

Now about that great airmada that today delivered the first big all-out American attack on Berlin. Well, this seems to have far surpassed Saturday's raid which was just a prelude to this one. Hundreds of Flying Fortresses and Liberators with a heavy escort of long range fighters dealt Hitler's capital another smashing blow.

Nor do the Germans deny it. The Berlin Radio admits that the American raid precipitated one of the greatest air battles of the war.

The actual assault on the capital of the Reich lasted only thirty minutes, but within those thirty minutes they set large areas of Berlin afire. The first American crews to get back said that as they were leaving, it appeared as though the flames were spreading over most of the city.

Both going and returning, the big bombers had to fight their way through swarms of German fighters that came at them in squadrons. One flier reported that it ce

was one long, continuous air battle between our fighters and bombers and the German fighters, - for two hours, both ways. Many were separate battles between bombers and German fighters. But most units of this all-American airmada were so well protected by Doolittle's fighters that they didn't come in contact with enemy planes at all. As for the flak, it was so heavy that some of the German fighters were knocked down by it. And others were frightened off by their own ground guns.

The news of the raid was announced at the headquarters of Major General James H. Doolittle, the California airman who has played such a prominent role in this war of the air. It was the fifth operation of the major American air force in six days; and the Nazi radio declared that the American formations were on the largest scale yet. Our big four-engined bombers were flying wing-tip-to-wing-tip, and nose to tail, to give them greater concentrated firepower. They had clear weather and many of the bombardiers could recognize landmarks in Berlin, such as the Sports Palace, the Kaiser's Palace

on the River Spree, and other landmarks. On the way to Berlin, they flew over an enemy air field where a hundred and twenty German planes were parked. So, some of the divebomber escorts dropped almost vertically to that field and destroyed them on the ground.

Just as today's news began to look exceedingly dull, in comes Moscow to brighten it up. The ^{Army} First Ukrainian [^] has cut the Odessa-Warsaw railroad, the life-line of the Germans in Southeastern Russia. The forces under Marshal Gregory Zhukov, have captured Volochisk, which lies right ~~bang~~ in the middle of that important railroad ^{line,}

^{is comes as} ~~That is~~ the first climax to a battle ^{that} has been raging for three days. ^{And,} Moscow reports ^{is as} ~~that it was~~ one of the most carefully planned of all the Red Army's offensives. It began with a terrific artillery cannonade which punched holes in the German lines. Thereupon the Soviet generals poured their tanks and infantry through the breaches.

With Volochisk recaptured by the Russians, the Germans in the Southeast can no longer depend upon that chief rail artery for supplies and reinforcement. They will have to obtain them, if at all, through secondary lines of winding-track and poor road-bed, ^{via} ~~running~~ [^] through Rumania; ^{that now will} ~~those~~ lines [^] ~~now will also~~ [^] be the only avenues of escape for the Nazis in the Southeast. ^{TP} The capture of Volochisk is a grave blow to the German Armies, numbering some five ^{hundred} thousand, [^]

One Red army is now fighting only sixty-three miles North of the Rumanian border. And another is aiming due West across Poland towards Tarnopol which is another railroad junction on the line leading from Odessa to Warsaw.

We got our first inkling of this German set back from the Germans themselves. Radio Berlin admitted that the Russians had penetrated the German lines, but tried to give the impression that the penetrations were not serious. But the recapture of Volochisk is a real Russian victory.

According to the German reports, there is heavy fighting all along the Russian front, at Krivoi Rog, around Pskov, and Narva, also in the center Southeast of Vitebsk. The Reds are giving the battle-weary Germans no rest.

Military observers in London are calculating that the only thing that has saved Hitler's army from a complete disaster has been the weather. The Soviet high command had a ~~magnificent~~ ^{grandiose} plan for turning the entire Baltic Sea front into a series of Stalingrads. But the weather ~~has~~ interfered with all that.

