secretary Long stated the following concerning efforts to give relief to the oppressed Jews in Europe:—

“We did everything legitimate that we could, and we observed the ~~xxxxxx~~ laws of the United States.”

TR Secretary Long's secret testimony was given in connection with a bill that would provide a commission the purpose of which was stated as follows: To effectuate the rescue of the Jewish people of Europe.

And he added that one thing in particular had been carried out -- a thing requested by the

Jews in the United States. Special attention was given to the removal from Poland of the young Jews in the Rabinical colleges -- that is, the institution for training Rabbis. *They were brought here.*

CENSORSHIP

Today we have the complaint that there is something wrong with our system of voluntary censorship. Unlike other nations at war, we don't have our newspapers and radio under the legal domination of a government censor. There is nothing compulsory about our way - newspaper and radio editors have simply agreed that they'll abide by censorship regulations drawn up in Washington, doing so of their own free will. ^{TP} ~~SD~~ What's wrong with that? Do we break the censorship rules? Is there not enough censorship under the voluntary system? No, it's the other way around. American newspapers and radio, acting of their own free will, have been censoring themselves too much. In their desire to play ball with the government, they have been suppressing pieces of news that they ought to have published.

That complaint ^{was made today} ~~is made~~ by the big Washington censor, ^{himself,} Byron Price. Instead of protesting that ~~his~~ rules ~~of his office of censorship~~ have been violated, his kick is that they have been more than obeyed, with newspapers and radio leaning over backwards to do more than the right thing.

To help remedy this excess of conscience, the office of censorship today issued a new censorial code, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ new rules of what not to publish - and these have been liberalized. The new voluntary code is less strict than the old. ^H And at the same time Byron Price warns all newsmen that the only regulations that we are to pay any attention to are those issued by his office. Apparently, in some cases other agencies of the government have assumed censorial powers, and called upon newsmen to suppress one thing or another - and the newsmen have obliged.

That's all wrong, says Byron Price - pay no attention to any censorial demand, except the official regulation that his office issued today.

So the censor is cracking down, saying - publish more, not less. He sternly commands us to have less censorship - not more. ~~So, go to it Hugh.~~

~~Speak your mind!~~

INFLUENZA - Lead

Late word from England is that a wave of influenza has swept over Britain. A London dispatch tells us in typically British fashion that the flu has gripped all classes, -- from the Royal family down. The epidemic began in Northern England and swept southward. Even the King himself wasn't spared. George the Fifth has gone through a siege, ~~of the~~ ^{and is} ~~now~~ just recovering, ~~and~~ right now his sister-in-law, the Duchess of Kent, ~~has~~ ^{has it}.

And other celebrated persons have the flu -- the Grand Duchess Charlotte of Luxembourg, and the Premier of the exiled Belgian government.

London ~~ix~~ newspapers ^{tonight are} ~~today were~~ printing lists of prominent sufferers, and among them are Dr. Fleming, who was the first discoverer of that almost magical cure for so many diseases -- Penicillin.

When so great a doctor falls sick, it is almost as much of a headline as when the King falls ill.

INFLUENZA

History repeating itself. We are having what we had in World War Number one. But this time the flu is not the dread killer that it was in Nineteen Eighteen. Then lives were lost by the tens of thousands. It seems to be all over the place. In the war production area of our upper middlewest, armament plants report a heavy increase of absenteeism, because of the flu. In the Milwaukee sector, the epidemic brought about an absenteeism increase ranging from twenty-five to a hundred per cent. The Indiana State Health Commissioner reports more influenza cases than in any year since Nineteen Eighteen.

At Washington, D. C., a fourth of the school children were absent from classes today. And at Pittsburgh four thousand cases are reported among army students at local universities.

The medical authorities are decidedly optimistic about this epidemic of World War Number two. They emphasize the mildness of it,

and the quickness of the average patient's recovery.

Dr. Maurice Fishbein, Editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association makes this observation: he says this mild form of influenza will confer immunity against a more serious type - immunizing thousands. He points out that flu epidemics occur in a regular cycle - about every twenty-five years. The last one was in Nineteen Eighteen, just twenty-five years ago. So we were due for one this winter. Fortunately it's mild.

