

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1944.

As the news continues
to pour in from Italy, we get a
~~GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY.~~
clearer and clearer picture

~~The latest leap frog attack on Rome appears~~
of that surprising Allied success near Rome
~~to be a complete success. At any rate, that is what we~~

~~Some~~ According to
~~may gather from the words of~~ General Sir Henry Maitland

Wilson, Commander-in-Chief in the Mediterranean theatre.

~~In fact he says the Allies~~ have now virtually
~~He said the British, Americans and French have almost~~

completed landing all the troops ~~they had~~ assigned to

that ~~expedition~~
~~new beachhead south of Rome. The amphibious~~

~~operation was evidently took the Germans entirely by~~

~~surprise.~~ The cautious way the British General puts it

is, that the Allies were only able to pour in their troops

owing to slow German reaction.

So slow ~~was it~~ ^{in fact} that our fighting men actually

felt let down. They jumped into the icy waters on the

beach, all ~~loaded for bear, their nerves tightened for~~ ^{set for the fight of their} ~~a fierce and bloody fight.~~ ^{lives.} Captain Crowell B. Shelton of Billings, Montana, described it in these words: "I never was more ~~set for a big fight for keeps than this~~ ^{set for the fight of their} ~~morning.~~"

And Correspondent Reynolds Packard, who went along, says it was true that every soldier and officer was prepared to die. Some of the men ^{had} spent three nights aboard their landing craft in an atmosphere of the utmost tension. As they waded, and, sprinted ashore,

everybody was hushed. The very silence and stillness of the night seemed ominous. ^{TP} ~~The affair~~ ^{Evidently it all} went off with ~~complete~~ ^{right from the start,} mechanical precision ~~from the very first moment~~

One commanding officer told his men before they left their ship: "There is to be no withdrawal and ~~there is~~ ^{TP} ~~to be~~ no surrender." ^{Another} correspondent reports that the entire operation was a marvel of coordination between

the army and the navy. Many officers declared it was more nearly perfect than any they had ever seen.

~~literally~~ Not a hitch.

They had expected to be greeted by a ~~sudden~~ roar of shellfire and machine gun bullets. Instead, ~~there was~~

^{TP} not a sound. When the moon came out, the Americans

thought that now they ^{and surely come to grips with} ~~would see where the enemy was.~~

~~the enemies.~~ Still not a sound.

~~But still no opposition.~~

^{TP} So The fighting engineers had soon cleared away

the mines and built a road of heavy wire matting across

the sandy beach and through the marshes. They ^{quickly} ~~reached~~

reached the regular roads, including the highway from

Anzio to Rome.

^{TP} And then, by

~~by the~~ Friday afternoon the landing really seemed

like an anti-climax. Presently the German ^{did} ~~launched~~

some sneak air raids, ^{but} mostly for reconaissance. Then

they brought up their artillery and began shelling.

~~The~~ Night fell; ^{still no} ~~without any~~ counterattack, a sure proof
of the completeness of the surprise. ^{It} Everything ^{just} ~~was~~ the
reverse of ^{what had happened at that} ~~that~~ costly landing at Salerno.

Nevertheless, every officer and enlisted man at that beachhead expects a counterattack of terrific force at any moment, for the Germans between that beachhead and Cassino are in danger of being completely cut off.

^{It} Our men have taken many prisoners, and ^{these} ~~they~~ admitted ~~that~~ they ~~had~~ only arrived in that section the day before and had ^{not} had time to dig in. Most of them had come straight from rest camps.

A later report explains that the Allies accomplished ^{all this} ~~the~~ surprise through ^{some} smart strategem.

Part of the fleet was detailed to make a feint, a phoney ^(chevectahvekie) attack on Civitavecchia, the ancient seaport of Rome, north of the Eternal City and considerably north of the real landing point. The warships bombarded that place.

as though they meant business. The consequence was that the German command sent their reserves racing to the wrong spot.

~~That~~ ^{the allied} invading army is now reinforced by tanks and artillery, and has battered ^{some} its way four miles inland.

