

BURMA

L.J. Standard. Thursday, March 23, 1944.
Sunoco.

~~As to the war in southeastern Asia,~~ Instead of the Japs being driven out of Burma, they appear to have begun an invasion of India in earnest. *But we still don't know how serious it is.*
A British correspondent with the Fourteenth Army says the invaders have now penetrated into Manipur, a distance of six or eight miles; ~~According to another story, they are advancing on Imphal, the capital of Manipur--~~ advancing from three directions, ~~and~~ with three sizeable columns of troops.

Meanwhile, Mountbatton, southeastern Commander-in-Chief, has sent a force of shock troops into Burma to cut off the Japs; a force of British and Indian commandos, who were landed in the middle of Burma by air transport. These have already cut the ~~the~~ railroad out of Mandalay, the chief supply line of most of the Japanese forces in northern Burma. And, they are threatening the invaders of Manipur from the rear. There may be a chance that they will cut off ~~the~~ the invading Jap army.

77

~~Fresh news from the Far East!~~ Tonight ^W We hear

~~for the first time~~ that British submarines ~~of the eastern~~
~~fleet~~ have been at work off the coast ~~of the great island~~
of Sumatra, and off the Malayan Peninsula, ever since the
first of the year. In that time, they have sunk a
Japanese cruiser of the Kuma class, and damaged another
cruiser of the same class. They have destroyed a
seven thousand ton aircraft carrier, eight supply ships,
and several smaller naval craft. They have also damaged
two other supply ships.

From our own southwest Pacific command, we hear
that the marines ~~who~~ ^{on the} landed ~~at~~ St. Mathias Islands,
have overrun ^{what} ~~the~~ Japanese opposition, ^{there was there} ~~which was not~~
~~heavy~~ ^{And} they now have those positions in the Bismarck
Archipelago completely under control. This means that
we have a complete ring of bases around the Bismarck Sea.
And Admiral Nimitz tells us that Army and Navy
warplanes bombed Ponape and other Jap installations in
the Carolines.

ADD PACIFIC

The Japs ^{have had still} ~~had~~ another try yesterday at reinforcing their isolated bases on the coast of New Guinea. Our observers caught sight of a convoy approaching the island. Word was quickly flashed to headquarters which sent out heavy, medium, and light bombers from various land bases over a ninety mile stretch of northern New Guinea. They dropped two hundred tons of bombs, sank two Jap freighters, seven coastal vessels and twenty-three barges, ^{that was off} ~~off~~ ^{And -} Wewak alone. They did a lot of other damage besides.

Among the Marines that occupied islands in the Saint Mathias Group is one very disgruntled unit of Marines. When the Leathernecks splashed their way ashore on Emirau Island, they were all primed for a fight. They waded out of the water without finding an enemy. They established their beachhead, still without even so much as a bullet flying around their heads. For six hours they swarmed over the island looking for Japs. All they met was a crowd of grinning natives whose reply to all questions was "no Japans ~~here~~ here".

And ~~was those~~ ^{the} Leathernecks ^{were} sore. All

that trouble and not a Jap to kill. However, they ^{have}
~~grabbed themselves off~~ ^{taken an island that may make} a fine base. ~~It is~~ Only

five hundred and fifty-five miles from Truk. And

on it the Seabees can build not one but several

airfields, for blasting ^{all} the Jap positions within
reach.

RUSSIA

In Russia, Red soldiers tonight are in the streets of the great Black Sea naval base of Nikolaev, ~~driving the Germans out.~~ Moscow says they took by storm the ring of defenses ~~that~~ the Nazis had built around the city. ^{IP} In the previous twenty-four hours they had captured towns on three sides, and the fall of Nikolaev was a foregone conclusion. The Berlin communique says nothing about ^{all this.} ~~the~~ ~~place,~~ But the Soviet ^{bulletin claims} ~~communique says~~ that most of ~~the~~ garrison ~~is~~ doomed.

The London radio broadcast a report that Russian heavy guns and air bombs had sunk an entire German convoy; Seventeen ships put ^{ting} out from Nikolaev, evacuating part of its garrison, and evidently, ^{meeting} ~~they met~~ with disaster.

Northwest of that great fortress on the Black Sea, another dramatic chapter of history is being written. The Second Army of the Ukraine is pushing

across Bessarabia on a front sixty miles wide, ~~a~~ -- a formidable operation. That force already is approaching the Prut River, and Rumania, ~~its~~ ^{proper} The left wing is heading towards the railway junction which controls all of northern Bessarabia.

