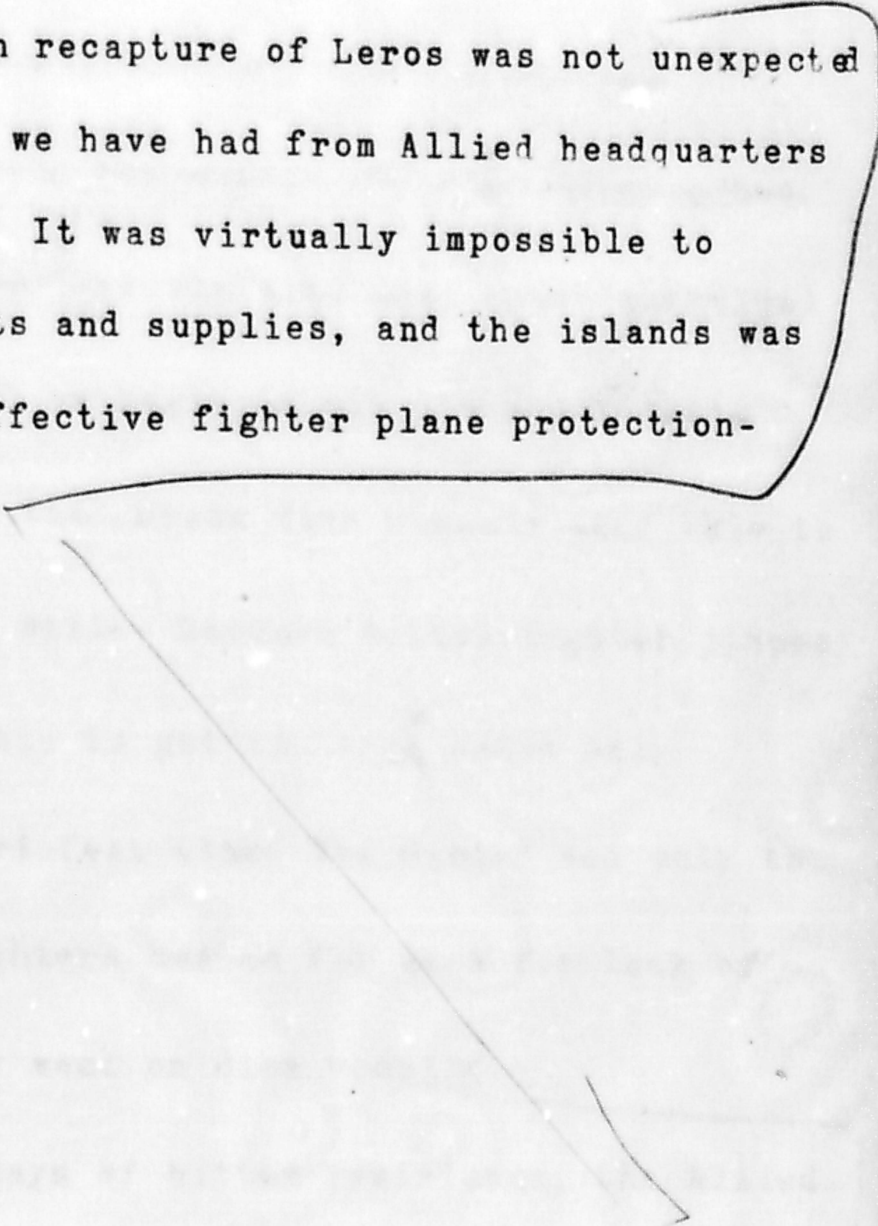


L.T. STANDARD, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1943

LEROS

The German recapture of Leros was not unexpected according to word we have had from Allied headquarters for several days. It was virtually impossible to send reinforcements and supplies, and the islands was out of reach of effective fighter plane protection-based on Egypt.



