

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The latest from Italy tonight is that things have quieted down in the battle of the beachhead.

A late United Press dispatch states, "Two sharp local attacks have been repelled, and the situation is easier." To which the news story adds the following significant comment: "Among the units at the front," it says, "There is none of the nervousness reflected in rear areas, where service and headquarters personnel are apt to become gloomy when things don't work out precisely according to plan."

One bright feature of the fighting is the air where things nearly always are favorable for our side. To support their fierce ground assaults the Germans threw in powerful air support—a big fleet of Nazi planes flying to attack the British and Americans on the ground. They were promptly engaged by Allied fighters, and of some hundred-and-twenty Nazis, nineteen were shot down. Others were driven away, while a few contrived to break through the air force defense to play some part in the battle on the earth.

In the case of the latest enemy outrage, the Nazi air bombing of a plainly marked Red Cross hospital - the figure for the casualties has risen to twenty-seven, including three nurses - three of those heroic girl nurses at the battlefront. ^{TP} A late dispatch tonight gives us a vivid story about ^{a nurse:} ~~one of them~~. First Lieutenant ^Helen Talboy of Des Moines, Iowa. For days the perils of war were getting on her nerves. She was jittery. United Press Correspondent Kenneth Dixon tells us that he noted how she wandered indecisively around the hospital area and talked disconnectedly about fear and danger. ^{TP} He said to a comrade; "She 'is in bad shape, she has been through too much. She 'is about to go to pieces."

"Looks like it," said the other chap, "but she's trying hard. I wonder what she would do in a sudden crisis."

And shortly afterward the sudden crisis came, when Nazi bombs hit the hospital. Helen was in the surgical section, which ^{was} punctured by hundreds of bomb fragments, and here is how she behaved as the U.P. correspondent tells it: "Without a moment's hesitation," he writes, "Helen took charge. She collected the surviving nurses, gave them bandages and first-aid equipment and started them caring for the wounded."

So that's how ^{the Iowa girl nurse at the Front} ~~Helen Talbot~~ behaved in the crisis.

And another enemy outrage, the Nazi bombing of a hospital. ^{Twenty-seven} ~~Twenty-two~~ were killed, including ^{three} ~~two~~ nurses. The hospital, an evacuation point on the Roman beachhead, was plainly marked with a Red Cross flag forty-five feet square. Moreover, it was in a hospital area, where three others were marked with red crosses just as plainly. It would have been impossible for the Nazi fliers to mistake the place for anything but a hospital. Nevertheless, they bombed, another atrocious violation

~~of civilized law. And on the southern battlefront, the Nazis have been firing on hospital crews, stretcher bearers - in violation of international law.~~

~~XX~~

From the sector at Cassino,
 XXXXX, we have a new and striking expression - the Battle of the Monastery, which applies of course to the ancient Benedictine Monastery of Monte Cassino. A late dispatch tonight tells how American and German troops fought today with machine guns, rifles and grenades in the shadow of the towering battlements of the first monastic buildings of the western world.

ITALIAN GOLD

Today in the north Italian city of Milan, heavy forces of Nazi troops stood on guard while forty trucks rumbled to the railroad yards - forty trucks loaded with gold. In other words, the Nazis were taking away the gold reserve of Italy. A couple of months ago, the word was that the Germans had seized the treasure of yellow metal in the vaults of the Bank of Italy in Rome, and shipped it to Milan. Now, they are shipping it to Germany, with Switzerland telling ^{us} ~~us~~ of a hundred and thirty-six tons of gold bullion, and coins ~~rolling~~ ^{— rolling} in fourteen railroad box cars - northward, through the Brenner Pass.

FLORENCE

A story flashed today that bombs have killed a woman hailed years ago as the most beautiful woman in the world - Lina Cavallieri. This word comes in a Nazi dispatch from Rome, which tells of Allied planes bombing Florence. High explosive is said to have hit the outskirts of that famous city, and in these outskirts Lina Cavallieri had a villa. They say the bomb

demolished the house, and killed ~~Cavallieri~~ ^{the famous beauty}
7 years ago,

Old-timers will remember her vividly - the Italian soprano who had a sensational success in America. She sang at the great ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ opera houses, and made extensive tours of the United States. Her voice was nothing extraordinary, but her beauty was. She was billed and advertised as the most beautiful woman in the world, and there were few to dispute it. ^{FF} Her

romances made headlines, too - one with the ~~former~~ ^{renowned}

Sheriff of D. County.
American artist, Bob Chandler. Her marriage with him

blew up with fireworks of scandal. She would now have
been sixty-eight -- ^{the beautiful *Lina*} ~~Sina~~ Cavalieri who is said to have
fallen a victim in a bombing of the outskirts of ^{*Lovely*} Florence

Feb. 8, 1944.

