

*N.Y. Standard. Tucson. Fri. Feb 18 '44
Sun. Late Broadcast.*

LEAD

Today's head lines about an American landing on Truk were false. There was a landing ---but it was somewhere else.

Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox said today that Tokyo propaganda was spreading a phoney yarn about a Truk invasion attempt, presumably with the idea of then declaring the landing had been defeated -- and there-by ^{chalking-up} ~~checking-up~~ a fraudulent victory. However, it may be that the Tokyo propaganda sources, themselves, were confused. There was an attack on Truk--a brilliant blow, entirely aerial, an assault delivered by planes from a carrier of an American Task force. No invasion there. But, immediately afterwards there was an invasion of another atoll in the Marshall's.

Eniwetok, as an island strong hold of the Japs, is on the order of Kwajalein, conquered so swiftly by American forces. And the amphibious operation against Eniwetok is a good deal on the order of the Kwajalein affair--only more so. That is --this newest atoll assault was prepared by an even more stupendous bombardment, with warships and planes hurling an even greater weight of high explosives. As in the case of Kwajalein, Japanese resistance seems

Lead - 2.

to have been beaten down, and the landings were made skillfully and efficiently.

The latest tonight informs us that our troops have established beachheads on the Eniwetok atoll, and it is believed the seizure of the islets will be accomplished promptly.

One reason for this assumption is the nature of the place. Eniwetok has a large lagoon twenty one miles by seventeen, a lagoon big enough to accommodate a huge fleet. But the atoll has mighty little land. It is a string of minute islets surrounding the lagoon. The main one is Eniwetok itself, long and narrow--shaped like a lizard. The other islets, more than a dozen, are mere bits of coral. So presumably they won't last long in this new invasion; --another step in the mopping up of the Marshalls.

~~(Pick up the Truk story at the paragraph beginning~~

~~"Secretary Knox, assures us that we have scored a big victory, etc")~~

~~SECRET~~
Sec. Knox assures us that we
have scored a big victory; how big a →

TRUK

victory - we don't yet know. The Secretary stated that the full proportions of the ¹trump_^ cannot be known until the attacking task-force has lifted its radio silence. He explained that radio silence was necessary because of the presence of Japanese submarines in the Pacific. Radio messages might guide the Under Sea prowlers directly to the location of ^{various units of} the task force. ~~a danger to be averted by silence.~~

Sec. Knox

~~And then~~ summarized the meaning of the latest

news in the following words : - "The main significance of this strike on Truk by Carrier-based planes, " Said he, ^{"show the} growing ability of our joint sea and air power to project its strength westward. With our increased fleet strength," He went on "we are now able to go on the offensive and strike the enemy at the time and place that we select."

^{somewhat} All of which puts an end to the [^]feverish accounts that were headlined today, stories picked up from the Japanese radio. The Japs were none too consistent in their propaganda tales. They indicated that the americans had landed at Truk, and spoke of a clash of mechanized forces. The picture was one of american motorized equipment getting ashore and being engaged in fierce battles.

TRUK

Some Jap versions intimated that it was an all out invasion attempt, while others seemed to make the thing look like an american reconnaissance in-force.

However, all these headlines based on enemy statements would now seem to be ancient history - with the Secretary of Navy telling us that they amount to mere propaganda and that the great attack on Truk was entirely an assault delivered by american war planes based on Carriers. ^{TP} Beyond that Knox statement late this afternoon, there is really little to add to last night's first accounts. And we can only wait for the task force to break its radio silence and flash the ~~current~~ details of the aerial blow against Truk, ^{the} Mikado's No. One Pacific stronghold.

428pm

JAP CONVOY

From the Southwest Pacific we hear of the end of a big Jap convoy. We were told previously of air attacks on a formation of Japanese vessels, with six of them blasted. Now nine others have been shattered -- Completing the destruction of a convoy which was on its way to Reinforce the Jap base at Kavieng and Rabaul.

945P

ITALY

The war in Italy tonight has a greater resemblance than ever to the state of affairs at Salerno, when the crisis of battle was so tense at that ^{below-Naples-} beach-head. At Salerno the Germans hurled thundering power to wipe out the allied landing force, while further south British general Montgomery and his eighth army drove northward - - pushing to the support of the beach-head. The eighth army faced relatively weak opposition, and speedily accomplished its purpose.