According to Moscow, the Russias are advancing in such force and with such speed, that the Germans and Rumanians opposing them have ^{become} disorganized. ~~Marshal~~ von Mannstein has to slow up the advancing Soviet troops or lose all of his army ^{that is} still left east of the Dniester,

~~There~~

^{there is} But that isn't all, ^a to the Russian story today.

The Germans counter-attacked on the Polish front, counter-attacked in an effort to stop the Russians who are aiming for Lwow, ^a ~~that~~ key point in Poland. ~~But~~ The Soviet First Ukrainian Army beat back the counter-^{and} attacks, ^a advanced at some points as much as thirty-eight

Apparentl^{ing}
miles, ~~and~~ recaptured [^] more than two hundred towns
and villages.



Simply five at the north without any...
northwest of Leningrad. According to...
at Leningrad has been going to the...
Late this week...
the Armies of the Soviet are actually...
German on six different... The front of the
Red Army attack ranges...
way from Poland to the Black Sea.

ADD RUSSIA

Apparently the Russians have advanced in Poland even further than they claim. The Berlin radio today was talking about fighting at Kowel which is ninety-five miles north of Lwow and forty-two miles northwest of Lutsk. According to Berlin the fighting at Kowel has been going on for three days.

Late this ~~mf~~ evening it turned out that the Armies of the Soviet are actually hitting the Germans on six different centers. The front of the Red Army attack ranges seven hundred miles, all the way from Poland to the Black Sea.

BALKANS

One story from out of London today reports

Adolf Hitler as preparing for an intensive campaign in

the Balkans. *He is said to be* ~~is~~ organizing his forces not so much

against the British and Americans as against the advancing

Red army. *All of which* ~~this~~ is deduced from news disclosed by Radio

Vichy *which* broadcast a report that Marshal Antonescu

of Rumania and a couple of his ministers had gone to

Hitler's headquarters. From other sources come stories

that the Fuehrer has also sent for the pro-Nazi chiefs

in Croatia and Slovakia. The prince regent and the

Prime Minister of Bulgaria are also expected to join the

conference.

By the way of the incident of ... that act
Out of these facts comes the inference that
the Nazi Dictator plans to tell the Blakan leaders they
must either give complete all-out cooperation to the
plan of the German high command for defending the
Balkans, or else suffer the fate of the Hungarians.

There has been an amphibious attack by Allied forces on the Adriatic coast of Jugoslavia. ~~It was~~ Evidently carried out by American Rangers and British Commandos, cooperating with the Partisans of Marshal Tito. ~~Brosovich~~. The Rangers and Commandos hit the German garrison on one island and ~~hit~~ the ^{Adriatic} Nazi U-boat base on another. ~~in the Adriatic~~.

Meanwhile, the Partisans were striking at German lines of communication all the way to the Bulgarian frontier. Strong formations of Italian fighters also attacked the Nazis not far from Sarajevo, ~~the~~ scene of the assassination of the Archduke of Serbia, *that set off the first World War.*

ADD BALKANS

The people of Hungary, allies of the Nazis, are now being treated ^{much} ~~just~~ like inhabitants of an enemy country. Reports from both Madrid and Vichy show clearly that the process of occupation of this Ally was exactly the same as the invasions of Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium and France. It began with Fifth Columnists preparing the way. As the Nazi troops entered Hungary the Fifth Columnists acted as guides. The Germans tonight control all communications in Hungary, telegraph, radio and railroads.

AIR WAR

A large force of American warplanes bombarded Germany today for the second day in succession. Some seven hundred and fifty Flying Forts and Liberators of the U.S. Eighth Air Force went out, escorted by an equally strong fighter escort. An officer describing the attack said the bombers fanned out over the Reich like a railway traffic pattern, picking out special targets.

Lieutenant General Spaatz today achieved his *desire to* ~~ambition of~~ luring ^e the German air ~~arm~~ ^{people} into battle. They showed fight today over Brunswick, with a force of interceptors which ^{sw} ~~swarmed~~ about the Flying Fortresses, *although when* like ~~a school of fish~~ ^{ed} the American's attack ~~on~~ Berlin yesterday, Goering's airmen refused to give battle.

The Germans have had to withstand *three tremendous* ~~three~~ raids ⁱⁿ ~~within~~ thirty-six hours. Today's attack followed a raid

by a thousand R.A.F. planes on Frankfurt. Some of the

lighter British aircraft went to Berlin during the night

to stir up
~~to keep going~~ the fires that ~~had been~~ started by the
fliers
American ~~force~~ during the day.