O'HARE

The news wire today flashed a sombre and dramatic thriller, one of the strange stories of war of the air. The official account of the loss of Lieutenant Edward H. O'Hare, the legendary Butch O'Hare. He was our first greatly acclaimed hero of air-battle who shot down five Jap planes in six minutes. And he passes from the scene of sky and planes in an episode of singular mischance.

It was three days ago, in the great American assault against the Marshall Islands. The task force was blasting the Japs on the Coral atolls, with planes from the carriers doing a devastating job. It was just at the hour of dusk, when the Japs launched a bug torpedo plane attack against a carrier. A flight of American fighter planes took off from the deck to meet the assault. And in command was Butch O'Hare.

The news that he is missing comes as a shock--he was such a legend in the air way of the Pacific.

O'HARE

Butch O'Hare first flashed into fame when it meant the most to this nation. The Jap air forces were sweeping everything. They had made a shambles of the American fleet at Pearl Harbor, and had sunk the British sea giants REPULSE and PRINCE OF WALES with apparently ridiculous ease. They might have seemed invincible.

Then it was that the first American aircraft carrier went into action. The great old LEXINGTON got into a scrap with enemy planes, and the headline

flash was--the exploit of Butch O'Hare.

Two waves of bombers came over. The first was fought off and broken up by the fighter planes of the LEX--and nearly all of these were out of range of action, when the second wave of bombers flew to the attack, nine Japanese warplanes. There was only one American fighter to intercept the nine, and it looked as if the LEX were doomed.

In the lone American plane was Butch O'Hare, and he tackled the nine bombers single-handed. He shot down five in six minutes.

The news at the time was so enthusiastic and confused and the exploit seemed so incredible, that one couldn't make much sense out of it. But since then I've had occasion to look into the prodigy--how was it possible?

(This was in connection with my book--"These Men Shall Never Die," ~~F~~ And) I discovered that the Butch O'^{Hare}~~Hare~~ secret against the Japs was--snap shooting, the quick snap of machine gun fire.

~~the time selected by the Japs for a headlong torpedo~~
~~attack against the carrier.~~ Thirty or forty enemy

planes came winging low over the water, and Butch

O'Hare ~~and~~ his pals ~~lost their sight of them off.~~ *They broke*
up the attack. ~~They did.~~

Lieutenant Commander John Phillips of Front Royal

Virginia, shot down two, and O'Hare is believed to

have shot down one. ^H He joined with two companions,

and they flew in formation - a formation of three.

Then suddenly there were four! ^{And, still another} ~~another American plane~~

American plane
flying through the dusk noticed the extraordinary thing.

The fourth plane in the formation was a Jap! It is
believed that the enemy pilot made a mistake, thought
that O'Hare and his two companions were Japs,
and joined them out of sheer error.

That other American plane which had spotted
the Jap, immediately opened fire. Whereupon the enemy

pilot, realizing his mistake for the first time apparently, ~~immediately~~ started shooting at the nearest plane in the formation of three which he had joined. That nearest American plane was Butch O'Hare's. - ^{And down it} ~~and he~~ plunged; ~~and was~~ lost in the dimness of the tropical twilight ^{on the vast Pacific.}

There was an immediate search, ~~xxx~~ with planes winging out over the area where the great flier had disappeared. They used flares at night and the next day they continued to search - but to no avail.

And today Butch O'Hare was announced: ~~as~~ - missing.

^{His} companion fliers today said that near the place where O'Hare went down, there were two Jap planes burning on the water. And one pilot ^{spoke somberly:} ~~said~~ ^{said he,} "I thought at the time ["] that if Butch had to go, he couldn't have had a more fitting monument than those two flaming Jap planes."

The Japanese bombers were armed with cannon while O'Hare had only machine guns. His method was to stay within the range of enemy fire for only the shortest space of seconds--flashing in and out with a quick short burst. Butch O'Hare figured that at snap shooting he could out-score the Japs, and he did.

The bombers were in a V formation, and O'Hare started in by shooting down the end plane in the right leg side of the V. He returned to the attack and shot down the next one in line. Then switched to the other leg of the V and downed some more. With his tactics of snap shooting he sent five of the Japs plunging into the sea--and was firing into the sixth when his ammunition ran out. The remaining three Japs turned tail and ran--and the LEXINGTON was saved.

And tonight Butch O'Hare is among the immortals. George, what from you.