Today we see a powerful attempt at the same sort of strategy. [The fifth army on the Cassino front is beginning what appears to be an all-out drive to thrust northward and join up with the beach-head below Rome, which is under a new heavy attack.

~~This strategy is difficult, because of the powerful resistance in the~~
~~Cassino area~~
Tonight we hear the 5th Army has crossed the Rapido River and gained considerable ground beyond. ~~All day long at Cassino, American and British guns~~

thundered in the greatest artillery barrage of the Italian campaign.

~~Hundreds of cannon poured their shells into German positions at~~

~~Cassino and on the sides of the adjacent mountain. The immense~~

guns thundered in the greatest artillery barrage of the Italian Campaign.

South of Rome, all around the perimeter of that Anzio beachhead the Germans were attacking today, and were beaten off time and again with heavy losses.

The comparatively short fighting front is literally carpeted with their dead. But they keep coming -- tanks and infantry.

FOUO ITALY - 3

The latest ~~from the beachhead~~ describes the

German offense as becoming more and more formidable. After two

days of fighting it is developing into a ^{far} stronger ~~and more organized~~

push than the one beaten off a week ago. The dispatch relates that

the past two days have seen the heaviest tank-fighting in the whole

beachhead campaign -- a record ~~of the~~ number of tanks employed by

both sides.

9:50PM

TP

One vivid war picture

tells of a compact unit of

~~presents a force of eight~~

some eight

hundred German troops moving forward.

Suddenly they encountered

~~they were the large force~~

the concentrated fire of one-hundred-and-forty-four massed american guns.

These fired with one simultaneous blast aimed at the small area of

ground where the Germans were. The deluge of shells churned the

earth into chaos and the eight hundred advancing German troops simply

vanished.

also

~~allied air power is adding its own thunder to~~

~~the War of Artillery. The weather is good and the entire allied~~

today,

~~air force was in action, flying fortresses and all --smashing the~~

~~Germans in their lines. Again the planes made fifteen hundred sorties~~

~~--exploiting to the fullest our own undisputed command of the skies.~~

RUSSIA

The latest from Soviet Russia announces the Red Army capture of Staraya Russa, the German key base on the northern front below Lake Ilmen. Berlin had previously announced the evacuation of Staraya Russa, and said ~~that it was unopposed~~. ~~The Nazis explained that~~ they were pulling back out of an exposed salient; ^{simply} ~~and thereby~~ shortening their line. ^{TP} However, that may be, Staraya Russa was one of the most powerful of those fortresses which the Germans call - Hedgehogs. And it had stood as a nazi bastion since the early part of the war in Russia. In fact, the front below Lake Illmen was one stretch of battle-line along which the Soviets had made no appreciable advance in two years. But now there too - the germans are retreating.

In the Ukraine, the German disaster in the Cherkassy pocket may be even more serious than it looked at first. For Moscow now comments ^{that} the Hitler commander, ^{von} General Mannstein, tried so hard to rescue the ten surrounded divisions, that he may have endangered the entire german front in southern Russia. In his futile efforts to crack the trap, Mannstein appears to have got his whole line out ^{ten} Kilter - with reckless drives by armored forces and masses of infantry.

Russia #2

~~infantry~~

Today's Moscow story, rounding up the news of the victory of the Cherkassy pocket, pictures weird scenes of nazi troops lurching forward through a driving snow storm. They had been given triple rations of schnapps to buck up their courage, -- *it's sometimes called.* Dutch courage. And Moscow dispatches says: "The Germans drunk with liquor staggered forward wildly through a raging blizzard." And then the fantastic assault was smashed by cossocks riding at full gallop.

343pm

BRITISH POLITICS

The other night, we had a bit of English political news that featured some sprightly and entertaining angles - an election in which Charlie White, son of a shoemaker, was running for Parliament against the Marquis of Hartington, son and Heir of the Duke of Devonshire. There were such matters as one-hundred-and-eleven fire places in the Duke's ancestral mansion and also the question of the noble Marquis Milking a cow.

The whole thing now turns out to be a good deal more significant than mere kidding. Charlie White, the obscure left Wing candidate, has won a surprising victory over the Marquis of Hartington. He has been elected to Parliament in a West Derbyshire district that has been controlled politically by the Duke's of Devonshire for three hundred years. *Charlie White* And, ~~under the British war time~~ *supported* ~~political trace the losing noble candidate was supported not only by~~ ~~his own Tory Party and Prime Minister Winston Churchill, but also~~ ~~by the Liberal and Labor parties. Charlie White on the other hand~~ ran as an independent labor candidate, ~~and was~~ supported by the Left Wingers, including a group named the Common Wealth movement which calls for the national-ization of land.

