

C.I. - Standard. Friday, July 7, 1944.
Sunoco.

No new details from our side have come in about today's raid by the super-fortresses against Japan. The ~~the~~ only thing late that we have is the enemy version, with the Tokyo radio admitting that the giant B-29s have hit Japan again. The Japs try to minimize the whole thing, but add an extra target.

Our own Navy bulletin stated that two objectives were bombed, ~~one~~ one the same as the last time, Yawata, the Pittsburgh of Japan - bombs showering ~~in~~ down on the number-one steel works of the Japanese empire. The second target named by the Navy today was the big naval base at Sasebo, ~~the~~ third and largest warship station of Japan.

And now to these two places the Japs add a third, ~~making~~ saying that the Superfortresses also assailed Nagasaki, ~~that~~ one of the famous cities of Japan, and ~~is~~ an important shipbuilding center.

All the places named are on the southernmost island of Japan, the one nearest the Chinese bases of the B- 29s.

SOUTHWESTERN PACIFIC

General MacArthur announces that the
Namber Airdrome on Noemfoor Island has been captured --
with hardly any resistance. And this virtually
completes the occupation of Noemfoor, off the northern
coast of New Guinea. The seizure of the island has
been accomplished in five days of whirlwind action.

NEW LEAD FOR SAIPAN

A late comm^Munique from Admiral Nimitz gives word that the Japs trapped in the northern tip of Saipan have been trying to evacuate the small corner that they still possess. The communique tells how a force of two hundred made an attempt to escape from the coast in barges. But, in the words of the dispatch - "the formation was broken up by artillery fire".

The enemy troops on Saipan are now pinned in a corner, a pocket of only a few square miles. There they are being assailed for the final mop-up.

SAIPAN

~~The battle for Saipan is almost over, with the remaining Japanese troops now pinned in a corner, a pocket two miles square. There they are being assailed for the final mop up.~~

So completely has the bitter conflict for the island been decided, that today's news features, not soldiers, but civilians - Jap civilians. The island had a considerable population of immigrants from Japan. Seven thousand have already been rounded up and interned. And it is believed that there are still from ten to fifteen thousand Japanese inhabitants of Saipan hiding out - concealed in the hills and canebreaks. They are storekeepers, former officials of the island government and white collar workers - all with their families.

The American command is trying to persuade the hidden civilians to come in. Pamphlets are dropped to them from planes or shot from mortars - offering them food and water and complete safety.

As an example of how our troops are treating

the Japanese civilians on virtually conquered Saipan,
we had some ^{late} newsreel pictures ~~the other night~~ at
Movietone, ^{showing} ~~the~~ G. I. Joe helping small
Japanese children, carrying them along and looking
after them as if they were American kids.

CARRIER

The late news tonight flashes a picture of what might seem at first glance to be sheer fiction. Sea and air battle in the far pacific -- and in the darkness of night an American aircraft carrier lighted up like a Christmas tree, gleaming and shining. What a mark.

The rule is that a carrier must never have its lights on while in reach of enemy planes or submarines. I recall how, in telling of the carrier-based raid on Tokyo, General Jimmy Doolittle emphasized that it would have been madness for the carrier enterprise to put on its lights at night. And yet we're now told of a flat top glowing like a Christmas tree.

It happened during the recent big battle between the Marianas and the Philippines. Large forces of planes were returning to the carrier, night had fallen -- and landings on the deck seemed dubious if only the orthodox faint illumination was provided. The carrier commander didn't want to endanger his planes any more than he had to, so he turned on all the

lights. He even provided a searchlight for guidance too, its long beam moving across the sky. The carrier was in the zone of enemy torpedo plane attack, not to mention the possibility of a submarine -- but the ~~XXXX~~ commander risked everything for the safety of his fliers. And he got away with it.

The story is told by one of the pilots, Lieutenant Commander Robert Winston, who states that the fliers, as they returned in the darkness, were simply google-eyed to see their carrier like a glittering Christmas tree on the sea.

CHINA

Here are two contrasting pieces of news apropos of China. One is a statement made by President Roosevelt today - as the eighth year of war in China began. The President expressed grave concern about the way the conflict was going in that ancient far eastern land. He pointed to the advances the Japs have been making - their drive along the Hankow-Canton railroad, to cut China in two. The President said the Chinese do not seem to be able to stop the progress of the Japs.

~~The contrast~~ ^{comes} From China ~~is this~~, a communique stating that the defenders of the city of Hengyang have broken the siege lines of the Japs - for a striking success that threatens the whole Jap offensive. The city of Hengyang is a key ~~point~~ point on that Hangkow-Canton railroad, which the Japs have almost succeeded in taking all along the line.

The enemy reached Hengyang long days ago, and then ~~again~~ began another one of those desperate sieges that have marked the China war. The city surrounded, the defenders cut off. The Japs hurling

a frightful devastation of artillery shells and air bombs upon the stubbornly fighting garrison. And they used poison gas say the Chinese. The city seemed doomed as the Japs, pressing the siege pushed further along the railroad.