The Eighth Air Force today lost twenty-seven heavy bombers and six fighters.

Twenty-six factories in Hitler's capital. Three hundred and twenty-six in the last three months!

In addition, the raiders have hit the main offices of twenty-one departments of the German government.

All of which has

throughout the Reich. An American correspondent who had to be stationed in Berlin, writes that he can see

from these photographs that the city he covered for two and a half years no longer exists. The photographs are

the most graphic and dramatic ever obtained of a German city.

Unter den Linden, the main street of Berlin,

ADD AIR WAR

The British government tonight made public pictures of the damage done to Berlin, the first complete aerial photographs ^{to be} ~~that were~~ shown. From these it can be seen that the Allied bombers have either totally destroyed or seriously damaged no fewer than three hundred and twenty-six factories in Hitler's capital. Three hundred and twenty-six in the last three months!

In addition, the raiders have hit the main offices of twenty-one departments of the German government. ~~The value of this was to~~ ^{all of which has} cause ^{much} ~~considerable~~ confusion throughout the Reich. An American correspondent who used to be stationed in Berlin, writes that he can see from those photographs that the city he covered for two and a half years no longer exists. The photographs are the most graphic and dramatic ever obtained of a German city.

Unter den Linden, the show street of Berlin,

down which the Kaisers used to ride with their glittering
stuffs, Unter den Linden is in ruins. The Hotel Bristol,
the Russian Embassy, ^{and} other large buildings, are either
completely destroyed or just empty shells with nothing
but the walls to be seen.

Then there are pictures of the once elegant
district which Berlin has called The Tiergarten.

~~the Berlin Zoo.~~ Around that park were many expensive
stone houses, foreign embassies and legations. Fire has
swept through the Tiergarten district for block after
block, leaving nothing but burned out honeycombs, and
there is hardly any traffic in the streets.

Elsewhere throughout the former capital of the
Prussian kings, fire has raged through entire sections,
leaving street after street burned out.

ITALY

This was the fiftieth day of the effort of the Allies to fight their way through Cassino on the road to Rome. Apparently, they are a few yards closer, and that is about all. The German commander threw his great devils, those parachute shocktroopers, against the Allied lines time and again. And New Zealanders threw them back, each time, with heavy casualties.

Secretary of War Stimson points out that the stubborn defense the Nazis are putting up at Cassino, should serve, for all the people of the United Nations, as a sober reminder of what lies ahead when larger operations are undertaken.

VESUVIUS FOLLOW ITALY

The American Military Commissioner of the Province of Naples is worried. The eruption of Vesuvius, instead of moderating, is becoming more terrific. *But* American officer, [Lt. Colonel Kincaid] ~~XXXXXXXX~~ bears the responsibility for the lives of not only American soldiers, Wacs and nurses in that Province, but of the Italian inhabitants.

In Nineteen Five and Six, Vesuvius was active *in April 1906* for eleven months. The climax came [^] when the great volcano literally blew its top off. Since then it has formed a new cone, a funnel shaped top. ~~Lieutenant~~ Colonel Kincaid, ^{*has*} ~~the Provincial Commissioner,~~ issued a warning ^{*that*} If Vesuvius blows off its top again, ~~that~~ ^{*that*} it will blow out a great mass of stone, lava and ashes, with results, in many directions, which are actually unpredictable.

As it is, the cloud of smoke and ashes reaches up ~~up~~ three miles high and darkens the sky as far ~~xx~~ away as Bari, more than a hundred and thirty miles away.

ADD VESUVIUS

The eruption grew so much worse during the

day that the Army had to send bulldozers ~~in~~ to keep

^{main} highways open, ^[distant highways] clearing away the ^{blanket} ~~steady stream~~

of red ashes that ^{is descending} ~~fell upon them~~ from the ^{exploding} Volcano.

^{TP} Colonel Kincaid ^{has been} ~~was~~ obliged to order the partial

evacuation of ~~another city~~ Torredel Greco, ^{a city} ~~place~~

of thirty-four thousand inhabitants on the Neopolitan

^{TP} Coast. The dust from Vesuvius is falling so heavily

that the winds are even carrying it across the

Adriatic, ^{where it is descending on} ~~onto~~ the towns and villages of southern

Albania.