~~These factors dictated the pattern of events at Leros. There, the combined British and Italian garrison fought with the utmost of stubbornness. But they were out of~~ <sup>TP</sup> Overwhelming Nazi power assaulted <sup>garrison</sup> them, with special emphasis on air attack. Today's dispatch tells us that Stuka dive bombers were able to operate almost at will-- because Allied fighter planes ~~that~~ which were able to get to Lero<sup>S</sup> could only operate for the briefest time. The Stukas had only to wait until the fighters had to fly back for lack of gas, and then they went on dive bombing.

So after days of bitter resistance, the Allied garrison had to yield - with Berlin claiming the capture of three thousand British and five thousand Italians.

~~Previously, the island of Ooo had been~~

~~recaptured by the Nazis, just as Leros now has been.~~

~~Allied forces <sup>tonight</sup> ~~now~~ occupy only a couple of other islands in the Dodecanese, and it is not believed that these can be defended successfully - not in the face of the swift and powerful force that the Germans have brought to bear.~~

~~They have been making a major effort to reassume their sway in the Dodecanese, and this is taken to have two important meanings. One that the Germans intend, by all means in their power, to protect~~  
*TP The Nazis naturally*  
~~their flank in the Balkans. Secondly, they~~

eye on Turkey. The Turks have shown indications of coming over to the Allied side, ~~this~~ in the belief that Hitler is doomed to eventual defeat. The Dodecanese Islands are right off the coast of Turkey, and Allied power established there would be a strong added

persuasion. The Germans <sup>tonight</sup> ~~are~~ figure that the persuasion

is now the other way around, and that their recapture of

~~Leros will~~ <sup>Leros will</sup> ~~of islands would~~ impress the Turks that <sup>L-- the Nazi war machine is</sup> ~~the Germans are~~

still able to hit back.



FOLLOW LERO

The latest from the eastern end of the Mediterranean would seem to indicate that Turkey is poised in the balance--with some sort of important action <sup>imminent.</sup> ~~scheduled~~

~~for the near future.~~ A dispatch signed by ~~the~~ United Press Correspondent, <sup>(wife of Reynolds P - in)</sup> Eleanor Packard ~~in~~ <sup>K</sup> Ankara, tells <sup>a</sup> of a stormy session of the Turkish Parliament. The session

lasted for nine hours, and debated a ~~report~~ report submitted by the Turkish Foreign Minister. <sup>TP</sup> The Foreign Minister

was recently in conference with British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. We are not told of what he and Eden had to say to each other but this was the theme of <sup>that</sup> a stormy

parliamentary debate. ~~The significance of the debate is sharpened by the official statement that it "discussed questions resulting from the exigencies of a treaty of alliance with Great Britain."~~ <sup>TP</sup> The British

~~Turkish alliance called for Turkey to join Britain in case of war, but, with the driving sweep of Nazis <sup>east</sup> south in the war, London never did call on Turkey to fulfill the terms of the treaty. Now the Turks are considering these terms anew, <sup>TP and</sup> it is not surprising to be <sup>told</sup> thought~~

→ that the stormy session of the Turkish Parliament is being interpreted to mean that Turkey is on the eve of what are called--"important moves." It is not difficult to surmise that the Turks are debating the question of ~~going~~ joining the Allies--maybes yes, maybe no, with the German re-capture of Dodecanese Islands figuring among the arguments pro and con.

In London tonight there is bitter criticism, with the newspapers demanding an investigation of the strategy that led to the fall of Leros; and saying someone has blundered.

## ITALY

There is little news from the battlefield in Italy, but what there is is good. American troops have recaptured some of the ground they lost to German counter-attacks. ~~Fifth Army soldiers drove today, across a terrain rugged and high, and won back outpost ~~XXXXXXXX~~ positions in the mountain country north of Venafro.~~

At the same time, ~~British General~~ Montgomery's Eighth Army, on the other side, ~~of the peninsula,~~ pushed forward for small gains, ~~north of the town of~~ ~~Atessa.~~

Most of the battle-line across Italy is up in the mountains, and there the winter weather is bitter - with frosty gales and biting wind-driven rain.