But ~~now~~ now the unexpected word comes - the Chinese have broken the siege ring, with the garrison smashing its way through to the west. Helped by the slashing assaults of American planes, they drove the Japs back and opened a way - ~~which~~ through which Chinese reinforcements are streaming into Hengyang.

The Japs still hold lines around three sides of the city, but these now are threatened by the ~~break~~through - which may mean that they'll have to retire from Hengyang. In that event, say the Chinese, their whole campaign to control the railroad and cut China in two will turn into failure.

Such ~~was~~ was the news with which the Chinese, themselves, today celebrated the beginning of the eighth year of the China war.

WALLACE

Vice President Wallace has returned after
his visit to China. ^{Mr. Wallace} ~~He~~ is much in the political
limelight now, the question being whether the Democrats
will nominate him for the Vice-Presidency. He's been
carrying out a mission of war in the Far East, and
returns in plenty of time for the Democratic Convention.

ROCKETS

Britain today blasted ~~those~~ ^{those} rocket ~~nest~~ ^{nest} with six ton super bombs - twelve thousand pounders. The beginning of a new campaign to check the assault of the robot planes on London.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Winston Churchill hinted that bigger rockets might be expected. He asked: "Would improved explosives come, with greater range, faster speeds, larger warheads?"

Well, today's account of the super-bombing gives an indication that the Germans have been preparing to launch larger and more destructive robot planes. One of the rocket installations hit today was unusually large - apparently built for bigger robots. It was smashed by those heaviest of bombs, and so were other platforms - blasted by the twelve thousand pounders.

Big sky battles were fought today, with seven hundred and fifty American planes assailing the ~~very~~ heart of Nazi air power - aircraft factories and gasoline refineries. A thousand Flying Fortresses and Liberators, escorted by seven hundred and fifty fighters, poured three thousand tons of bombs on plants in Central Germany. Hundreds of enemy fighters flew against the attacking planes, and ~~114~~¹¹⁴ Nazis were shot down.

Today's action in the air produced a striking record - the greatest number of enemy planes ~~shot~~^{brought} down by any single American ace on one day in ~~Ex~~ Europe. The ace is Fred Christensen, who got six - setting a mark for one day of shooting.

The ~~six~~^{six} were transport planes, big Junkers, which Christensen and his squadron happened to spot as they were returning from the job of escorting bombers. A whole line of Junkers, a dozen of them, were landing on a field - when Christensen and his men dived at them. "I just kept moving up the line and

shooting them down", he said today.

But it wasn't ^{as} simple as that. When Christensen got his fourth, it looked as if he were a goner. He was only fifty feet from the ground, and his motor went dead. He tried to get it going by switching from one gas tank to another, but for long seconds he was just ~~a~~ coasting without power, at four hundred miles an hour, coming closer to the ground every second - ~~with~~ ^{with} German flak ~~was~~ popping all around. "That was the narrowest squeeze I ever had", says Christensen.

Then his motor picked up and he started shooting down transports again - running the figure up to six. His pals got four - making a squadron total of ten. ~~Then~~ Ten out of twelve.

Now H - if you'll give us
your star: A Calif. message
then I'll give the folks the
late invasion news.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD FRANCE

Tonight's late bulletin from invasion headquarters uses a descriptive phrase that applies to both enemy resistance and the weather. It states that American troops driving ahead are ~~encountering~~ *having a difficult time,* ~~very sticky going,~~ The Germans are putting up a stubborn fight, and rain has turned the country into ~~a sea~~ *a sea* ~~stretch~~ of mud.

~~The Americans in France today began a new offensive - this one on their left flank, etc.~~

~~Note In the air war story the figure for Nazi planes shot down is 114.~~

FRANCE

Americans in France today ~~are driving~~ ^{began}

~~is~~ a new offensive, this one on their left flank.

Our forces extend across the base of the Cherbourg Peninsula, the left flank facing the area of St. Lo, while the right flank is along the coast. Hitherto, the drive southward from the peninsula has been over on the right, with bitter fighting for the town of La Haye. Today American troops are battering their way into that town.

But the biggest action was on the left flank, where the new assault was launched with some of the most violent canonading of the war. Tonight's dispatch from united press correspondent Henry T. Gorrell says: "American artillery rocked the earth for two hours before dawn this morning, with a barrage that turned night into day. Then, he goes on, "the infantrymen silhouetted against the nightmarish glare from gl^raming guns, went over the top".

The drive, begun in such cataclysmic style, made immediate progress. The first thing was to ~~force~~

force a crossing of the Vire River southeast of the town of Carentan. American troops got across the stream in collapsible boats, and then started fighting their way toward a nearby village. During the day, they scored gains of two miles - in that thundering assault hurled today by the American left flank.

