

We know just one part of the story of the great naval events that have been happening in the far-off spaces of the Pacific. There are possibilities of a great deal more, and much speculation about that major battle. But all that we really know is what Admiral Nimitz announced this afternoon.

On Monday, ^{the} long-range American scouting planes ^{that} flew from the powerful American task force ~~that~~ covered ^{ing} our invasion of Saipan Island, ^{went} winging west ^{and} ~~was~~ spotted a big Japanese naval ~~fl~~ force about half way between the Marianas and the Philippine Island of Luzon. They flashed this word, and instantly American commander Admiral Spruance took his fleet steaming at top speed toward the Japs. ^{And}, he ordered swarms of carrier planes to go speeding out ahead and assail the enemy.

It is assumed the Japanese Naval squadron was the one whose planes tangled with the Americans in the invasion of the Marianas, when three hundred ~~th~~ Japs were shot down. This might indicate that ~~th~~

the enemy warships are short of plane power--; ~~good~~ ^{which}
^{would be a good}
omen for American success.

In any case, Admiral Nimitz informs us that planes from our carriers assailed ~~the~~ ^a powerful Japanese force, and a sea and air battle was fought. Just what the result was has not ^{yet} been ~~not~~ announced. Admiral Nimitz explained that losses have not yet been assessed.

The larger point is the possibility that this was only a beginning. The spotting of the Japanese naval force and the attack on it by the American carrier planes may have been merely the opening of a major naval battle. We don't know. We can't say whether the enemy squadron stuck around to fight it out with the American task force that was racing toward it, or whether the Japs ran away. (In Washington today Secretary of the Navy Forrestal indicated that a great major engagement ~~is~~ may have ensued, may still be going on. That's what our naval commanders want - a showdown decision with the Japanese fleet.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

Another event in the Pacific War is a record breaking assault on Truk. That enemy base in the Carolines has been hit for five consecutive days, with the last attack coming to a climax. One hundred and eight tons of bombs blasted the Japs at Truk -- for the greatest land based attack in the Pacific War thus far.

CABINET MINISTER

The uproar is at a climax over yesterday's British statement that the United States forced the war with Japan. This was denounced by Secretary of State ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Cordell Hull last evening, and today the protest flared in Congress - with a blistering statement that the United States had been insulted.

The chief voice of Congressional indignation was ~~Senator~~ Scott Lucas, an Illinois Democrat and strong Administration supporter who sometimes has spoken for the White House. He called for the resignation of British Cabinet member, Oliver Lyttleton, London Minister of Production whose remarks have created all the disturbance.

The British Cabinet Minister declared that the United States had never been neutral, and had put so much pressure on Japan that the Japs were forced into the Pearl Harbor attack. Today in the House of Commons, Lyttleton apologized. He didn't deny he had made the remark, but said it was a mistake of expression. He was merely trying to express British gratitude to the

United States for our part in the war. The idea being that we would deserve less credit if we had entered the war merely because we were attacked.

Said the gentleman from Illinois:

"The British government at this hour, cannot afford to permit such an irresponsible character to continue in high public office.

JAPANESE SHIP

There are a lot of stories about ways of procuring military information, and here is the most freakish of them all. It tells of the way an American bomber picked up the log and papers of a Japanese vessel, including a list of the cargo, and plenty of information about the convoy in which the ship was sailing.

The convoy was sunk off the coast of New Guinea - two motor ships and two patrol vessels. American bombers did the trick; ^{with} ~~one~~ one of them ^{getting} ~~got~~ into a ~~right~~ tight corner, flying into the explosion of a bomb dropped by a bomber just ahead. The pilot tried to swerve out of the way, but he was going so fast ~~that~~ his plane was caught in a shower of debris as the bomb blew up the ship.

The flying fragments damaged the bomber, but the plane got back to base and then what was discovered? In the cooler system of the plane they found a mass of papers - the documents full of military information. These had been blown into the air with ^{blown up by plane NO. 1,} the other debris of the ship, [^] and the flying papers

JAPANESE SHIP - 2

had been sucked into the in-take of the cooling
system of ~~the~~ bomber no. 2.

JAPANESE TERMS

There has been a lot of talk about the terms of peace, the conditions to be imposed on defeated enemies - but these have come mostly from our side. So here is a novelty, the terms of peace that the Japs intend to impose upon us.

You would think this would be a poor time for Tokyo to talk about what it proposes to do to the United States. But, nevertheless, the official Japanese news agency informs us that the Mikado's government has organized a post-war planning committee, and this committee has just drawn up a program to be put into effect - "after the United States surrenders", says the Tokyo news agency.

So let's see what is going to happen after we surrender:—The Jap terms call for the complete destruction of the United States Navy, and the elimination of all American trade overseas. And, our form of government is ~~xxxxxxx~~ to be changed. The Japs are going to make us accept a kind of government ~~xxxxxx~~ patterned after their own. So I suppose we'll have a Mikado, a Son of Heaven - and I wonder who he'll

be. Anyway, the Tokyo Post-war ~~pl~~ planning committee makes it clear that our new kind of government is to be completely subservient ~~to~~ Japan. In other words, our American Mikado will have to kow-tow to their Mikado.