~~It may seem strange to bring war news from~~

~~northern Italy, where the Germans are in full control -~~



## AIR WAR

Today's news of the air war tells of two blows that reached out afar, ~~and~~ <sup>ing</sup> assailed <sup>s</sup> the Nazi in long distance assault <sup>across</sup> ~~to~~ the Mediterranean. American Flying Fortresses flew <sup>over</sup> ~~all the way across~~ that sea of blue water, and hit an important Nazi air base in southern France, near Marseilles. At the same time, medium bombers, Marauders, rained bombs on another German base in the same sector.

~~We are told, by the way, that they had quite a protection in flying in the vicinity of Marseilles. And that would seem to indicate that we are using air bases far forward across the Mediterranean, or perhaps Sardinia or Corsica, where the range of fighter planes is not long, at best.~~

They <sup>not only</sup> were hitting the enemy, <sup>they also</sup> ~~and they~~ were

~~also~~ celebrating an anniversary, the completion of <sup>bombing</sup> the first year of American air operations in the



Mediterranean theatre of war. It was just a year ago that a beginning was made, a small beginning. The North African campaign was on, and an American air-mada raided the Nazi airfield at Sidi Ahmed in Tunisia. Air-mada is a stately word for a fleet of the sky. But that one was a mighty small fleet. It consisted of exactly six Fortresses, a round half dozen.

~~Those were the days when General Jimmy Deolittle was ~~not~~ building up our first air power in the Mediterranean, the Bomber of Tokyo undertaking a more difficult task than the air assault against Japan. I've had occasional word from <sup>Gen</sup>~~Jimmy~~ Deolittle, which mirrors the heart-breaking handicaps that our flying men faced when, following quick and sudden invasion of North Africa, flying commanders had to~~

bring forward air power as fast as they could,  
improvising flying fields, and all the time trying to  
establish air bases <sup>way up</sup> ~~as far~~ forward, ~~as they could~~. It  
was a real triumph in those days, a year ago, when  
Major General Jimmy Doolittle was able to organize an  
air-mada of six, <sup>^</sup> put half a dozen Fortresses in action.

~~Compare that with today's news, which tells of  
ponderous fleets of Fortresses and Marauders hurled  
for a thousand miles to strike all the way across the  
Mediterranean.~~

This ~~first~~ anniversary of <sup>that first</sup> ~~American air power~~  
~~in the Mediterranean, the anniversary of the first~~  
Flying Fortress bombing raid, occurred at a time when  
another kind of ceremony is frequently celebrated.—  
~~It is~~ a ritual with a lugubrious sound, grim and  
foreboding. A bomber crew is about to take off on an  
air raid, the flying men who remain behind crowd around

the pilot, slap him on the back with a sad, tragical expression. "Too bad, pal," they virtually weep, "I've got a feeling you're going to spin in today. Too bad, old pal," they exclaim with tearful voices - "you were a nice guy." And then they sing a song, a mournful dirge, the key line of which is as follows: "Oh say hello to mother, before going home."

This funereal ceremony means that the bomber is going on what they call - "Big Fifty." Big Fifty is the fiftieth bombing mission, and the number of fliers who have gone on that many to date is another yardstick with which to measure the startling growth of the American air force in the Mediterranean during its first year of bombing.

When an airman has gone on half a hundred raids, he is entitled to go home. There is always a superstition about doing a thing that last time.



The fates are mocking, and it is impish <sup>irony</sup> ~~fate~~ to come to grief on the last day. Flying men, like sailors, are superstitious, and they have their own kind of numbe-jumble to ward off misfortune. Hence the lugubrious ceremony that is enacted when a bombing crew goes on - the Big Fifty. It's an elaborate air-war-form of knocking on wood.

When they <sup>bomber</sup> return from that fiftieth mission, there is another line of ritual. As the pilot comes in for a landing, and climbs out, they gang around him and grab his hand and exclaim in tones of the utmost surprise and joy: "You <sup>really</sup> got back, why you lucky son-of-a-gun!"

After Big Fifty, an airman has several choices. He can stay and start reeling off another fifty, or he can change to another type of plane, or he can request



duty as a ground officer. Or he can go home.

Nearly all select - home. Many afterward return and join the old outfit again, and start reeling off another fifty. But they want to go home first.

They want to see the folks, mom and dad.