DRAFT

Draft boards are going to restrict the deferment of men under twenty-six; that is, if a new plan goes through which has been drawn up by the War Production Board and the high command of the armed forces. Young men will be deferred only if they are ^{employed} ~~unreplaceable workers~~ *of the most essential kind* They will include in eight ~~industries~~ *industries*. ~~That is~~ men who work on landing craft, synthetic rubber, and a hundred octane gasoline, high tenacity rayon, certain types of radar equipment, planes, but only certain types of them, submarines, tires, and a secret weapon which the government is building. But the young men in even those industries will not be deferred unless they have extreme ^{ized} ~~specialist~~ skill or knowledge or a high educational qualification and cannot be replaced. The plan has not yet been finally approved, but it probably will be.

TRIAL

An interesting trial began today in England's

historic criminal court, the picturesque Old Bailey,
scene of so many classic legal dramas.

The British Crown is prosecuting a man and three women

under an Act passed in Seventeen Thirty-Six, an Act to

Prohibit Witchcraft. The defendants are accused of

raising the spirits of the dead for money. Prosecuting

counsel declared that the four prisoners held seances in

a room over a drug store in Portsmouth, ^{which} they called it

the Master Temple Physic Center. The prosecutor

explained that this is being done in order to prevent

spook hunters from shaking down the credulous kinsfolk of

soldiers lost in battle; ^a ~~that sort of~~ racket ^{that} is liable

to thrive in any country ⁱⁿ during war times.

A visitor at one of those seances was a British

naval officer. The medium had promised him to produce the

spook of a departed kinsman from her ectoplasm. She

warned him not to touch the ectoplasm, because if he did,

it would run back into her body and kill her.

However, the naval officer paid no attention to the warning. He touched the spook and, instead of going into the medium it ran into the audience and disappeared.

At the last seance, a British policeman was among those present. When in the pitch darkness he saw a white substance behind a curtain, he sprang forward and grabbed it. At that time the naval officer turned on a flashlight and the spook turned out to be the medium, dressed from head to toe in a white sheet.

And now a chap who is not a ghost--Roger Krupp in person.

ANTHONY

In Springfield, Mass., there is a mail carrier named Mr. Anthony, ~~yes, the same~~ ^{as the chap} ~~name as Mr. Anthony~~, who settles ~~other people's~~ domestic problems ^{via the radio} ~~for them on the~~ ^{well} Mr. Anthony at Springfield today was informed of a problem. One of the houses on his route is inhabited by Mrs. Simon Posnick, who has a husband in the army, a sergeant overseas. She wrote to Sergeant Posnick that every time Letter Carrier Anthony brings her a letter from her husband, she feels like kissing him, the letter carrier.

So Sergeant Posnick wrote to Mr. Anthony that he had learned from his wife that she has the services of the best mailman in Massachusetts. Sergeant Posnick used these words: "My wife says she could kiss you every time you deposit a letter from me in the box." And Sergeant Posnick continued: "If I write more, it might be embarrassing to you." ^{if I write less, it might be}

British and American medium bombers also delivered a heavy attack on the Japs from the air.

A Tokyo broadcast admits that the Japanese forces have been in contact with air-borne American troops in Burma. On the whole, we are getting very little information from Burma.

The Committee adopted an amendment, which was adopted unanimously; ^{and} ^{that} such amendments would place in the hands of Congress, and not the President, control of the fiscal well-being after the war between Uncle Sam and the Nations who have benefited from Lend-Lease. The author of this amendment was Republican ^{backed by} Representative Fawcett of New York, but the Democrats ^{as well as the Republicans} ~~supported it and agreed~~

LEND-LEASE

Tonight it looks as though the Congressmen were getting ready to take ~~the~~ control of Lend-Lease out of the hands of the President. The measure extending the program for another year was approved today by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House; but, ^{with a} ~~there was a~~ string to it. The Committee adopted an amendment, adopted it unanimously; ^{an} ~~the~~ ^{that} amendment would place in the hands of Congress, and not the President, control of the final settlement after the war between Uncle Sam and the Nations who have benefited from Lend-Lease.

The author of this amendment was Republican Representative Wadsworth of New York, ^{backed by} ~~but~~ the Democrats ^{as well as the Republicans.} ~~joined with him and agreed.~~

PATTON

The Patton incident in the news again.

That is, Secretary of War Stimson tells us Patton's transfer from leadership of the Seventh Army to another command has no relation whatsoever to the incident.

Evidently, General Patton's new mission is an important one, for the War Department declines to give any details.