In fact, ~~the~~ heavy guns are now shelling ~~the~~ ^{the} historic road of the ancient Romans, the Appian Way. ^{IP} So far there is no sign of the expected counterattack by the Nazis.

But Sir Henry Maitland Wilson warns us that it will surely be delivered. At the same time, he hinted ^S that we may look for still further moves in ~~the~~ ^{the} Allied drive on Rome, ^{blows} ~~moves~~ of a spectacular character.

And he reported ^S that the Allied air force ~~had~~ contributed ^{greatly} ~~ably~~ to the success of the surprise ^{landing} ~~by~~ battering all the enemy airfields around Rome so thoroughly that all the Nazi planes were grounded.

Berlin admitted ^S ~~that we had obtained a~~ ^{that a beachhead has}

been obtained.

~~beachhead~~ But, they also claimed ^{to have} ~~that they had~~ sunk
an American destroyer, ^{and} ~~also~~ damaged two cruisers and
destroyers so badly ~~that~~ they had to withdraw. About
this, our own high command says nothing.

According to a later report, ^{the Allied} ~~our~~ army of
invasion has been plowing ahead ^{at high} ~~with amazing~~ speed, but,
this is not official. It comes from a Swiss radio,

which quotes a broadcast from Rome. ^{If true then} ~~and if that is true,~~

^{Gen. Clark's} ~~our~~ advance guard has captured a place on the Appian Way

^{much nearer} ~~still closer to~~ Rome. ~~and that would mean that our men~~

~~have penetrated twelve miles inland.~~

Uncle Sam's Flying Fortresses and Liberators

have ^{been at} ~~done~~ it again. A large detachment from the

~~United States~~ Eighth Air Force went thundering across

Germany today and dropped many tons on some industrial

city or cities in western Germany. We are not told

~~at~~ exactly where they went. But we are told that it

was the seventh major operation this year. *We lost two or heavy bombers but destroyed twenty one enemy planes.*

Now was that the only incident in the air-

war. While the giant forts and liberators were dropping

their high explosives and incendiaries, hundreds of

other smaller planes pounded at Nazi fortifications on

the French invasion coast. Observers in southern

England saw hundreds of British and American medium

bombers and fighter bombers crossing the Channel and

recrossing, ~~in~~ wave after wave.

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RUSSIA

The Red Armies in the north have recaptured two more towns below Leningrad, seventeen and fifteen miles to the south. The victories were considered important enough for Premier Marshal Stalin to make the announcement himself in an order of the day.

Some of the Soviet units are attacking the Germans from the West. In other words, they are hemmed in from their only avenues of escape.

That Red Army of the North advanced six miles yesterday on a twenty-eight mile front. It has cut the railway that carried German supplies from ~~the~~ Estonia; it has outflanked the last enemy bastion within gun range of Leningrad; and it has battered its way to a point less than two miles from Krasnogvardeisk.

The sum total of the news from that part of the Russian front means that the Soviet troops are making hash of the entire German network of defenses in the Leningrad area.

Meanwhile, the army of Soviet General Meretskov is pushing north from Novgorod, which he took last Thursday.

The Nazi High Command admits that its Leningrad armies are in dire plight. It credits the Russians with having forty rifle divisions and twenty tank divisions in that assault; probably seven hundred and fifty thousand men. "And", continues the Nazi report, "with this tremendous effort the Russians are pushing on to bring the German front to a collapse".

One of the towns captured used to appear in the news under the name of Tsarskoy Selo, the ^{Syells} ~~xxx~~ village of the Tsars. There the autocrats used to live in one of the most splendid and costly palaces in Europe. When St. Petersburg became Leningrad, the name of the Tsars' village was changed to Pushkin, after the greatest of all Russian poets.

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A London broadcast reported that the Red generals were landing troops in an amphibious movement

along the Gulf of Finland, west of Leningrad. This amphibious movement ~~has been~~ supported by a Soviet heavy battleship.