*Some have babies they've never seen.*  
Some have brides to rejoin. *λ* And all have an ambition

that is <sup>t</sup>amply expressed by Lieutenant Bill Garnett  
of Summerville, Tennessee. <sup>R</sup> When he has completed his  
Big Fifty and returns to Summerville, he promises to  
behave himself as follows: "I'm going to walk up the  
street, and every time I come to a restaurant I'm going  
in and eat something," says Lieutenant Bill. "When I  
am full," he adds, "I am going out and shoot some  
ducks, and eat them. I haven't any more plans right  
now," he concludes, "but I'll think of some when I am  
through eating."

## RUSSIA

In Russia, the Red Army still rolls on, but today for the first time the forces of the Soviets had to retreat at one point. ~~Ever since the beginning of~~

~~the giant Russian offensive, which opened last July, and has been prolonged with such sustained vigor, the Red Army has ~~rolled~~ advanced forward. But today, in the sector~~

~~of Jitomir, there was a Russian retreat. Jitomir is~~  
*Which is*  
~~of course~~ one of those key railroad junctions, ~~and~~ The

Nazis lashed out to protect it. Tonight's Moscow bulletin states: "Our troops engaged in stubborn fighting with ~~large~~ large forces of enemy infantry and tanks, and under pressure abandoned several inhabited places."

~~Stiffened German resistance is indicated likewise in the sector of Gomel, that important Nazi fortress. There the Russians advanced today, but it was~~

FOLLOW RUSSIA

The latest from Moscow is the Soviet mid-night  
communique telling of a striking Russian success at a  
place twenty-five miles west of Gommel--that is, twenty-  
five miles beyond that important Nazi stronghold. A

German garrison at ~~a place called~~ Reshitsa has been  
*encircled - surrounded and cut off.*  
~~encircled, it is rendered out off.~~

## LEAD PACIFIC

Tonight's announcement ~~of~~ the latest American bombing raid against the Japs in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands, pictures, not only heavy destruction inflicted on the Japs, but also a driving of American air-power over distance. The bombers that hit the Gilbert-Marshall ~~islands~~ were land-based<sup>d</sup> planes, which means that they had to fly from the nearest American air-base, probably Midway--a mighty long distance. ~~And it is~~ The third raid by land-based Army bombers against the Japs on those islands within 48 hours. ~~These~~ <sup>And these</sup> ~~are~~ raids, ~~in fact,~~ were record breakers. They represent the farthest <sup>tion</sup> ~~penetration~~ by American land-based planes into enemy territory. Three islands in the Marshall and Gilbert groups were hit. ~~Their~~ Sea-plane bases were blasted, hangars, mechanical equipment, and ammunition dumps were set ~~in~~ afire and blown up, and ships in the harbors were smashed.



No fighter opposition was encountered by the American bombers, although there was heavy enemy *anti air-* craft fire at several points. None of our planes ~~were~~ lost. *Nobody even injured.* ~~They all came back safely with nothing aboard damaged, and nobody aboard injured.~~

JAP CLAIMS

Well, we've lost seven more big warships.

Three more American aircraft carriers have been sunk, and three more United States cruisers have been sent to

the bottom. Not only that, but another huge man-o-war

*was destroyed*

which the Japs couldn't quite identify. Our naval

disasters in the southwest Pacific have now reached a point where we have lost the fifth Battle of Bougainville.

Are we weeping? No, we're laughing - for

Japanese propaganda, which ~~has been~~ *has been funny* all the time,

has now become side-splitting. <sup>TR</sup> So far as the Navy

knows, not one Battle of Bougainville has been fought,

not a single engagement between warships out there.

But the Japs have been announcing one battle after

another, and now have run the number up to five.

They must be fighting phantom fleets. In fact, the

United States Navy must have become a phantom days ago.

By that time, *had destroyed it and now* the Japs are sinking it all over again.

