

P.O. - Standard. Wed., May 10, 1944.  
Sun.

New Guinea

News from the southwestern Pacific reveals tonight that in the American conquest of New Hollandia on the northern shore of New Guinea, seven-hundred-and-seven allied prisoners were rescued. They had been interned in New Guinea for two years, and many of them, British Indian Sikh soldiers, that had been captured at Singapore.

They told stories of mistreatment by the Japs. They said they had been forced to work, and had been given only fourteen ounces of food a day. "They gave us rice, and infrequently tuna fish; but, no vegetables," one Sikh soldier is reported as saying. and he added, "they made us work even when we were sick."

When the Americans landed the Jap guards ran away into the jungle, leaving the prisoners behind.

Tonight's communique goes on with a revised list of Japanese losses. It states that in the New Hollandia operation fifteen-hundred-and-two enemy soldiers were killed, and two-hundred-and-ninety-two captured.

Burma

While the Japs continue to lose out in their invasion of India, our own forces are scoring new successes in Northern Burma, That is, forces of American trained chinese under the command of Lieutenant General Stilwell. They have smashed their way out of the North Burma mountains and have reached open country in an all out drive to capture the important base at Mogaung before the monsoon sets in.

And meanwhile, the air borne chindits, operating behind the enemy lines, are assaulting Japanese positions south of Mogaung.

## Airwar

The Air war spotlight is taken tonight by the bombers based on Italy. Seven-hundred-and-fifty-flying-fortresses and liberators, escorted by two-hundred-and-fifty-fighters, flew across the Alps to Austria, and hit a great plant that produces Messerschmitt fighters for the German Air force. Fifteen-hundred-tons of bombs blasted the factory at Weiner-Neustadt and created flaming havoc. The Germans tell of great air battles over the Alps.

On the northern side of Hitler's fortress Europa, the day-by-day assault on the invasion coast continued - with two thousand American and British warplanes hitting the Nazis in France and Belgium. ~~with~~ This daylight assault followed what the London Dispatches are calling - "An earthquake blitz." ~~This happened last night,~~ when bombers of the <sup>R. A. F.</sup> ~~British Royal Air Force~~ delivered an invasion - coast-assault <sup>that</sup> ~~which~~ London calls the heaviest of the war. It was so violent, that it shook the British Coast across the channel; <sup>shook it</sup> as if there were an earthquake.

## Second Front

Another second front sign is a dispatch from Algiers, which announces that the French underground is to be incorporated into the french army, in preparation for invasion. The Germans themselves estimate the secret anti-nazi fighting organization at a hundred and seventy-five thousand men. They are described as ready to rise the moment the great offensive is launched - and they will battle <sup>as</sup> ~~the~~ regular soldiers of the French Army, according to an announcement made by General Degaulle's French committee today.



## French

From Algiers flashes the picture of a sixty-one year old French Admiral occupying a place of sinister ill omen. He faces a military tribunal, the same court that condemned the former Vichy Minister Pucheu - who was executed by a firing squad. And today the Admiral had the same seat that Pucheu had when he faced the court.

Admiral Derrien was commander of the great French Naval base of Bizerte in Tunisia, when that stronghold of the French fleet was taken over by the Germans at the beginning of the North Atlantic campaign. He is being tried for having surrendered Bizerte and various warships there to the Nazis - without resistance, without striking a blow.

Admiral Derrien's defense is that he acted in accordance with the loyalty that he owed to Marshal Petain, head of the Vichy Government, and that he surrendered Bizerte to the Germans on repeated and insistent commands from Petain. He contends that he wanted to fight, but was ordered not to. Today, sitting in the place that the doomed Pucheu had occupied, his face was pale and he watched the judges through half closed blue eyes. But there was something brilliant about him, the brilliance of medals. On his breast he wore

French #2

the gleaming medallion of a grand officer of the legion of honor,

and the Croix De Guerre, <sup>and so on,</sup> He won his military decorations in the

first world war; and, again in the second - before the fall of France.

## Italy

In Italy, British troops have occupied the Salient abandoned by the Germans at the center of the line across the peninsula. They pushed forward rapidly into the area of two hundred square miles, and at last reports had reached the high plateau - along the slopes of which the new German line apparently extends. The Maiella Plateau is one of the loftiest and most rugged parts of the Italian peninsula. It is being called - "the roof of Italy." There the enemy has apparently the most favorable kind of ground for defense, though the retirement from the salient would seem to expose the German adriatic positions around Ortona. These may have to be abandoned - although there are no signs as yet that the Germans are pulling out.

## Russia

Today the official Russian War bulletin reported - "No important changes." This is the nineteenth successive day of quiet on the Eastern front, except around Sevastopol. On previous days the Sevastopol battle raged with a violence that is now being disclosed. Moscow dwells on the artillery fire, calling it the mightiest cannonade that the Red army has ever hurled. The deluge of shells turned the powerful fortifications of Sevastopol into a mass of shattered rubble and twisted steel.

Well, that's all over now, and today's quiet on the Eastern Front was complete - "no important changes."



Orlemanski

That clerical center of controversy, Father Orlemanski, landed at Seattle today--after his visit to Soviet Russia, and a cordial reception by Stalin. The Polish American priest refused to say anything about his talks with Soviet leaders on the subject of the Russian Polish dispute. "I am very tired," he said, and then he gazed disapprovingly at the news photographers. "You should be at the front fighting, instead of staying home taking pictures," said he.