In Russia, the Red Army has captured the great city of manganese, Nikopol, down near the Black Sea.

The Germans seized Nikopol early in the war with Russia, and have had it ever since. But now a new great four-day offensive has been smashing the Nazis along the lower Dnieper, and Stalin announced jubilantly today that Nikopol had been captured and the entire east bank of the ~~lower Dnieper~~ ^{great river} has been cleared of Nazis.


Moscow states that in the new Soviet success, ~~at the southern end of the battleline,~~ twenty-nine German divisions, or more than two hundred and seventy-five thousand men, have either been encircled or driven in hasty retreat. And in four days the Soviets have reoccupied sixteen hundred and twenty-eight square miles along the lower reaches of the river. ~~also - the German~~ ^{The German} position in southeastern Russia is crumbling hourly, says Stalin.

The great Nazi center of Frankfort was hit again today - in a giant daylight raid by a fleet of American bombers and fighters. And so Frankfort, with its ~~great~~ ^{vast} chemical and aircraft plants, appears to be destined for the fate of Hamburg and Berlin - obliteration under the weight of bombs.

~~These are familiar tidings of a day of American air action give us a new angle - telling of a new type of Nazi and fighter plane.~~ The German air opposition to the bombing attack was light, rather feeble, but it marked the entrance into the war of a new kind of Nazi fighter, the like of which the American pilots had never seen before. They say it is a new type of Focke-Wulf, with a white belly, greater wing spread, and more power.

Returning airmen tell of the sudden appearance of a squadron of these white bellied planes, which came peeling off against ^{a formation} ~~a squadron~~ of Flying Fortresses.

They did no particular damage, apparently; but ^{they did} herald ~~at~~
the advent of a new Nazi fighter.



~~The said late Germany was followed by several
blows against the French invasion coast, (aimed at what
was described as 'secretary targets', & 'we don't know what
they are, but the LONDON DAILY SKETCH gives a
hint to this the invasion line. The British newspaper
said the military targets were possibly what it called
'the line plan (the off target)' which might indicate
a new kind secret weapon, a plane flying without a
pilot.)~~

ADD AIR WAR

~~In the raid against Frankfort, we lost twelve heavy bombers, one medium, one light, two fighter bombers, and nine fighters - while our own planes knocked down nineteen Nazis.~~

The raid into Germany was followed by smashing blows against the French invasion coast, (aimed at what are described as "mystery targets." We don't know what they are, but today the LONDON DAILY SKETCH gives a hint to stir the imagination. The British newspaper says the mystery targets were possibly what it calls - "pilotless plane take-off points." Which might indicate a new Nazi secret weapon, a plane flying without a pilot.)

TURKEY

Here's a dispatch that may be of serious importance. It tells of the outbreak of an epidemic of plague - and such a thing has sinister possibilities in time of war. This plague is said to be raging in European Turkey, at the ancient City of Adrianople. Just what kind of malady it is, cannot be stated clearly. It is described as severe and QUOTE "most contagious." ~~EN QUOTE.~~

Adrianople is near the frontier of Bulgaria, and we hear that the Bulgarian government has stopped all traffic across the border, except international trains, in an effort to prevent the spread of the plague.

PACIFIC

In the southwestern Pacific, Rabaul has taken
— another
another beating, a hundred and twenty-four tons of bombs
lambasting the much-raided ^{New Britain} ~~Japanese~~ base. Large scale
air battles were fought, and thirteen Japanese planes
were shot down - and probably ten others.

— o —
And a dispatch just in
states that American warships
and planes have been blasting
other islands in the Marshall
following the capture of Kwajalein.

ARGENTINA

Tonight in Argentina, three high ranking Nazis and Japs are under arrest - the German Military Attache' and the Jap Naval Attache' and his aide. They are charged with being the directors of all the enemy spy activity that has been going on in Argentina. The official Argentine communique states that after, what it calls - "a long and arduous investigation," it was proved that the German Attache', General Wolf, and the Japanese Naval Attache', Rear Admiral Yukishita and his aide, Captain Kameda, were the arch plotters of German-Japanese espionage in ^{the} South American republic.

MEDALS

Today at the White House, President Roosevelt smiled at a stalwart young soldier and said, "this is the finest thing in the world, if you can get it".