~~The Nazi news agency gave out a bit of news about which Moscow said nothing! ~~This was~~ that the Red armies inside the Dnieper Bend have begun a fresh attack on a great scale in the area around Kirovograd.~~

PACIFIC

The principal news from the war in the Pacific is ~~again~~ again a matter of air attacks. American and Australian ^{airmen have been} ~~bombers carried out one sortie after another~~ ^{pounding} against the Jap air bases at Wewak, New Guinea, and ^{at} Rabaul, New Britain. They destroyed a total of ~~in~~ sixty-seven Jap planes, we hear from the headquarters of General Douglas MacArthur. ~~The attack on Rabaul was especially heavy.~~

~~But the ground troops were not idle.~~

^{also,}
Australian infantry advanced from the Ramu Valley in New Guinea, fighting ~~in~~ over a craggy terrain of ridges toward the Jap base at Bogadjim.

~~Meanwhile heavy bombers of both Army and~~

~~Navy kept at the job of softening up the Jap defenses.~~ ^{Army & Navy planes} In the Marshall ~~Islands~~ ^{Islands} They damaged five ^{more} Jap ships and destroyed six of their planes.

BOLIVIA

Edward Tomlinson the Blue Network's eminent authority on South America, made a prophecy Saturday night, in his broadcast. He predicted that the revolutionary government of Bolivia would be unpleasantly surprised early this week. All of which came true today, with much emphasis. First of all, the government of Venezuela announced officially that it would refuse to recognize the men who usurped the power in Bolivia. Next came an unofficial story that the Government of Panama would follow suit.

And then, this afternoon, Washington officially declared it would not recognize the revolutionary government at LaPaz. Our State Department announced that it had come to this decision because it considered that the usurpers there in Bolivia belonged to groups hostile to the Allied cause. In almost the same breath, the spokesman for Secretary Hull revealed the news that Pierre Boal, Uncle Sam's Ambassador to Bolivia, had been called home. Furthermore, our government will not be content with

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~~such mild measures as these, and will probably take other action such as the freezing of Bolivian funds in this country, and cut Bolivians off from vital materials.~~

The State Department goes on to say that the revolution at LaPaz is only one out of many plotted by pro-Nazi forces. In fact, that there is a general subversive movement, which aims at steadily expanding activities on the South American continent - directed against us and in behalf of Hitler and Hirohito.

Only one government has recognized the Bolivian rebels; and that one is the regime of the pro-Nazi Colonels in Argentina.

~~Edward Tomlinson also predicted that probably all the other countries in the western Hemisphere will refuse to recognize the new crowd in LaPaz. So, that Bolivian story grows more exciting - and more important.~~

And here is later ~~the~~ evidence of that.

Rio de Janeiro speaks up. The Government of Brazil will not ~~be~~ recognize the Bolivian junta. Right on top of that comes a story from Montevideo, capital of Uruguay bringing word that this inter-American

indignation has even put the fear of God into the

litariet) Government ~~of Colonels~~ ^{of} Argentina. The Generals and Colonels ~~They~~ have been

holding feverish conferences in Buenos Aires for

the past week, seeking ~~for~~ a formula by which they

could modify ~~Argentinian~~ ^{their} foreign policy and also

save their own face. And finally a dispatch from

Buenos Aires itself! Foreign Minister General

Gilbert announced late tonight that the Argentine

Government would issue a most important statement

tomorrow.

~~Sometimes even~~ ^{Yes,} diplomacy ^{can be} interesting.
x h

HARMON

Tommy Harmon got lost again, but as usual ~~he~~ did not stay lost. This time it happened right here at home. Lieutenant Harmon was due for a press conference at Washington at ten this morning. ~~He~~ By half past ten he had not ~~shown up~~, and officers admitted he was somewhere between Greenville, South Carolina and Washington; but, they did not know where.