That's what the Japs have dreamed up. Instead of forcing all the opium on the Chinese they must be cooking some of it themselves!

~~And now Hugh what's cooking~~
And now Hugh what's cooking
in your department, before we go
on with the news?

SUBSTITUTE LEAD FOR FRANCE

The latest from France is that American troops are not only in Cherbourg - but are smashing their way to the area of the docks. London reports that the fighting is now only a few hundred yards from the port section, the great piers and harbor works. Earlier news told of the capture of a town only one mile from the center of the city, and tonight's communique from Allied headquarters stated: "The area held by the enemy is steadily diminishing. Our advance up the entire peninsula has been rapid".

~~German prisoners and French refugees, etc.~~

FRANCE

The latest from the Cherbourg area ~~reports~~
~~of~~ the American capture of a town only a mile from the
center of the city. This is in line with tonight's
bulletin from Allied headquarters, which tells of
allied progress toward the great port all along the
line. The late evening ~~XXXXX~~ communique states:
"The area held by the enemy is steadily diminishing
- our advance up the entire peninsula has been rapid".

~~Earlier reports told of the advancing troops
smashing through the fortifications guarding Cherbourg,
and stated that savage street battles were raging in
the suburbs of the town.~~

German prisoners and French refugees indicated
that the Germans were evacuating Cherbourg. Where could
they go? The stories were that the Germans were pulling
out of the city and retiring to the extreme north-
western tip of the ~~Cherbourg~~ peninsula. There, perhaps,
they intend to make a last stand. ~~More and more it
sounds like Tunisia all over again the end of the
African campaign, when the Germans retired to the tip~~

~~of Tunisia for a last stand that turned into a mass surrender.~~

- The destruction of the great port of Cherbourg continues, with explosions and immense clouds of smoke telling how the Germans have been blowing up everything possible to make the harbor useless to the Allies. ~~And~~ ^T today invasion Commander General Eisenhower flashed an appeal to the French people in Cherbourg, asking them to do what they can to keep the Nazis from demolishing the port. ~~Also~~ he called upon the Cherbourg dock workers to be ready for work when the Allies enter the city - be ready to handle the great volume of invasion supplies that ~~are~~ ^{are} scheduled to stream into Cherbourg.

~~But perhaps all of this is ancient history by now. The last news pictured Cherbourg as ready to fall in a few hours, and Allied troops may be entering right now.~~

SUBSTITUTE FOR LAST PARAGRAPH OF FRANCE.

But perhaps all of this is ancient history
by now - and Cherbourg may be in full Allied possession -
the first great prize of war in the second front
invasion.

ROBOTS

From Britain we have word of a new type of victory; ~~(fighter plane against rocket bombs. Southern England is still being hit by those robot planes that come streaking with trails of fire across the Channel Doodlebugs, as the Americans over there are~~ ^{calling} ~~them.~~

~~But~~ Increasing numbers of the rocket bombs, ^{or} ~~or~~

^{torpedoes - or Doodlebugs, are} being shot down, knocked out by ~~fighter planes, or~~ ^{new and faster fighter planes.}

~~The British have just brought out~~ ^a ~~a~~ new type of fighter, one so fast it can catch the streaking robots, and knock ^{them} down on the fly. The favorite place for ~~the~~ attacking them is over the Channel, where ~~they are shot down into the water.~~ One observer on the English Coast relates that this ~~morning~~ morning he saw at least ten of ~~the doodlebugs~~ brought down. Another eyewitness tells how in twenty-five minutes he saw five out of seven smashed by bullets for a plunge into the water.

^{Also,} the bombing assaults against the rocket coast in France are still continuing - with another big raid today. ~~Allied observers have discovered a number of~~

~~olly coast~~^{er} slides from which the robot planes are
~~launched, and these are a target for sharpshooting~~
~~with high explosive.~~

The ^{Allied} bombers are accompanied by fighters, ^{on the}
~~these latter~~ ^{out for the robots} looking ~~for doodlebugs,~~ as they take off.

As soon as a rocket starts on its way across the
Channel, the ~~speedy~~ fighters ^{pounce on it,} ~~are after it,~~ to shoot
it down.

~~The sum of it all is that the Nazi secret~~
~~weapon is still hitting England, and doing damage. But,~~
~~the defense against it has improved to such an extent~~
~~we are told~~
~~that the checking of the rocket assault is in sight.~~

SUBSTITUTE FOR LAST PARAGRAPH OF ROBOTS

One neat twister is reported. A robot plane had just started out across the Channel when a British fighter raked it with bullets. The steering mechanism was knocked ~~xxx~~ haywire, whereupon the rocket bomber swung around and headed back to shore. It boomeranged, ~~flying~~^{sw} back at the Nazis.

The latest news is that the Allies have captured several robot launching platforms in their drive against Cherbourg. The announcement is that eight of the roller coasters were taken, all intact and Allied engineers are now studying them.

