

C.T. - Standard. Friday, Nov. 26, 1943.

TONIX Tonight Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox announces ~~that~~ our losses ~~were~~ heavy in the Gilberts.

He said "very heavy." And ~~the~~ dispatch from the scene of action, Tarawa Island, emphasizes the price we had to pay for the conquest of the Gilberts. The Marines lost more heavily per-square-yard-of-territory-conquered than they every did before. <sup>TP</sup> Among the

leaders of the leathernecks was Colonel Merritt ~~and~~ Edson, of Guadalcanal fame. Colonel Edson commanded the marine corps raiders in the bitter fighting on that island and now he describes the savage melee ~~on~~

~~Tarawa~~ <sup>Tarawa</sup> in these words: "Nothing in any previous war ~~or in this~~ war compares with it." <sup>TP</sup> Colonel Edson states that

two battalions were thrown on<sup>to</sup> the beach in the first assault and of these two battalions, amounting to ~~xxx~~ between two and three thousand men, only a few <sup>hundred</sup> escaped without being at least wounded.

"This," says Colonel Edson, "was the toughest fight in ~~the~~ marine corps' history." It was ~~the~~ fight against the elite of the Jap fighting forces--The Imperial Marines. <sup>And</sup> The remnants of these right now are making their last stand on ~~the~~ narrow tip of land. "Some have already committed hari-kiri," says the dispatch from Tarawa. Others <sup>are holding</sup> ~~occupy~~ fortified positions, ~~and are~~ apparently ready to fight to the end. ~~They~~ <sup>showing</sup> no sign of surrender.

The latest just off the wires is ~~the~~ an account given by Lt. Col. James Roosevelt, eldest son of the President. As an officer of the marines, he was in the assault, and he tells ~~us~~ how ~~the~~ four Japanese officers, all dressed up, fully rigged out in dress uniforms with medals on ~~their~~ their breasts and feathers in their caps, lead one hundred of their soldiers to the attack. The four Japanese officers were armed only with their ceremonial swords, traditional <sup>of the Samurai.</sup> weapons. They lead a suicide charge against the

Americans and fought hand to hand to the death.

One American private was slashed by a Japanese,

but tore <sup>the sword</sup> ~~it~~ away from ~~the~~ ~~officer~~ and killed him

with his own weapon--the ceremonial blade.

GELBERTS

U.P. Correspondent Richard W. Johnson, with the force that landed on Tarawa, writes: "I saw one of the strangest sights I ever expect to see in this war."

The strange sight was an officer with a shotgun. Major Crowe, standing upright and ignoring the Japanese fire was stomping back and forth, ~~xxxxxx~~ issuing commands and carrying a twelve gauge shotgun. Every once in a while he would swing the shotgun to his shoulder and ~~take~~ take a pot shot at a Jap sniper.



NEW GUINEA

In New Guinea the Allies have captured Sattelberg. Australian troops, in an advance today took possession of that stronghold--the last Japanese position in northeastern New Guinea. This gives the Allies complete possession of <sup>the Huon</sup> ~~the Huon~~ peninsula. <sup>TP</sup> ~~and at the same time~~ General MacArthur's headquarters tells us that American Bombers hit a Jap cruiser and damaged it with two direct hits. ~~It happened near Rabaul, the~~ ~~big Japanese base.~~

NAVY

Chalk down some more figures for American submarines in the Pacific. The Navy announces that our undersea boats have sunk nine more Jap ships - seven freighters, an airplane transport, and a tanker. Which raises the total of craft sent to the bottom to three hundred and fifty-five - that many Japanese vessels destroyed by American submarines since the war began.



Tungsten.  
~~Tungsten~~

Tonight the Japs face annihilation in what the  
~~Generalissimo~~ Chiang <sup>is</sup> ~~Kai-Shok~~ spokesman describes as  
one of China's greatest victories in the war.



RUSSIA

Tonight in Moscow there was a thunder of gunfire. ~~Which~~ doesn't mean that the Nazis are attacking the Soviet Capital.-- They were driven from that vicinity a long time ago. The gunfire consisted of twenty artillery salvos fired from two hundred and twenty-four guns -- in a salute of victory ordered by Stalin.

