

L.T. - STANDARD. FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 1944.
SUNOCO.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am in Canada tonight, at Montreal,
watching the news of the world from the banks of the
St. Lawrence. I wish I had all good news to pass along,
but, there is some of both.

PACIFIC.

More good news!

It is now apparent that the various actions in the central Pacific constitute one giant coordinated operation against the Caroline Islands. The first word we had was of the naval air assault on Palau, which island-group lies over toward the Philippines - only four hundred and sixty miles from Mindanao. That was plunging away over into the far side of the Japanese Island empire.

TP The navy task force struck from the south - from the direction of New Guinea and New Britain. Units of the enemy navy ran away, fled from the American warships and planes; but our bombers ~~smashed~~ smashed heavily at Palau.

TP *all of which*
2 ~~But that~~ was only one part of a much larger whole; for today the news is that the assault on Palau was coordinated with blows against Truk. This afternoon's late navy bulletin gives us what sounds like startling word - that in the past thirty-six hours we have hurled three separate assaults against Truk. *TP* It was ~~was~~ with

a few
11 astonishment, weeks ago, when we learned that our forces had been able to reach Truk with a carrier-plane attack. That Japanese naval and air base had been so highly touted as a key stronghold

(2 PACIFIC)

of the enemy island empire ~~is~~ that we thought it would be a long time before we would be able to take a smack at Truk.

And now today - three blows in thirty six hours; Our forces standing off that island center of enemy power, and ~~are~~ hammering away.

Truk was hit by a task force, with the carrier planes doing their devastating work. And then that was followed up by a United States army smash - with long range liberator bombers flying over Truk *and sending down* ~~and giving~~ a devalge of explosives. The bombers flew from the south, from bases that we captured from the Japs in the New Guinea - NewBritain area.

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The attack appears to be still continuing, as American power strikes clear across the vast arc of the Caroline Archipelago - Palau at the eastern end, Truk over to the west, ^{with} a space of twenty-six hundred miles between them. And, other enemy bases in between are being hit - in a flaming offensive along the whole line of the Carolines. Tonight's dispatch indicates that it's a general offensive intended to smash the Japanese power in the Carolines, and conquer that maze of islands which has been of such cardinal importance in the empire building of the Japs.

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LEAD PACIFIC

The latest tonight, in the superb American Naval and air operation against the Japs in the Caroline Islands, discloses the thing that you might at first consider incredible. Incredible -- In point of distance. Take a look at your map, and see where the Solomon Islands are, and then go way over to the Carolines. That is -- form an impression of the distance between the northern Solomons and the legendary Jap base at Truk. After that -- consider the latest from Admiral Halsey's advance headquarters.

34 ^{TP} The bulletin states that Liberator bombers of the thirteenth army air force flew from Solomon Army bases to Eten Island, in the center of that great Atoll called Truk. The bombers based on the Solomons dropped thirty tons of high explosive on Truk.

^{TP} As a point of mere geography that's a staggering accomplishment, and it sets the pattern of the whole stupendous American offensive against the Carolines.

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BURMA

*More disturbing word from
southeastern Asia!*

The Japanese invasion of India continues to push on. Today ~~Lord~~

Mountbatten's headquarters announced that enemy forces have cut

the number one supply line in the Indian state of Manipur, the highway linking the two principal British strongholds in that area -

Imphal and Kohima. The battle is fierce and widespread, as

various Japanese columns press forward in the wild country at the border of Burma and India.

Mountbatten's headquarters now places the Japs forty miles inside

of India. The town of Tiddim has been evacuated, with British

~~Commander~~ ²general Auchinleck explaining that Tiddim had been

outflanked by the Japs and there was no point in attempting to

hold it. Other enemy units have reached a point twenty miles

south of the key city of Imphal.

Altogether, the Jap invasion seems to be rather an ambitious

attempt, and today's dispatch from New Delhi calls the situation

- dangerous. However, the British Military authorities in New

Delhi appear to be confident that they will be able, in their

words, "to cut the Japs' neck off when they stick it out far

enough."

FOLLOW BURMA

A blow to the Allied cause was announced today -- the death of General Wingate, leader of Wingate's Raiders. He was killed in Burma in an airplane crash, ~~and~~ ^{ing} the Allies lose one of the fabulous personalities of this war.

As the commander of the airborne commando forces that has been hitting the Japanese supply lines in Burma, Wingate performed exploits of such fantastic daring that he ~~became~~ ^{was fast becoming} known as the "new Lawrence".

He was an extraordinary character, bearded and stately, known as "the sword and bible general". He came from a Scottish family, of military officers and ministers of the gospel -- and was born in the Himalayas. He was passionately addicted to music, philosophy and religious history, not to mention his airborne commando exploits against the Japs, ~~which~~ ^{that} made him a legend.