This^{is} the first indication of the existence of rocket plane launching devices in the Cherbourg area, which is only eighty miles from the great British port of Southampton. However, it appears that none of the rockets were hurled at Southampton.

The story about Berlin tonight is one of smoke. A huge American airmada smashed the Nazi capital today, and the Germans, as part of their defense, used smoke in an effort to conceal the targets in the city. They had smoke pots burning, which emitted huge clouds. But these provided only a small fraction of the smoke, the far greater part of which rose from the great fires set by the violent bombing assault.

~~It is believed that today's tonnage of bombs exceeded the previous record - twenty-eight hundred tons hurled by the British on the night of March Twenty-fourth. And all that high explosive filled the sky over Berlin with ~~enormous~~ enormous clouds of smoke. The Nazis, with their device for concealment, had intended to have smoke at Berlin - but not that much.~~

↙ The American daylight striking force consisted of two thousand planes, a thousand bombers and a thousand fighter ~~escorts~~ escorts. ~~From Allied headquarters in Britain we have the estimate that the number of airmen in the assault totalled more than ~~eleven~~ eleven~~

~~thousand, a full division. Also, if the planes in the raid were lined up touching each other, they would make a row twenty miles long; - four hundred and seventy-five million dollars' worth of planes in one air assault!~~

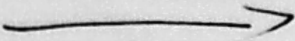
~~German fighter resistance is described as moderate, but there was heavy anti-aircraft fire, and~~
Our losses are forty-three heavy bombers and fifteen fighters. A dispatch from Stockholm states that twelve of the missing American bombers landed in Sweden, making a total of thirty-three to come down in that country in two days. The German loss in planes today was somewhere ~~xxx~~ around forty.

ADD AIR WAR

The latest news is that ^{the} American planes that bombed Berlin went right on to Russia - the first shuttle operation between British bases and flying-fields in the territory of the Soviets. Shuttle operations with Soviet Russia had been carried out previously by Allied bombers based on Italy, and now planes flying from Britain have taken ~~up~~ up the same ~~strategy~~ strategy.

ITALY

The news from Italy tells of action in a sector about which we have heard comparatively little of late-the British Eighth Army front along the Adriatic Coast.

All along the line-progress was rather slow today-the swift advances of the Fifth Army reduced to a more moderate pace. The Nazi main Army is still retreating toward the line of Rimini Florence and Pisa, but the German rear guards are fighting a stubborn battle of withdrawal. And, moreover, the 

weather has turned bad again - with driving rainstorms that are impeding the advance.

Tonight we have another of ~~thix~~ those historical reminiscences. The old land of Italy has been so full of history for so many centuries that any military advance is likely to run across some striking memory of a Caesar or of a famous Consul in command of legions. Tonight it is something else - Hannibal, the Carthegienan Genius of war. The news tells how in central Italy Fifth Army troops are advancing along the shores of Lake Traisimeno, and that's tricky country. I suppose it would be sophomoric indeed to suggest to our commanders that they consult their schoolboy memories of Roman history, but it was along that lake, which is hemmed in by high mountains, that Hannibal trapped and destroyed the Roman Army - one of the greatest disasters of snaring encirclement in history.

FOLLOW ITALY

Italians would seem to be having enough trouble, but now they're adding an operatic difficulty, to their woes. The height of enjoyment for Italians is Grand Opera, and they're having a wrangle about Gigli (Geel-ye). That ~~ix~~ lyric tenor, whose suave and graceful voice was heard so long at the New York's Metropolitan Opera House, was scheduled to appear at a concert for Allied soldiers at the opera house in Rome; but, that's been cancelled, because of violent attacks printed in several Roman newspapers, including the journal of the Communist party. Gigli is accused of hob-nobbing with the Nazis, and of saying he considered Germany his second Fatherland. It would seem that the tenor did some talking, which he finds rather awkward now. ↓
~~suppose might repeat the old phrase "for heavens sake sing" But they won't let him sing.~~

RUSSIA

As the Russians pounded on into Finland and the Finns are reported to be moving frantically for peace - here are some figures for losses in the Russian War. Moscow states that in the course of the three-year conflict the Soviets have lost a total of Five million three hundred thousand men, killed, captured or missing. The number of wounded can only be guessed at. Moscow adds further, that the Germans have lost a total of seven million eight hundred thousand.

KEYNOTE

Here is some encouraging
~~There certainly is inspiring~~ news from

California -- that Governor ~~Earl~~ Warren, at the Republican Convention, expects to keep his keynote speech down to a half hour. Those of us who have attended National Conventions in the past have a dreary recollection of those keynote addresses -- long and wordy orations ~~that~~ lasted ^{ing} ~~in~~ from one-and-a-half to two hours.

Governor Warren will have plenty to say - in sounding Republican themes of international cooperation and domestic post-war policies. But he expects to do it in thirty minutes, although, of course, the applause may stretch out the time that he is on the platform. Well, they might also practice a certain brevity of applause, in accordance with the Warren idea of making the keynote a short note. Which, a musician might say, would make it a grace note.

*Now for a brief note from
You, Hugh!*