## Destroyer

An exciting story is told about the loss of the United States Destroyer Lansdale, which was sunk by German torpedo planes in the Mediterranean on April twentieth. The Navy says most of the crew was saved, including Lieutenant Robert Morgenthau, son of the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Lansdale was attacked at sunset, with Nazi torpedo planes flying in from all sides. And enemy tinfish came skimming through the water. One missed, but another hit, exploding amidships. The destroyer sank fast. But, even so, the gunners fought on, and shot down at least two of the assaulting planes. One of these was destroyed while the Lansdale was sinking - her decks awash. A gun crew of negro mess attendants kept blazing away even after they were ordered to abandon ship. An officer told them to go over the side. They mumbled obediently: "Yes Sir," and went right on shooting.

The son of the Secretary of the Treasury was on the bridge, and with him was Lieutenant James Beaver of Bellingham, Washington. When the command came to abandon ship, Lieutenant Beaver asked Morgenthau whether he was coming along, Morgenthau answered - "Later." Whereupon Beaver scrambled over the side and into the water.

Destroyer #2

~~enter~~

"Later," he relates, "When most of the boys were off, Morgenthau called down that he was coming in. He did. He jumped over the side right on top of my steel helmet." <sup>That he was wearing,</sup> "Somebody else jumped, and landed on my helmet," he adds.

I suppose he thought there was a stream of them coming down, all landing on him.

## Flying Fortress

Tonight we have a new bit of information in the case of the American War Pilot who is called the "Yankee Stadium Buzzer". This goes back to last fall, when Mayor LaGuardia of New York worked himself into a high state of indignation because at the World Series a military plane flew right over the heads of the big crowd at the Yankee Stadium. His honor, the little flower, was most annoyed, and only recovered from his irritation months later when it was disclosed that the pilot of that plane had turned out to be a star of air battle over Nazi Europe.

8  
The story told how Lieutenant Jack Watson, the Yankee Stadium Buzzer, was the pilot of a flying fortress so badly shot up that the crew bailed out--everybody but the Yankee Stadium Buzzer himself. He was about to take to his parachute when he saw he was over the English Channel--and the water didn't look so good. So in a flight of desperate peril he took his fortress on back to Britain and landed.

That act made it appear that his heroism was entirely a matter of his having looked down and seen water below. But tonight the full story is out.



It was all because of his concern for one member of his crew.

He had seen everybody else bail out, but had missed the ball turret gunner, who had taken to his parachute unnoticed by the pilot. Today's official report states, "by going back and checking on his ball turret gunner, he forfeited his chance of bailing out safely over land." In other words, the Yankee Stadium Buzzer saw water down below only because he wanted to be sure that all the others of his crew had got out--he to be the last to abandon ship, according to the old tradition of the skipper.

So if Lieutenant Jack *Watson* of Indianapolis wants to buzz over the Yankee Stadium again, he can do so, and his honor the Mayor won't say a word.

Forestal

The new secretary of the Navy was named today, previous reports turning out to be true. The President has chosen Acting Secretary James B. Forestal to succeed Secretary Frank Knox, who died recently.

His name was sent to the Senate today.

~~That news, I suppose, should make us inhabitants of Dutchess County, New York, walk with a bit of swagger tonight. For the new Secretary of the Navy is a native of Dutchess County, so is President Roosevelt. And Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau lives in Dutchess. Quite a list -- the President and two Cabinet members from <sup>one</sup> our county. Which would seem to be almost too much honor, as the President to date has never been able to carry Dutchess County in an election, either in running for Governor of the State, or for President.~~

The story of <sup>Jim</sup> Forestal presents a rise from the very bottom to the very top -- so far as the Navy <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ concerned. In the previous worldwar he enlisted as a second class seaman, and was mustered out as a lieutenant, a navy flier. In civilian life, thereafter, he was a newspaperman, a reporter on Dutchess County Dailies. He was also a store clerk, a cigarette salesman, a bond salesman. In Wall Street he became the President of a big Banking and Brokerage house. When the present war came on, secretary of the Navy Frank Knox chose

Forestal #2

Forestal as his assistant. -- And now, the second class seaman  
of nineteen seventeen becomes Secretary of the Navy, ^ from the bottom  
to the top, from the depth of the hold to the top of the masthead!

Branch,  
May 10 '44

~~Good Eve. Everybody: - I am surrounded  
by good looking nurses tonight - scare  
Roosevelt of them. So, let's start off with an  
item that has to do with health;~~

The question of the President's health has been the subject of so much rumor and surmise that countless people are asking - how does he look, now that he has returned to Washington ?

Anyone who has a chance to see F D R upon his return from his vacation in the South, scrutinizes him with that thought in mind - does he look well ? Does he seem to have recovered completely from his illness ? This was particularly the case at the first White House press conference to be held since the presidential home-coming from the sunshine of the south. The Washington correspondents, who have had constant association with him for years, should have acute answers to that question - how does he look ?

So what do they say ? The United Press asked a number of them, and here are some typical examples of their replies.

Warren Francis of the Los Angeles Times: "He has not rebounded as he has in the past. I didn't think he came back after a month, the way he used to after two weeks or even a weekend."

Gladstone Williams of the Atlanta Constitution: "He looked a little drawn."

Bill Murphy of the Philadelphia Inquirer: "He had a good color,



but looked a little thinner."

Bert Andrews of The New York Herald-Tribune: "He looked much better than the last time I saw him, when I thought he looked ghastly. His face seemed to be thinner, but some of the lines of care have gone".

John J. Crider of the New York Times: "His voice seemed natural, he looked rested and he had a good coat of tan."

Helen Essary of the Washington Times-Herald: "He looked swell."

*— a New Deal paper —*

Thomas F. Reynolds of the Chicago Sun: "His health is apparently pretty good, but his temper is definitely very bad."

William H. Mylander of the Des Moines Register and Tribune: "The Champ is back spoiling for a fight."

Those are the answers, and you can take your pick. From the expert opinions of the Washington Correspondents, you can draw the conclusion that the President is a sick man, or, that he is in magnificent health.