That finest thing was a medal held in the Presidential hand, [^]the Congressional Medal of Honor. A Second Lieu-

tenant, Gerry Kisters ^S of Bloomington, Indiana, was ~~set~~ ^{the lad}

[^]getting it. ~~The business of being decorated was nothing new to Lieutenant Kisters - he had been previously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. In fact, he now becomes the first American fighting man to win the double honor of the Distinguished Service Cross and the Congressional Medal of Honor in this war.~~

The Cross was awarded to him for an exploit in the Tunisian Campaign, where single handed he put an enemy artillery battery out of commission, and wiped out its crew. ~~So what did he do to win ~~that~~ a still higher decoration, the highest of all - the Congressional Medal of Honor?~~

Latter,

~~The citation states that~~ in bitter fighting in Sicily, he helped ~~to~~ capture one machine gun crew, and then - though wounded five times⁸ he went out alone to eliminate a second enemy machine gun post. ~~Today at the White House, Lieutenant Kister⁵, wearing his newly acquired medal of honor, told a story.~~ He was stalking along in an advance against heavy German opposition, *and* with him was Lieutenant Orsell Price of Jamestown, New York. "All at once, relates Kister⁵ today, "we stepped on a bunch of Germans crowded around a machine gun. I don't know whether they or we were the more surprised. They stared for a second into the bore of my rifle, and then scrambled to their feet and hollered - "Kamerad". ~~That was~~ *Easy!* *in that* Nothing[^] to win Congressional Medals of Honor. But, *the* going promptly got tough. Lieutenant Price remained to guard the prisoners while Kisters started to push on. There was *the* sharp chattering sound, ~~a staccato voice~~ of a machine gun. ~~And the Nazi gunner had an accurate aim.~~ Kister⁵ was hit by bullets and fell.

MEDALS - 3

And that began the epic exploit. Instead of lying there wounded, he crawled ahead, attacking the German gun crew single handed, matching his rifle against their machine gun. He stalked the gun, shooting all the time and was wounded again, hit in the arm. ~~(That ended the fight. Kister^S couldn't have handled his rifle any longer, but the German machine gun was out of commission too.)~~ They found out later that he had killed three of the Nazi gun crew and the fourth had run away.

So thats how Kister^S of Bloomington, Indiana today acquired what the President called - "the finest thing in the world if you can get it". ^{TP Ken} And Walsh of Brooklyn also got it - the second Congressional Medal of Honor presented at the White House today.

Lieutenatn Kenneth Walsh of the Marines has a South Pacific record of shooting down twenty Japanese planes. ~~The citation mentions two exploits - in which he ripped, all by himself, in Japanese formations, shooting down three planes in one case, and three in the~~

~~other. The second one was a particularly wild thriller, in~~

~~which Walsh of Brooklyn~~ ^{In his big exploit Ken Walsh} was separated from his own conrade

^{When} ~~and~~ he suddenly ran into fifty Zeros. And what

happened is described vividly in the citation which says,

"he unhesitatingly attacked, striking with relentless fury,

In his long battle against a powerful force, ^(it goes on "he") ~~he~~ destroyed

four hostile fighters before cannon shell fire forced him

to make a dead stick landing off Vella Lavella, where he

was later picked up."

After today's decorations, ~~of~~ Kisters and Walsh at the White House slapped each other on the back in congratulation, one to the other.

SOLDIER VOTE

The Senate today passed the bill for a federal soldier ballot - the Green-Lucas measure, which prescribes that government ballots shall be issued to service men and women for the coming election. ~~The Senate in fact, okayed the idea twice - first as an amendment to the bill passed by the House of Representatives, the lower House having decreed in favor of state control of the soldier vote.~~

~~Then the Senate passed the Green-Lucas bill as a separate measure all by itself. This double action was unusual - its purpose being to make sure some form of a federal ballot shall be included in the final law as agreed upon by both Houses.~~

Meaning a victory for the administration. where

The whole thing now goes to committee ~~for an~~

an attempt ^{will} be made to harmonize the two contradictions - the Senate bill for a federal soldier ballot and the House bill for state ballots.

SENATE

Governor Saltonstall of Massachusetts has just appointed a successor to Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, who has resigned to go into active military service. The Governor ~~to~~^{has} named Sinclair Weeks, Treasurer of the Republican National Committee.

ADD SENATE

The new Senator, Sinclair Weeks, announces that he will serve ~~until the unexpired term of Henry Cabot Lodge,~~ ^{until the November elections} but ~~he~~ will not be a candidate, ^{then.} ~~for the Senate in the November elections. The candidate will be Governor Saltonstall, who~~ will seek election to fill the unexpired part of Lodge's term - four years.

GIRL

Today at Pittston, Pennsylvania, a thing happened that has always stood for the ultimate of terror - the earth opening and swallowing somebody. Pittston is built above coal mines, and sometimes in circumstances like that there may be ^{a subterranean} ~~an underneath~~ mine collapse, and the ground above will sink. Today this occurred at one spot - with tragic horror.

