

CHURCHILL

L.I. - Standard. Wednesday, Dec 27, 1944  
Sunoco.

still another

Prime Minister Winston Churchill had a narrow escape from death today. Just outside of the British embassy in Athens, he was climbing into his car. Suddenly a shot was fired from the rifle of a sniper of the Elas forces. It missed the British Prime Minister, but hit a girl three hundred yards down the street.

This happened after the conference of Greek representatives came to terms and that of itself was a surprise. Earlier stories brought word that the conference had broken up in a complete fiasco. Late this evening they changed their mood completely! They voted unanimously to form a regency of Greece under King George.

## NAVAL BATTLE

A fleet of Uncle Sam's warships went into action for the second time in four days, only seven hundred and fifty miles away from Tokyo. That means our Navy now is definitely fighting in enemy home waters.

Admiral Nimitz for obvious reasons, does not tell us how large the fleet was or how big the men-o-war in it, but we may presume they ~~were~~ cruisers and

destroyers. They <sup>were</sup> ~~attacked~~ <sup>ing</sup> ~~a place called~~ Iwo Jima.

in the volcano ~~group of~~ <sup>they</sup> islands, and engaged in

a duel with Japanese coast artillery. They blew up

a Japanese gunboat. <sup>They</sup> ~~and~~ set <sup>to</sup> afire a landing ship; <sup>and they</sup> damaged

the Jap costal defenses, air strips and other installations.

Army bomber planes of the Pacific Strategic

Air Force under Lieutenant General Harmon joined

<sup>again smashing the Japs on Iwo Jima</sup>  
the warships and ~~hit the enemy~~ from the skies. ~~in~~

~~cooperation with the heavy guns of the Navy.~~

The Tokyo radio today claimed that Japanese

warships had bombed the airfield our engineers

recently made at San Jose on Mindora Island. According

NAVAL BATTLE - 2

to the enemy, they sank or damaged four United States transports Tuesday night in the Gulf of Mangarin.

~~There is no confirmation of this.~~

MacArthur's headquarters confirms one part of the Japanese report. That enemy warships did shell our positions at Mindoro. But that their aim was poor and they did no damage.

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MacArthur also says that his observers caught sight of a Japanese task force coming through the North China Sea at dusk on Tuesday. Whereupon his medium bombers, fighters and torpedo boats immediately attacked and sank three of the Jap destroyers, and - damaged a battleship and a heavy cruiser. Also shot down three Jap planes.

## ADD NAVAL BATTLE

*new*

From naval advices we learn the Jap forces included one battleship, one heavy cruiser and six destroyers. It was the first Jap task force to take a chance on the high sea since the defeat they sustained in Philippine waters in October.

The 22 Tokyo radio said the Japs had dropped their bombs over a wide area including the great port of Yokohama.

The giant bombers appeared over the Mikado's capital during a session of the Imperial parliament, but its members were at lunch. Our bombardiers had good, clear weather for their work.

## SUPERFORTS

Superforts of the twenty-first Bomber Command today carried out the fifth big raid on the munitions factories of Tokyo. General Hansel does ~~not~~ <sup>not</sup> tell us how many there were in the formation, but the Japs themselves estimate them at anywhere from fifty to seventy. The ~~in~~ Tokyo radio said the Forts had dropped their bombs over a wide area including the great port of Yokohama.

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## JAPAN

The Mikado's War Minister today gave out an exaggerated claim of American casualties in the Pacific war. Field Marshal Sugiyama told the Tokyo house of Peers that the armed forces of the United States had lost no fewer than five hundred and three thousand men killed, wounded and captured.

Thereupon, the Minister of the Navy, prophesied that the decisive battle of the war in the Pacific would be fought in the Philippines.

# NAVY

Good news from the Navy! Uncle Sam's ~~big~~  
*submarines*  
~~boats~~ in the Pacific in the last few days have sunk  
twenty-seven more Japanese vessels and that includes  
one large aircraft carrier. Secretary Forrestal says  
this brings the total of enemy shipping sunk by *our*  
submarines, in the Pacific, to more than three-and-a-  
half million tons. Besides that aircraft carrier, *our*  
*subs,*  
~~the big boat crew~~ in their last haul, sent to the  
bottom a converted light cruiser, a destroyer, two  
destroyer transports, two escort ~~vessels~~ vessels, two  
large transports, ten medium cargo ships, and others.  
*Sec.*  
Says Forrestal, this is hitting the Japs in one of *his*  
*^*  
~~the~~ most painful spots.

## CHINA

On the Asiatic mainland, the Japanese have suffered a considerable defeat, ~~in the western part~~ <sup>in western</sup> ~~of the Province of~~ Honan. It was a Chinese Communist Army, <sup>that won this</sup> ~~which was victorious in this~~ engagement. The Eighth route Army is on the march, aiming to drive out the Japs, to wipe out all pro-Japanese organizations, to rally all the anti-Japanese forces in China and organize a people's Army.