SURGEON-GENERAL

Today at Atlantic City, we were warned about what was called - the greatest migration in the history of the world. ~~But~~ Doctor Thomas Parran, Surgeon-General of the United States, told a press conference that when the fighting ceases, twenty-one million people will start moving. He estimated that this was the number of refugees who have been turned from their homes, and they'll all want to go back. <sup>H</sup> The migration of twenty-one million refugees, said he, will threaten the world with an outbreak of pestilence. And therefore it should be regulated. This leads the Surgeon-General to recommend that an Allied medical command should be created to meet the problem of the world's greatest migration.



ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt today spoke not only about the war, but also about <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ post-war period--and a whole lot of post-war period. In a message to the ~~XXXXXX~~ twelfth forum on current problems sponsored by the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, the president stated that the United Nations <sup>now have</sup> ~~are out for~~ what he called--"the supreme advantage of the initiative." And he said this initiative must be maintained during ~~the~~ post-war period <sup>which</sup> he described in these words:- "perhaps <sup>for</sup> ~~to~~ centuries of ~~peace~~ that are to follow."



FEDERAL PROPERTY

It was stated today in Washington that the Government now owns one-fifth of all the land in the United States. This <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ set forth by a ~~grant~~ congressional economy committee. The federal Government is now the proud possessor of more than three hundred and eighty-three million acres, which is equal to the combined areas of twenty-one states. For example, the Government owns more than seventy-eight per cent of the land in Nevada, sixty-eight per cent of Utah, sixty per cent of Idaho - and so on down the line - land purchased at a cost of five billion dollars. All of which undoubtedly makes Uncle Sam the biggest real estate man in the world, except for the Soviets - which own all the land in Russia.

~~The committee urges that the Government dispose of as much of its enormous amount of real estate as possible.~~

FOLLOW GOVERNMENT PROPERTY

Immediately following this declaration by the Congressional Committee, we have a statement from under-secretary of War Patterson. He talks about a huge lot of land acquired by the Army--nineteen million acres, an area larger than West Virginia. And the Under-Secretary of War ~~knights~~ denies that this represents an attempt to create a vast land empire that would menace agriculture and ~~the~~ private ownership of property.

Most of these nineteen million acres, he explained<sup>s</sup>, are unproductive desert, used for bombing and artillery ranges. Some ~~of it~~, however, is good farm land, from which the War Department has moved fifty thousand families, prosperous, black soil<sup>^</sup> farming families and an entire tribe of Indians, South Dakota Sioux. Why take the good land? The Secretary said that for ordnance plants which manufacture munitions, land is needed with deep layers of soil above the rock. Because rock layers ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ nearer than 100 feet from the surface might set up vibrations that would cause explosions.

## NOMINATION

The latest on the political home front is an endorsement for Bricker. Tonight in Washington, Ohio delegates to the House of Representatives <sup>w</sup> hooped it up and gave a resounding O. K. to the Ohio Governor, hailing him for the republican nomination next year. This establishes Governor ~~John~~ Bricker as <sup>the</sup> Ohio favorite son, and that 's important because of the position Ohio ~~holds~~ always holds at a Republican National Convention--Ohio with its fifty convention votes.

The Congressional endorsement of Bricker ~~was~~ the Ohio favorite son fits in with the Anti-Willkie campaign which is developing among Republican ~~conservatives~~.

~~New York with its ponderous bulk of 93 convention votes is in the hands of Governor Dewey. Former Governor Stasson, now in the Navy, has been entered in the Nebraska Primaries. And his friends are working hard for him in his home state, Minnesota. There is a possibility that California may declare its own Governor Earle Warren, as the California favorite son, which would mean fifty convention votes.~~



## PIN-UP BOYS

Today at Smith College, the WAVES in training took a vote and made a pick. They selected their favorite pin-up boy. Among the candidates were the most handsome and dashing Hollywood movie actors, the picture of any one of which would have been perfect for a girl to pin up. So whom did the girl sailors

*3/2* *What handsome glamor boy?*  
choose? Why, Admiral King, Commander-in-Chief of the

Navy. The WAVES, in selecting a pin-up boy, picked

the boss — Handsome Ernie.

And now here's our  
pin-up boy, Handsome ~~Fugh~~  
~~George~~  
Plane-bro.