Today began the seventh week of ~~Fuehrer~~ Hitler's attempt to wipe out the Anzio beachhead and drive the Allied Fifth Army into the sea. Six weeks of bloody, ~~and~~ concentrated fighting, [^] six weeks in which the Swastika Chief tried everything to accomplish his purpose. ^{and,} The beginning of the seventh week finds the allied beach head apparently more firmly consolidated [^] than ever with the Germans defeated at every turn.

The Allied command figures that Hitler's generals lost twenty-four-thousand men in these six weeks. ^{What our losses have been} ~~How many we lost,~~ is a military secret, ^{they are reported to be} ~~but it can safely be said that it was~~ considerably less than ~~the~~ enemy casualties.

Today the Germans appear to be ~~still licking their wounds, still~~ ^{as a} groggy ~~from the~~ results of the failure of their third ~~big~~ attempt, ^{and the} last week. ~~That~~ beachhead ~~front~~ was comparatively quiet today. A few German tanks did assemble at the right of the American flank, as though ~~they were~~ getting ready for another attack, ~~at that point,~~
 But they were spotted by ~~our~~ observers and American artillery knocked them out.

The British and Americans, ^{over the weekend} ~~under these conditions~~ stepped up their patrol activity. ^{Meanwhile} ~~This was no day for big league fighting,~~ since rain had ^{again} turned the beachhead front into a sea of mud, ^{Sunny} ~~by cold rains~~. The long range artillery of the Nazis let up on their shelling operations and all day yesterday they sent ~~out~~ only four planes over the allied lines. ~~Our patrols, on the other hand, struck more and more deeply into German positions.~~

^{to the south} Pretty much the same is true ~~down~~ at Cassino. In that sector there is only one change in the weather, from bad to worse. Serious operations were impossible, ^{with mere} ~~but there were plenty of~~ skirmishes in the hills.

One of the few ~~creatures~~ who enjoyed the battles of last week, is ^{a chap} ~~is a fellow~~ named Butch; ^{an} ~~he is an~~ organ grinder's monkey, ^{who is} the mascot of an American tank called "Boomerang". A few days ago, ^{the officer in} ~~sergeant in~~ ^{command by} ~~captain~~ borrowed Butch from a mess sergeant to keep him company on a mission. It was on that mission that the Boomerang got its first German tank, a Mark Four. Thereupon everybody in the crew of the tank decided that Butch was a mascot and had to be kept at all costs.

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the ~~officer~~^{sergeant} in command of that tank
So, ~~Sergeant Captain~~ paid the mess sergeant fifty dollars for him.

But Butch has other uses besides acting as a mascot. Whenever the crew of the tank visits a farmhouse, Butch climbs up to the rafters and snatches all the dried tomatoes and sausages and other edibles which Italian farmers hang from the roof.

When there are not too many anti-tank shells, Butch rides on top of the tank ^{radio-} antenna or rides beside the driver. When the going gets hot, he ^{rolls up into} ~~crawls up~~ to a small ball in the turret. →

We've heard ^{considerable this past} ~~a great deal in the last few weeks~~ about that by remote-control-Nazi tank. The Nazis call it Goliath. The Allies in Italy ^{who have just} ~~have~~ seen it in operation, ~~and they~~ like the Russians ~~just~~ call it the Beetle. It is not, as rumored, controlled by ~~radio~~ but by an electric cable six hundred yards long. And it is not the terrific formidable affair which the Nazis claim for it. American Officers declare that it would not be much more harmful even if it worked, which usually it doesn't. ~~You may recall that~~ Similar reports came from the Russians, who had the first crack at the Beetle.

Americans are not fighting on Jugo slav territory ^{with} ~~side by~~
~~side with~~ ^{Tito's} the Partisan forces. ^{That is up} ~~we~~ have no reports of ^{American} ~~German~~ units

actually in operation over there. ^{are there.} But, American commissioned and non-commissioned officers, The report does not describe them minutely but indicates that they are probably members of the Rangers, ~~They~~ ~~are~~ helping to teach Ranger tactics to the JugoSlav Guerrillas.