This left wing victory, ~~was the talk of political London today, and~~ is being interpreted as a severe blow to the war-time political coalition headed by Churchill.

And another election day sensation was sprung in Scotland; ~~the surprise is to be seen in the size of~~ the vote given to a candidate just released from jail because he refused to do military service. ~~He is a professor who is the~~ ^{The} leader of what is called - "The Scottish nationalist party" He refused to do military service not because ^{he} ~~was~~ was against the war, but because he was against the English.

The Scottish nationalists have hitherto been a small but active group, which bases itself on what is called - "The Scottish declaration of independence". This is an ancient document that goes back to the Middle ages, the year thirteen-hundred-and-twenty, a document in which the scots pledged themselves in the following words : "As long as a hundred of us remain alive, we will never submit ourselves in any way to the domination of the King of England or the English people."

All of which sounds rather romantic and un-real;

Cont #3 British....

but the cold fact is that in the elections reported today the nationalist scottish candidate ^{for} ~~in~~ parliament, the professor just released from jail because he refused to serve under the English, polled a surprising vote. He was defeated, but he ran up a vote more than three - fourths as large as that given to the official government candidate.

Why there should be a Scottish nationalist ~~I don't know~~ movement of any sort, I don't know. It's a common saying in London that they pretty much run that city and that the Scots also run the Empire.

ARGENTINA

Things appear to be at a stage of crisis in Argentina, with the Ramirez Government decidedly shaky, if not tottering. From neighboring Uruguay, we have a report that President Ramirez, has been taken to task by the commanders of the Argentine navy --- altho the fleet of the southern republic has been traditionally aloof from politics. Now, however, we are told that the top naval officers have told Ramirez that political discords ^{have} become so acute that he had better step out and turn his office over to some steadier hand. We hear that the Ramirez successor may be the chief justice of the Argentine Supreme Court.

At the same time open out breaks have been occurring in Buenos Aires. A late story relates that one person was killed and several wounded in a riot when a mob attacked a truck belonging to a newspaper connected with a previous Axis publication. And --violent labor trouble has broken out--an anti-government strike. The strikers were on the rampage for eight hours before the trouble was quelled the police.

SUBSIDIES

~~The subsidies question, like the 1933, is still~~

~~with us after lightning fast action today.~~ The President ^{today} vetoed

the Congressional bill out lawing his program of paying-subsidies - to-food-producers. No sooner had he got the bill, than he vetoed it- and sent it back to congress. He also sent a sharply worded veto message, reiterating his oft repeated contention that subsidies are necessary to avoid inflation. He said the bill out lawing them would result in an increase in food costs - hiking the grocery bill seven per cent. Which in turn would necessitate wage increases and the entire control of inflation would be disrupted. ^{That} Instead of holding the line, we would go flying on a tide of inflation.

When Congress got the veto, its action was equally prompt. A motion was made to over-ride the Presidential decision, and a vote was taken- a vote that showed a sizeable majority against the Whitehouse. But it was not enough, not two-thirds, the fraction that is necessary to override a veto. Two-hundred-and-fifty-two votes were required to override, while the division was two-hundred-and-twenty-six to a-hundred-and-fifty-one.

FOURTH TERM

Here is something that is always good for a laugh- or at least, President Roosevelt says it is. The side splitting joke is the question of a fourth term.

Today at White-house news conference, another attempt was made to draw out some information concerning Democratic candidates for next November. A reporter spoke up and asked F. D.

R. The following:—

"The vice President says that you will be elected asked the newspaper man, that in nineteen forty four, Do you think ^{he} he's good prophet?"

But the President refused to comment on the prophetic gifts of Henry Wallace. He laughed and told News Paper men that they were at it again-trying once more to smoke him out on the subject of a fourth term. Which was okay, he said. — ^{Quite} ~~It was~~ all right, and always good for a laugh! To which the echo would seem to be -fourth term

Ha! Ha! Ho! Ho! Ho! Fourth Term Ha! Ha! Ho! Ho! Ho!

CHURCHILL London today took time out to deny a report that would hardly seem to be worth the trouble. London calls it - fantastic, and I think we will agree that it does sound just that - the story that Winston Churchill is about to step out as Prime Minister and that his place is to be taken by General Smuts of South Africa.