~~Harmon~~ finally showed up this afternoon, and gave newspapermen ~~a description~~ ^{an abbreviated} of his latest mission, when he had to bail out over China. ^{He told how he} ~~He~~ and a group of other fighter pilots were escorting a force of dive bombers in a raid on Kiukang. Just as the bombers were about to start their dives, the leader of the fighter cover cried out: "Six Zeros at three o'clock." Harmon looked around and saw six others on his tail, so he ~~shouted:~~ ^{shouted:} "six Zeros at nine o'clock." "

The leader of the group went for the

Zeros ahead, Tommy turned in ^{on} ~~to~~ the six behind him.

They were flying in threes and he broke right in between them. Three turned to the left, two others to the right, but the last man turned square into Harmon's sights. He let go with tracers and cut part of the Jap's cockpit away. Then he let loose with his cannon, and blasted the Zero to the ground.

After which

~~Then~~ he turned back and came up underneath ^{another} ~~one~~

~~of~~ the Jap, ^{and} ~~he~~ opened at two hundred and fifty yards,

^{tearing} ~~took~~ a chunk off the left wing of the Jap, ^{he} then closed

in to fifty yards and let everything go, ^{the} ~~that~~ Jap plane

flew too fast,
~~went up like a matchbox.~~

Just ^{shell} then a Jap ~~zero~~ struck his armor plate; a

second ^{Jap shell} ~~one~~ went off under his seat, and a third ^{Jap shell} between

his legs. That ^{third} ~~one~~ started a fire in the cockpit.

He tried to beat out the flames with his hands, but

found it impossible. ^{So} ~~he~~ bailed out and pulled the

ring of his parachute almost at once. That, says, Harmon, was probably a mistake, because he was about five thousand feet up, and two Zeros came after him while he ~~was~~ was falling; and, they blew off his pants legs at the knees.

So, he folded over, and played dead. But they kept after him until he landed in a lake. ^{Even then} ~~the~~ ^{the} Japs kept on flying over him, but every time they passed he hid under his chute, ^{and} ~~so~~ they did not fire.

The All-American football star said, however, that getting back to his base in China ^{after} ~~that wild adventure was nothing~~ ~~was ping-pong~~, compared to the ~~trouble~~ he had hacking his way through the jungles of French Guiana, the first time he was lost, ^(when he was on his way to the war) ~~more than~~ a year ago, the story I related when I flew north from So. America sometime ago.

Congressmen learned today that among those who are suffering from wartime shortage materials are young babies. ^{And} They have a genuine complaint because there is a shortage of those things which you wrap around babies and fasten with a safety pin. The reason? ~~There is a~~ Scarcity of the cloth to make ^{them with,} ~~these things.~~

A worried lady from Scranton, Pennsylvania, appeared in Washington with a petition asking the lawmakers to see to it that babies should have priority on those things. She is Mrs. Mary Sossong, representing ^{not mothers - grandmothers.} the Association of American Grandmothers. She handed her petition to Senator ~~James~~ Davis of Pennsylvania and Representative John Murphy. ^{Of course} ~~They~~ Both ¹ sympathized with her; ~~As~~ also did Senator ~~Stiles~~ Bridges of New Hampshire. ^{who said} ~~He says~~ that the cloth to make those things is all going to Africa. ~~It is~~ Being lend-leased to Arabian shieks for turbans. Now what do know about that? ^{Rosen? ~~He~~}

LABOR

Before long, John L. Lewis and his United Mine Workers will be back in the ranks of the American Federation of Labor. The Executive Council of the Federation this afternoon approved a resolution which will make it virtually a matter of course. Furthermore, that Union will resume its membership with the same importance that it held eight years ago when Lewis withdrew. The A.F. of L. Council appointed a committee of five to meet with representatives of the United Mine Workers and clear up all questions that have not already been settled.

PAY

The Conference Committee of Representatives and Senators have come to an agreement about mustering out pay for veterans. The terms ^{to be} ~~are~~ _{in} three hundred dollars for all men below certain grades who have served overseas; two hundred dollars for those who have served more than sixty days here at home; one hundred dollars for those who have served less than sixty days in a home camp.