According to a report <sup>in</sup> ~~at~~ Chungking, the commander of the Japanese garrison at Shanghai has threatened to destroy the whole city if he is forced to evacuate. This report came from a spokesman for the armies of Chiang Kai-Shek. He also said that Chungking had information that the Japanese are strengthening their defenses on the Chinese coast against the ~~possibility~~ possibility of Allied landings.

— 0 —  
Let's hear from Stan. at Cal,  
then the news from the big battle  
in Europe.

## WESTERN FRONT

~~10/1/44~~

From the Western Front, the best news is that the American troops pocketed at Bastogne have been relieved. For a while, their prospects were grim, surrounded as they were for seven days, with the town in flames.

The relief of Bastognes came today. Word of this comes from three different sources. First, the Brussels radio announced that the relief column had joined up with our people who were holding onto that important highway junction. That still left the issue in doubt. Then the Luxembourg radio came in with a similar story. That looked better. But finally a sergeant, who flew over Bastogne, in a troop carrier, reported that he could plainly see American tanks moving in and around the city.

The news from Belgium on the whole is more encouraging. Eisenhower's columns have checked

the two spearheads of Nazi Panzer Divisions that were aimed at the Meuse. *And, they* ~~They~~ <sup>(Sell)</sup> recaptured Celles.

after ~~which~~ it had changed hands numerous times, ~~in a~~ ~~series, ding dong series of battles.~~ What is more,

*And, they* ~~the doughfoots~~ have retaken Manhay which the Nazis captured only yesterday. ~~and killed many of them~~

*Also* ~~Moreover~~ it became an established fact by noon yesterday that the Yanks had broken up or arrested all the worst of the German attacks in the Belgian bulge. These four clear days, which enabled our air force to join in the fight, have resulted in some of the enemy advanced units being entirely without gasoline. United Press correspondent, John McDermott, in a report from the front, said the entire picture appeared brighter today than at any time since ~~Field Marshal~~ Von Rundstedt began his big offensive on December Sixteenth.

However, it still is too early *to tell much.* ~~for us to~~ ~~know.~~ ~~And~~ Official report, twenty-eight hours old, brings us word that the Germans have now attacked

~~xxx~~ strongly on the northwest side of their salient and are throwing all they have into it in an effort to move on Liege, <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ is believed to have been ~~Adolf~~ Hitler's original plan, a breakthrough at Liege, on the <sup>way</sup> ~~road~~ to Antwerp. John McDermott, in his report from the Front, adds that there is every indication Von Rundstedt is about to throw everything into ~~the~~ <sup>another push</sup> ~~the~~ second phase of his drive, the big Nazi effort to avoid the Allied terms ~~xx~~ of unconditional surrender.

Berlin reports that the British Second Army is taking over the positions hitherto held by the American Ninth Army northeast of Aix-La-Chapelle. <sup>Therefore</sup> ~~so~~ the Germans expect the Ninth to go into action on the Belgian Front.

The relief columns of General Patton's Third Army are also fighting north toward Bastogne, <sup>and</sup> ~~they~~ have ~~xxxx~~ recaptured three important places on the highway in that region.

More than thirteen hundred Allied warplanes, ~~helped the defense today,~~ including six hundred

~~recapit~~  
American heavy bombers were in there hitting hard today. And, the German Luftwaffe was out in force. One pilot said he never before saw so many Jerries at one time; that he shot down three, and, ~~then~~ got sandwiched in among fifty Nazi fighters, whereupon he shot down another, ~~one~~ in front of him. But, <sup>then</sup> he was in a <sup>hot spot - - when</sup> ~~pecker~~ and ~~then~~ twelve American planes from another group jumped the Germans behind him, and saved him. <sup>whereupon</sup> ~~also~~ he got a fifth plane and shared a sixth, after which he went home, ~~all~~ out of ammunition.

ADD WESTERN FRONT

*new*

A late report from the Western Front  
indicates that, at least one point of the German  
spearhead, the Nazis are getting ready to withdraw.  
That is in the area around Celles. *Sell.* Pilots and other  
observers in American planes report that they saw  
the Germans burning *and* wrecking their equipment  
to prevent the Allied armies from making use of it.

## ITALY

On the west coast of Italy, the Nazi army, which had been retreating slowly, suddenly stopped in its tracks and let loose a mass counter attack at the Allied Fifth Army. It began with heavy artillery fire and centered near Galliciano, a town fifteen miles inland. In the center, the Germans also increased their artillery fire, while their planes became more active.

On the eastern flank of the Allied line, the Eighth Army continued the wiping out of rear guard units of the enemy, north of Faenza.