All of which illustrates the importance of Gomel, a city about which few Americans heard before the war. Gomel, however, has been one of the greatest fortresses along the Nazi line -- defended by a huge system of hedgehog fortifications. And

Gomel was captured by the Soviets today, the Germans clearing out. They got out, apparently, because of that new Russian offensive about which we heard last night.

The locality of the drive is seventy-five miles north of Gomel, but the battle distances in Russia are long. And if you hit in one place, you are likely to produce reactions a hundred miles or so away.

~~A late story from London tonight lacks comment~~  
~~on the Soviets capture of Gomel, which was saluted with~~  
~~Salvos of cannon fire.~~ British commentators note  
one thing about Stalin's order of the day, in which  
he announced the capture of Gomel: ~~The thing about~~ *That it*  
~~it is that Stalin's order of the day~~ does not carry  
a Moscow date-line, which leads to the belief that  
Stalin is not in Moscow. Where do you suppose the  
Soviet Premier may be? *Ah, that's* ~~that is~~ all a matter of  
conjecture.

We are told that the Red army made a clean break-thro  
for a drive to within ten miles of the rail and  
highway junction at Rogachev. And this ~~was~~ forced  
the Germans out of Gomel, seventy miles to the South --  
<sup>with</sup> ~~and~~ the threat <sup>of</sup> a wide and sweeping encirclement.

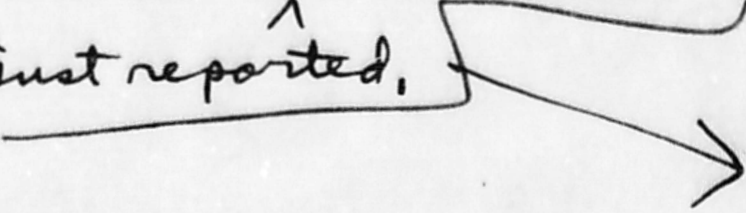
And today's Russian war news tells about  
something that sounds not at all like battle, ~~and~~  
In fact <sup>it's</sup> ~~is~~ more reminiscent of our own U.S.A. than  
of Russia. <sup>A</sup> Cattle drive -- a stupendous round-up.  
The Russians are driving livestock back into the  
great areas of territory recently liberated from the  
Germans. And today six hundred thousand head of beef  
were moving westward. ~~and~~ <sup>Maybe</sup> ~~that's~~ the greatest  
cattle drive in history.

AIR WAR

There was record breaking action in the air war over Europe today. The largest force of American bombers ever to fly from Britain assailed the Nazis in Northern France. Tonight's dispatch from London estimates that more than five hundred bombers <sup>hit</sup> ~~were~~ the target, and that target was Bremen, the great German war <sup>part.</sup> ~~part.~~ The bombers were escorted by fighters, and a ferocious battle of the air developed. Fifty-six Nazi fighters were shot down. <sup>TP</sup> The escorting fighter planes accounted for thirty-six, <sup>TP</sup> a record. While the heavy bombers shot down twenty. Twenty-nine were lost on our side, flying fortresses and liberators. This is the heaviest bomber loss that we have ~~had~~ since the air assault on Schweinfurt, when sixty fortresses failed to return. <sup>TP</sup> The damage inflicted on Bremen was devastating--which <sup>to date</sup> ~~today~~ has been bombed one hundred and three times. <sup>TP</sup> The latest tonight indicates that Berlin was <sup>being</sup> ~~being~~ bombed again-- <sup>once more by heavy bombers of the R.A.F.</sup> The fifth night assault in succession against the



German Capitol. One-fourth of Berlin ~~was~~ said to be  
in ruins, with the heart of the city ripped to shreds.  
Reports from neutral sources indicate that the  
destruction ~~to~~ <sup>to</sup> the center of Berlin is between fifty  
and one hundred percent. <sup>And that was</sup> ~~this is~~ before the ~~latest~~  
heavy raid tonight <sup>just reported,</sup>



Here is a ~~xxx~~ bit of historical irony ~~xxxxxx~~  
related in a dispatch from Switzerland. It tells us  
of one thing, among many other things, which the Allied  
bombing has destroyed in Berlin. A bomb shattered  
an old railroad coach, a passenger car celebrated in  
history--the coach in which in <sup>the</sup> 1918 ~~the~~ Armistice  
ending world war one was signed,--that same car in  
which Hitler in 1940 dictated the surrender of France.