I met two of his young officers some weeks ago, and they told me ~~of~~ ^{much of} their inspiring leader -- Wingate ^{of} Wingate's Raiders, now a casualty of the fierce war ~~he had been~~ in far off Burma, in which he was playing a leading role.

SAKALIN

Soviet Russia has concluded an important agreement with Japan - this was announced in Moscow today. It's one of those give-and-take things, with the Japs doing most of the giving, and the Russians most of the taking.

Japan returns to Russia valuable coal and oil concessions on the Island of Sakalin; Mineral rights which Russia had granted to Japan in a treaty some years ago. The treaty does not expire until nineteen-seventy. But, long in advance, the Japs ^{now} agreed to abrogate it, and the Russians regain ^{all that} ~~the~~ coal and ^{oil.} ~~the concessions~~

The island of Sakalin lies off the coast of Siberia, just north of Japan, and is rich in deposits of mineral fuel.

In return for this, the Japs ^{get} ~~got~~ a distinctly minor concession, with the Soviets agreeing to renew Japanese fishing rights off the Siberian Coast. This for a period of five years. Hitherto, the Soviets have insisted that the fishing agreement be made for only one year - the Japs having to get it renewed every twelve months. Now the period is five years - the Japs getting their

(2 Sakalin)

concession in return for the immensely valuable coal and oil on
Sakalin Island.

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RUSSIA

Is there any good news?
Yes, from Russia, as usual

Today Russian troops were speeding toward the great Black Seaport

of Odessa. Apparently ~~they are~~ meeting little resistance, as

they pour across the Steppes of the lower Ukraine. A sixteen

mile gain was recorded today, when Red army troops captured

Ochakov, ~~that's~~ East of Odessa, and, at the same time, from the

north, another Soviet column drove down toward the Black Sea port --

the capture of which is likely ~~at any time now~~ *to be announced at any hour.*

It also

~~and~~ Soviet troops have surged across the middle section of the

Prut River and have plunged into Rumania; ~~at that point~~ -- so states

a bulletin from Berlin. From Moscow we have a statement that, with

the Russians hammering at the gates of both Czechoslovakia and

northern Rumania, the battle of the Baltic states has already begun.

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AIR WAR

London announces that last night the Royal Air Force lost a record number of bombers - ninety-~~four~~^{four}. This occurred in a moonlight raid on Nuremberg, where twenty-two hundred and forty tons of bombs were dropped on Nazi war plants. In the bright moon at night, anti-aircraft guns and night fighting planes were particularly effective. The German air command sent up the greatest swarm of night fighters the R A F has^d ever encountered. A wild battle resulted in the moonlit sky and ninety-six ~~R A F~~^{of the British} bombers failed to return.

The previous record loss was seventy-nine, in a raid on Leipzig in February, and this now is exceeded by ~~seventeen~~^{fifteen}.

Canadian papers are of course playing up this story because it was an R.C.A.F. as well as an R.A.F. smash at Hitler's Nazi Congress-capital. According to the story here 13 giant Canadian planes were shot down; 13 planes of what may have been the greatest air armada ever hurled at Germany.

ADD AIR WAR

This afternoon's London dispatch states that the R A F gambled on diminishing fighter power from the German Air force - the supposition being that, after the great bombings of the plane-producing factories, the Nazis must be running short of fighters.

That's why the R A F undertook such a large scale assault in the brightest of moonlight - moonlight being the time when the night-fighters can operate with the greatest effect.

~~However,~~ As things turned out, the Germans did not seem to be so short of fighter planes ^{after all,} ~~to any extent.~~ The London Air Ministry describes the enemy air opposition in these words: "The largest number of fighters the Germans have ever put up." And the result was, in the words of the Air Ministry - "The bitterest fighting ever known since the battle of Germany began. "

PLANE.

U.S. Navy has Just
The ~~navy~~ disclosed another tragic mishap of war - the shooting down of a plane by friendly guns. This is the second time that so calamitous a thing has been reported on our side -- the first instance having been the horror when, in the invasion of Sicily, ~~twenty-three~~ *a squadron of* American transport planes loaded with paratroopers were shot down mistakenly by ~~British and American~~ *American and British* guns.

TP
Today's story concerns only one plane -- a big United States Army transport. The ship of the sky was carrying cargo, and had no passengers aboard -- only the crew of six, a civilian crew under army air force command. The transport was flying over the Atlantic when it encountered an Allied convoy, which was protected by fighter planes. And these made a mistake. Today's bulletin states: "Identification was not established. Evidently the fighters mistook the transport for a German four-motored bomber."
H
The Allied fighters thought they were dealing with a German war plane ~~out to~~ bomb the convoy, and they shot down the American transport - which crashed into the sea, and the six crew members aboard were killed.

(2 Plane)

This account is released by both the War Dept in Washington and the British Admiralty in London.