The Berlin radio broadcast a boast today that the Nazis have almost completed a wall of defenses across Italy, a wall which will protect the whole of Hitler's Reich from attacks in the South. Twelve thousand Germans have been busy on those fortifications for months. A Nazi official described it as a system of ~~fa~~ defense-in-depth consisting largely of pill boxes and anti-tank ditches.

## RUSSIA

The battle for Budapest is now in its last phase. Fierce tank battles are raging in the streets of that city, on both sides of the Danube. The heart of the Hungarian capital is burning, and the advance guard of the Red armies is slowly but surely fighting its way in.

The Germans are apparently prepared to turn the place into another Stalingrad, a mere mass of rubble. Berlin boasts that the garrison is composed of the cream of the Nazi Army, led by a veteran S.S. officer. The Russians are cleaning them out, not only street by street, but house by house. ~~Two Soviet columns are moving into the residential district of Buda, on the west bank of the River, but the soldiers of the Army of the Ukraine are on both sides.~~ The Germans are blowing up <sup>and</sup> munition dumps, dynamiting the railway yards and public buildings, <sup>and</sup> Columns of smoke and flames can be seen over Budapest. <sup>TP</sup> Moscow reports that the Third Army of the Ukraine has now captured almost ten of the eighty square miles

comprising Budapest, <sup>and</sup> ~~They~~ have <sup>German</sup> split the garrison  
into two.

Meanwhile, other Soviet armies are marching  
along both banks of the Danube toward Vienna, <sup>with</sup> Their  
spearheads <sup>now</sup> ~~are~~ only ninety-seven miles away from the  
one-time capital of the Hapsburgs.

Berlin meanwhile reports heavy fighting in  
Latvia, East of the Baltic port of Libau. That battle  
also becomes hotter every day.

## NURSES

The National Red Cross has begun a strenuous campaign to recruit more nurses. The Surgeon General of the Army has appealed to the Red Cross to help procure at least ten thousand more of them at once. Eleven Army hospital units are about to go overseas without any nurses. Nothing of the sort has happened before in this war. If new women do not enroll for that service, many American wounded soldiers will be without essential care.

## LLOYD GEORGE

The Parliament and people of Britain are about to lose the services of the Right Honorable David Lloyd George. A year ago the octogenarian Welsh statesman had a resurgence of youth and married for a second time. Now his physicians have urged him to retire from Parliament. And this he will do on January Seventeenth, at the age of eight-two.

For the last thirty years, Lloyd George has been one of the most spectacular figures in British public life, and since Nineteen Twenty-Nine he has been called the Father of the House of Commons, meaning that he has been a member longer than anybody else. In fact, in the long history of the British Parliament, no man ever served so long without a break.

The history of Lloyd George is inextricably interwoven with the history of his country throughout the last four decades. The story of his life might have ~~xxx~~ come out of the pages of Horatio Alger. He began as a struggling Welsh attorney. And was elected to Parliament when he was only twenty-~~xxxx~~ seven. He became a cabinet minister sixteen years later.

## WARD

The C.I.O. Department store union went to work on Montgomery Ward's in three places today. At one Detroit store, a crowd of people charged in, smashing right and left. The manager of the store said it was a crowd of union goons. They overturned counters threw merchandise on the floor, trampled on it, and left behind a shambles of broken glass, -- all this they did in only fifteen minutes.

In Kansas City, the union restricted its warfare to picket lines. At Chicago, the union leaders distributed leaflets and established a mobile loud speaker outside the plant, through which union agents shouted criticisms of Sewell Avery, Chairman of the Board of Montgomery Ward.

ESCAPE

*new*

In the deserts of Arizona, Sheriffs and Uncle Sam's agents are making probably the most interesting manhunt that ever was pursued in those lands of the sage brush and ~~the~~ cactus. ~~It is a~~ hunt for nineteen officers of the German Navy who escaped on Christmas Day from the prisoner camp at Papago Park. Twenty five escaped and six have been captured, but nineteen are still loose. It took them months to dig a tunnel two hundred and fifty feet long. The leader of the group was the executive officer of the Nazi Pocket Battleship, the Graf Spee, which Hitler <sup>ordered</sup> scuttled off the coast of Uruguay early in the war. So we have nineteen dangerous fugitives at large in the southwest, and all of them willing to commit murder at the drop of a hat.

In several states, the highways tonight are covered with ice. All the way from northern Texas through Arkansas, Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee, rain fell which froze. ~~As for the middlewest, the Chicago Weather Bureau prophesized that the lowest temperature in those regions will be some twenty degrees above zero. Snow will also continue to fall tonight.~~

As for the states further East, the temperature registered sixteen degrees below zero at Taylorstown, Pennsylvania, five below at Cleveland, twelve below

at Boston, and a blizzard where I am — How is it where you are Hugh? Like Sunny Cal. I hope!