To the East, in the British sector before Caen - stubborn fighting still goes on. Stubborn - except in one case, where ~~they~~ there was no fighting at all. British and Canadian troops pushed their way into the dock area of Caen. They met with no opposition, the Germans having pulled 'out fro^m the waterfront. This raises the likelihood that the Nazis may be evacuating the town altogether - Caen being half surrounded already, and the enemy garrison in a precarious position. ~~However, the news dispatch warns us that it is still too early to draw the conclusion that the Nazi forces are giving up the city in the bitter defense of which they have paid such a heavy price.~~

ADD FRANCE

The latest tells of violent air action in support of the ground troops. A bulletin just in from London states that tonight four hundred and fifty giant Halifax bombers hurled three thousand tons of high explosive on the Nazis in the area of Caen -- sky bombs collaborating with artillery shells.

DEGAULLE

Here is another opinion that the Germans will be decisively defeated this year. It comes from General DeGaulle in Washington. Who stated today: "I believe that by the end of the year Nineteen Forty-four, all Germans will have been driven from France or be ~~made~~ prisoners there".

~~General DeGaulle is in the national capital for conferences with President Roosevelt - conferences that are designed to ~~ameliiorate~~ ameliorate the friction that has existed between the British and American governments on the one hand, and Degaulle's French Committee of National Liberation on the other. However, it is repeated that the talks between the French General ~~XXXXX~~ will not take up that highly ~~XXXXXX~~ controversial point - the recognition of the DeGaulle Committee, as the provisional government of ~~Frank~~ France.~~

RUSSIA

The Russians have smashed to the ^{border} ~~edge~~ of Lithuania. That is - to all intents and purposes. Tonight's report places Red Army troops ~~as~~ within two miles of the frontier of that Baltic Republic. ~~and~~ ^{also} ~~they are~~ within twenty-three miles of Vilno, their first big objective in Lithuania.

To the South, the news ^{dwells} ~~dwells~~ on things to come - with the Germans indicating that a great Russian offensive is being prepared on a front of a hundred and twenty miles from Kowel to Tarnopol.

~~Kowel is the salient the Germans evacuated recently, with the Russians following them swiftly. Pushing on from Kowel, they ~~are~~ have reached the Bug River - the Nazis retreating for thirty-eight miles.~~

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt faced a crisis today - as he held ~~in~~ his first news conference since the nomination of ^{Gov.} Dewey. All along, the White House correspondents have been trying to get a line on the subject of a fourth term. They've used every dodge and tricky question they could think of to draw out some kind of a hint - but F.D.R. is a past master at the art of handing a comeback without saying anything. ~~well,~~ the Democratic convention is only twelve days away, the Republicans have nominated Tom Dewey, and the fourth term question is simply steaming. So at ^{today's} ~~the~~ news conference ~~today~~ the Washington correspondents went to work with verbal chisels, framing all sorts of indirect questions to elicit some information.

One newsman tried the vice-presidency as an entering wedge. "Have you found a candidate for Vice President yet?"

With a beaming smile, the President responded that the question sounded unfriendly - and he wouldn't answer it.

Then as an example of how he was not committing himself, he answered one on the subject of the Democratic platform. Should it be long or short? You'd think that nobody would hesitate about that. You'd suppose it as safe as declaring against smallpox or the man-eating shark.

A newsman asked: "As the head of the Democratic party, what are your views about the Nineteen Forty-four platform, whether it would be short or long?"

To that the President responded quickly that he was not writing any platform. Not committing himself on anything.

Then followed a real nifty, when one interviewer ~~interviewer~~ asked: "Would you care to say whether you think Governor Dewey ~~was~~ would be a strong opponent?" Which carried the implication, a strong opponent of whom? Of F.D.R.?

Did the President ~~in~~ fall for that? Here's the reply he gave to this question about Dewey as an

opponent. He said he might write a history on the methods used by the White House correspondents in framing questions to draw him out about a fourth term.

And that's how President Roosevelt met the crisis today. The newsmen use ~~ed~~ their wiliest tricks, and learned ~~ed~~ not a single thing.

ITALY

In Italy, for the first time since the capture of Rome, the troops of the Fifth Army failed to score any gains today - the advance toward Leghorn came to a halt - in the face of strong German counter-attacks. These reduced the battle to the condition of a temporary stalemate.

The new stiffening of enemy resistance is interpreted as a German attempt to delay the Allies, and gain time for the fortification of their next defensive line, - the gothic line, *north of Florence - they call it.* ~~This crosses the~~

~~peninsula to the north of Florence and is in the high mountains, the lofty Apennines. These Mountains, which for the most part run lengthwise down the narrow land of Italy, cut across the Peninsula at the north - and form a natural defense, famous in the history of ~~warfare~~ warfare. The mountains, with their maze of foothills, are supposed to be the basis of the new Gothic line.~~

We hear that Italians fighting the ~~Nazi~~ Nazis are giving the American troops considerable help,

although the Italian guerrilla fighters do not appear to respond to the orderly military methods of a regular Army. For example, they fail to come in and report to the ~~AMERICANS~~ Americans. One ~~United States~~ ^{American} Colonel ~~is~~ today complained: "They only come in when they run out of cigarettes". Which is hardly a way to run a war.

And now Hugh the proper way to run this broadcast is to turn this microphone over to you.