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Extra

ITALY

More news that's not so good:-

At Cassino, the situation is now in complete reverse. Not only have the Allied forces given up their offensive, but the Germans have taken the initiative. This was stated in a dispatch from Allied headquarters today, with the added detail that the Nazis ~~ix~~ have rolled heavy tank forces and poured fresh troops into the ruined town. They are now doing the attacking, and the Allied command is preparing for a heavy enemy offensive. Part of the preparation has been a withdrawal of advanced positions on the slope of Monte Cassino, forward parties pulled back - as positions are consolidated.

SOLDIERS VOTE

The Soldier vote bill becomes a law - without the Presidential signature. President Roosevelt today notified Congress that he considered the bill to be what he called - "wholly inadequate."

(And then he went on to a point which has been the key to the whole matter - would the compromise bill passed by Congress enable more soldiers to vote than is possible under the present law ?.

Today the President said - He did not know. It was impossible to determine, the whole thing was so complicated.

With this uncertainty, he refused to sign the bill, but he also refused to veto it.) And this afternoon the President notified

Congress, that he would allow the bill to become a law without his signature.

LONERGAN

In the Lonergan trial in New York the verdict tonight was -- murder in the second degree. This decides the fate of the peculiar young man who murdered his young wife, heiress to a brewery fortune.

He is saved from the electric chair, which is not surprising - because his murderous crime did not seem to be the result of premeditation but one of impulse, the impulse of a diseased mind.

The conviction of second degree murder calls for a sentence of from twenty years to life.

The jury was out for ten hours in deciding the fate of the cafe society playboy who became a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force, and then killed his wife in a sensational crime.

A late story from the courtroom states that Lonergan when he heard the verdict of the jury slumped into his chair. A court attendant had to lift him to his feet. One wonders, ^{what} -- did he expect? ~~to be decorated with an award of honor?~~

CHAPLIN

The Charlie Chaplin on the screen of old was a funny little man who was always in between a smile and a tear. Today, on the Hollywood witness stand, the Chaplin smiles were absent, but the tears were there.

In a searching cross-examination by the prosecution, the small gray man on the witness stand told of his romance with Joan Barry -- whose charges against him have brought about his prosecution under the Mann act. The question and answer exchange brought forward various turns of sentiment and emotion and tears ran down Chaplin's cheeks, and his voice choked as he answered. He was so disturbed the judge took time out to soothe him, and tell him to be calm.

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CHAPLIN - 2,

One curious turn of Charlie Chaplin's testimony on the witness stand came when he was asked about the time when Joan Barry came to his house and threatened to kill herself. She broke through a window.

Today on the witness stand Charlie Chaplin said that the circumstances were noted by his son's, who ~~apparently were~~ ^{apparently were} a little puzzled.

"My son's," said he, "thought that burglars had broken into the house. They thought that until they saw her shoes and stockings on the lawn. Then," exclaimed Charlie Chaplin, "they knew something was wrong."

To which the echo might respond, in the immortal words of Hamlet: "there are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

And now -- Roger a final bit of philosophy or advice from you.

(Taken out of 1st ed.)

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IRELAND.

Here's a news dispatch from Ireland, which country is in the spotlight of a crisis of war - because of the policy of neutrality which the De Valera Government insists on maintaining. So what grave tidings do we get from Dublin? Well, the news dispatch flashes a batch of jokes.

One has to do with the large number of Irishmen who enlisted in the British army and are now fighting in Italy. Paddy in Dublin is represented as saying: "Sure, and if the British get tough with us because we're neutral, Devalera will have to call the eighth army home to defend Ireland."

And then we hear of Mrs McGuire and Mrs Murphy: "And how are all your ^p fine children, Mrs Murphy?" asks Mrs McGuire. "How is Paddy?"

"Paddy is fine," says Mrs Murphy. "He's in the English army and he sends me a pound ⁱ every week."

"And how is Bridget?"

"Sure, ^{and} she's grand. ~~She's~~ Working in a war factory in England, making eight pounds a week; and sending me two of them ⁱ every week of the year."

"And how is Mike?"

"Mike, is doing fine. He's on a war job in England ^{too,} and he sends me something ~~of course!~~"

"And what about Maureen, sweet little Maureen?"

To which Mrs Murphy explodes in high indignation: "Don't be talking to me about that one. She's down in Church - praying for peace."

The Irish sense of humor invades even official proceedings - like a news conference held by Frank Gallagher, Director of Information for the Devalera Government. The subject under discussion concerned the Allied charge that the Dublin policy of neutrality favors Nazi-Japanese espionage - with the possibility of second front information leaking out. And information director Gallagher made the following announcement:

"They're going to stop the shipment of Irish cattle to England," he said, and added: "It seems that the gows have been carrying tails".

[Hubert Stevens, Otto Lang and]

1/2 And now Hugh, while I go out and prowled around Montreal hunting for talks - of war ^{time} ~~and~~ Canada, stories and news ~~and impressions to take south~~ of our ~~great~~ Neighbor, have you a weekend message