Now blown to pieces by allied bombs.

ITALY

Allied troops in Italy have made some advances. Units of the British Eighth Army surged forward at the center of the peninsula and captured a set of strategic heights. ~~These ~~xxxx~~ overlook a number one point in that sector, a town called Castel di Sangro, otherwise things are pretty well tied up with the usual bad reports about the weather: -it's rainy and cold.~~

*Today we*  
~~then~~ hear that among the American Army Units in Italy one is the Forty-fifth Division, which is made up of National Guardsmen from Oklahoma, Colorado, and New Mexico. That ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxix~~ includes Indian country out there and in the Forty-fifth Division are fifteen hundred Indians from twenty-nine different tribes--fighting in Italy, from which land Christopher Columbus came.

PATTON

At the time when the Patton story broke, I suggested that perhaps the General himself might have been affected by the strain of warfare, when he struck the soldier afflicted with shell shock. That is, he too might have been shell shocked. And this is echoed today in General Eisenhower's official version of the Patton incident. He suggests that the outbreak might have been due to the fact that Patton was suffering from battle fatigue. ~~The Eisenhower report now discloses that the General flew into a rage with two soldiers at the field hospital, although he struck only one of them.~~



MEDICAL

At any rate the story has put,

~~The story of General Patton and the soldier suffering from shock has put~~ } new attention on that nervous malady of war, which is commonly called shell shock. ~~The name, of course, is quite inaccurate, a hangover from the last war. The doctors now recognize this kind of shock as a form of nervous exhaustion, and the places for treatment are called - exhaustion centers.~~

Today from Allied headquarters in Algiers we have some information provided by Lieutenant General Sir Alexander Hood, Director General of the British Army Medical Services. ~~Who~~ explains that every soldier in battle has his breaking point - after which nervous exhaustion will <sup>overcome</sup> ~~affect~~ him. The medical officers recognize the symptoms, and these are interesting - as described by the British Medical Director.

"A man gets morose," says he, "avoids his friends. becomes lonely or hyper-excited. He laughs too

easily and, in extreme cases, cries. Medical officers," said Lieutenant General Alexander Hood, "watch for exhaustion - particularly among specialists, such as tank crews." He said the doctors try to spot cases of overstrain, before they reach the breaking point - and such cases are sent back to exhaustion centers.

"The treatment," he went on, "consists of ~~removal from the fighting front~~, prolonged sleep, good food, baths, and in general - restful conditions."

~~(The treatment is most successful if carried out close to the front - at exhaustion centers not far removed from the battlelines.)~~

From eighty to ninety per cent ~~of the cases~~ recover quickly, and are back with their units in five or six days. ~~Only a very small percentage are permanently affected, and are classified as psycho-neurotic.~~ This is because men who are temperamentally

THANKSGIVING

Here's a post-Thanksgiving Day story, which is a lofty tribute to the loyalty of one ally to another.

I told yesterday how in Italy, the high command made sure that every American soldier had his portion of turkey,

and today we are informed that nowhere was the

Thanksgiving Day fare better than' in a sector where a small group of Americans is attached to a British outfit.

*TP*  
There the <sup>dinner</sup> ~~Thanksgiving Day fare~~ was prepared ~~in~~ the British mess and it was magnificent, with the English officer in command giving his special attention to the turkey and the fixings. ~~He had inquired especially how it should be done in the true American style, the stuffing, gravy and all. So Thanksgiving Day was celebrated by the Americans in great style over there in Italy, nothing better in New Hampshire or Massachusetts~~

~~When it was all over, the British mess officer~~

~~said to an American captain, 'XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX'~~

The Americans had a high old time, and ~~then~~  
~~it was all over, they let out a cheer for the British~~  
~~and an especially loud hurrah for that mess officer in~~  
~~charge.~~ *the mess officer* He took it with a smile, and ~~then~~ sidled over  
to an American captain, and asked confidentially:

"I say, old boy, just what is this Thanksgiving?"

The American captain told him, explained about  
the Pilgrim Fathers in the wilderness ~~of old~~, who gave  
thanks ~~xxxxx~~ to the Lord.

The Britisher listened with deep attention and  
some surprise. "That's odd," he remarked, "I thought all  
the time you were celebrating the tossing of the British  
out of America."