Mrs. Marie Mitchell was walking along the sidewalk with her nine year old nephew and two year old niece. And suddenly, without warning, the little girl vanished. The flagstone gave way beneath her feet, and she plunged into a yawning cavern below. And instantly there was a slide of earth and rock that covered the hole.

Tonight rescue crews were digging, trying to find the child whom the earth had swallowed.

MURDER

In the Chicago case of the murder of Mrs. Frank Starr Williams, wife of ~~the~~^{an} American diplomat, a police official stated definitely today that he believed the shooting was done by the victim's daughter - Mrs. Patricia Goodbody. Mother and daughter were in Mrs. Williams' hotel room, ~~and~~ the mother was killed - and the daughter told a story of a mysterious woman who did the shooting.

Tonight at the inquest proceedings, Captain John Quinn of the Chicago police gave the following evidence: "I don't believe there was a third party in the room. I believe there was a quarrel between Mrs. Patricia Goodbody and her mother. They were evidently struggling for the gun," he went on, "and Mrs. Williams was shot accidentally."

ADD ROOSEVELT

~~Tonight~~ ^{this evening} The Vice-President gave his opinion
on the fourth-term. He repeated his belief that
President Roosevelt ~~will~~ would run, but said he wasn't
so sure that the President was so sure. Or, as he
expressed it - ^{that "he} is as clear in his own mind about it
as everybody else is."

apparently the First Lady
is on her way again.
And if you'll say your
way we'll both be on our way.

Mrs. Roosevelt stated today that she is considering a trip to the Caribbean, to visit the Army and Navy bases there. The reason? ~~for the prospective visit is that~~ the soldiers are lonely. The United Press dispatch from Washington puts it in these words:

"Soldiers in that area," Mrs. Roosevelt said she had been told ~~are~~ are struggling against a feeling of loneliness and isolation. She said, "the dispatch goes on," she thought a visit with servicemen ^{men} ~~men~~ there would be of some value in giving them a feeling of being

appreciated." So, ~~that's the reason~~ ^{apparently the First Lady} is on her way again.

And ^{Roger} ~~Hugh~~ if you'll say your say we'll both be on our way.

President Roosevelt today was asked a question which on previous occasions has provoked him to sharp replies. What about a fourth term? Four years ago, when it was the case of a third term, he told his questioner to go in a corner and put on a dunce cap. And just a few weeks ago, he ~~replied to~~ ^{brusquely described} the fourth term question as - "picayunish."

At his news conference today, however, the President was genial and gay about it - but not any more informative. Asked whether he would accept a fourth term, he smiled and said there was no news on that subject ~~was~~ today.

FINLAND

~~Today~~ The United States has renewed its warnings
to Finland - informing the Finns that they must make
peace with Soviet Russia, or face the consequences.
This was stated ^{today} by Secretary of State Cordell Hull,
who added that the warning to Finland had been sent
recently; - American advice added to the Russian ultimatum
of some days ago, the Soviet message telling Finland to
get out of the war - or else.

CLAPPER

Tonight we have the details about the end of the famous Washington columnist, Raymond Clapper, who was killed in action in the conquest of the Marshalls, *in a*
~~it is now divulged that Clapper was killed in a~~
collision of two planes in mid-air. *Here is the story.*

He went on a bombing mission with a formation of torpedo planes from an aircraft carrier, planes that assaulted outlying Japanese air bases in preparation for the invasion of Kwajalein Atoll.

Clapper, want^{ed} ~~ing~~ to see and write about action at its hottest, ^{and he} flew with the squadron-commander of the torpedo planes that hit a Japanese flying field on Eniwetok Atoll. And it would see^m ~~that~~ disaster came because of Ray~~mond~~ Clapper's intense desire to observe the full scene of war, so that he could write about it.

The torpedo squadron hurled its high explosive and then started to get into formation for the flight

back home. What happened then ^{is} ~~was~~ reported by Sergeant
Dillon Ferris of Pittsburgh, a photographer for YANK,
the Army magazine. "From what other pilots have said,"
says Ferris, "the squadron-commander apparently wanted
to give Clapper another look at the damaged field.

The commander," he goes on, "must not have noticed that
another American plane was flying just off his wing and
below him. The other pilots in the formation said the
commander peeled off for a dive over the field, and ran
smack into the other plane, which practically
disintegrated in mid-air." And Ferris adds that both
planes plunged into the atoll.

(The objective of the bitter struggle is the nearby city of Cassino, that wrecked and ruined place for which so much ~~bitter~~ ^{savage} conflict has been waged. The Fifth Army soldiers are fighting for a clear control of Cassino - the road junction, and the tide of war swept around the foot of the venerable Benedictine Abbey - in the Battle of the Monastery.)