## MEDITERRANEAN

Late advices tell of ~~the~~ big sea and air battle in the Mediterranean--planes attacking <sup>an</sup> allied convoys. It happened early this evening and resulted in a smacking defeat for the enemy. A late dispatch from Algiers tells us that planes and guns defending the convoys shot down thirty German planes, while the damage to the long strain of cargo and war vessels is described as "negligible."

## CHINESE

The Senate today passed the bill to abolish the Chinese exclusion laws. The measure now goes to the White House where it is certain to be signed because President Roosevelt has argued urgently *that* ~~the~~ the old-time laws to keep the Chinese out of this country were a mistake. China is now our ally in *the* war, and it is only ~~is~~ *Fair* recognition to place the Chinese on as high a level as anybody else.

~~As an oddity, here is something I heard today about Colonel James Gardner Conroy, the gallant officer who was killed in the landing on the Gilbert Islands. Colonel Conroy was leading his regiment, the old traditional Sixty-Ninth Regiment of New York, the Fighting Irish. *of Funk & Wagnalls,* An old friend, Lester Cudahy, told me today how Colonel Conroy was surprised when he first became attached to the Sixty-Ninth Regiment. Among the troops were *many* Chinese. Fighting Irish - *including* ~~Chinese~~ a large number of Chinese.~~

SOUTH AMERICA

A blast against the good-neighbor policy was issued today by Senator Butler of Nebraska, who has just returned from a twenty thousand mile trip ~~to~~ Latin-American countries. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~He describes the good-neighbor policy in these terms: "a New Deal for Latin America;"~~ ~~He describes it as a~~ <sup>also "a</sup> ~~"naively conceived and badly coordinated program of boondoggling."~~

The Senator declares that by means of lend-leasing, plain lending, and outright giving, we have <sup>e</sup> ~~ing~~ handed to the republics to the south of us approximately six billion dollars. ~~And he says that in return we'll get no actual military aid in the war~~ ~~the~~ ~~to~~ ~~Latin American countries have~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~slamped down on Nazi espionage and propaganda.~~ <sup>H</sup> He says we are trying, in his words, "to buy Latin-American good-will," and he predicts that the effort will fail, ~~and that good neighborliness will be a thing of the past.~~

The Senator's argument is that by lend-leasing military weapons to Latin-American governments, we are actually supporting military dictatorships, and are providing armament with which the republics down there will fight against each other. And, he adds that our policy is designed to promote government ownership in the Latin-American countries, and it thereby tends to make private American business unpopular. <sup>H</sup> Butler says, moreover, that the handing out of billions is creating no good-will toward us among the masses of the people, and when the policy of giving comes to an end, it will be followed by disappointment and ill-will. ~~The Senator describes the future in these words: "the inevitable collapse of our Latin-American~~

~~relations when our financial liberality comes to an end.~~

*I too heard <sup>much</sup> the same view expressed everywhere in S. America.*

The remarks made by the Senator have been followed

*— from*  
by an apology ~~Tonight~~ Vice-President Wallace. ~~denounces~~



~~the Butler statements that the good neighbor policy is supporting military dictatorships in Latin America,~~

~~He calls this a "shocking slur".~~ The Vice-President says: "I feel compelled to express my deep regret to our Latin-American allies in the war, for the shocking slur which has been made against them today."

~~(At the same time, Senator McKellar of Tennessee challenged the Butler figure for money handed out. Butler said six billion dollars. Senator McKellar declares that we have spent in Latin-America only a little more than two billion ~~dollars~~, of which one billion was for critical war needs.)~~



*And now:*—What's the big secret? You can each make your own guess. Tonight we had a United Press dispatch from Washington which employs tantalizing verbiage. "It seems it was a big secret," says the dispatch. "Washington reporters know it, and so do reporters in other cities. Washington cab-drivers know it," adds the story.

Well that does make one curious. But our curiosity for the moment cannot be satisfied--although a lot of people may make the right guess. "The public at large," says the Washington bulletin, "will be let in on the big secret in due time, and it may come sooner than people expect."

So what is it? Maybe I'm making the right guess. But if so, I can't tell it. *Can't even whisper it to you, ~~Hugh~~ George.*