~~Action in Burma:~~ For the first time since the war began, American infantry are in action on the mainland of Asia. What is more they are about to go into a battle of major importance. As things are now, ^{a whole Jap division is} ~~some two thousand Japs are~~ threatened with being surrounded in the Burmese jungles.

Those American G I's are veterans of the Solomons and New Guinea. To get to where they are now, they had to push through the difficult terrain in the Naga hills and advance two hundred miles from the Indian border. They have just seized a sizeable village, ^{some} ~~which is~~ ten miles behind the enemy lines. To do ^{this they took} ~~so they caught~~ the Japanese garrison by surprise; ^{and} It was this action ^{that} ~~that~~ has practically bottled up that Jap division ^{of single troops} ~~of two thousand men~~. On one side of them is ^{the} ~~the~~ American column led by Brigadier-General Frank D. Merrill. On the other side is a unit of Chinese troops trained and led by Lieutenant General Stilwell.

The honor of being the first American infantryman to kill a Jap in Burma belongs to Corporal Werner Katz. The Corporal, incidentally, was born in Germany, but ~~he~~ is a resident of New York City; a veteran of Guadal Canal.

~~of air power. It extends~~ From Attu in the North to ^(New Guinea & the) Solomons and the Admiralty Islands and other groups to ~~New Britain~~ in the South.

And here is a bit of ancient history from the Marine capture of Namur in the Kwajalein atoll ^{group} of the Marshall Islands. Ancient history, in this man's war ^{being} ~~is~~ a story ^{that is} two weeks old. ~~this one is~~ ^{But still}

worth telling: ^{TP} Marine Sergeant Frank A. Tucker of Hugo, Oklahoma, had his machine gun all set up in the V of a tree that had been split by Jap shells. From that point Marine Sergeant Tucker started to pile up a sharp-shooting record. Ahead of him at a distance of

forty-five yards was a trench full of Japs. ~~Marine Sergeant Tucker~~ ^{The Sarge} potted thirty-seven of them. ~~He do not have that count from Sergeant~~ ^{And this count comes}

~~Tucker himself.~~ ^{from} It was another observer, Gunnery Sergeant W. B. Russell who observed the operation, ~~and he~~ ^{who} said that the number of

Japs ~~that~~ Sergeant Tucker potted was ~~anywhere from~~ ^{somewhere between} thirty-five and forty. ~~Some of the privates declared that Tucker had bagged~~ ^{Others say this Marine sharp shooter got} fifty-

^{TP} seven. All ~~Tucker said~~ ^{the Sarge} ~~himself~~ ^{said} was that he fired sixty rounds and tried to make every shot count. Not a bad ~~day's work~~ for a Sergeant!

^{In fact} ~~could~~ a Major ^{couldn't have done} ~~do~~ better!

LABOR

The Office of War Information tonight reports that there continues to be a considerable labor turnover in war industries. As a matter of fact, it is so serious that it prevents any increase in the *volume of* our output of war materials. In December, *for instance,* it was so heavy that the result was the equivalent of a net loss in the working force of the Nation's industries.

Two members of Congress today issued appeals for sympathy in favor of bills to draft labor. One, ~~is~~ Senator Austin of Vermont; the other, Representative Claire Luce of Connecticut. The *Vermont* Senator is part author of the Austin-Wadsworth Bill for national service on a full scale. *Austin replied* ~~He retorted~~ today to the criticism that his Bill would mean industrial slavery. "If that be slavery," said the Senator, "let the boys at the front come home and enjoy it."

Mrs. Luce's Bill would draft only enough men to fill the needs of industry as they arise. The Congresswoman of Connecticut is not in favor of drafting women for war work. She said any such effort would be an adventure in futility.

SUPREME COURT

It is not often that the Supreme court of the United States orders a document to be cut out of its files. But it did so today. It all has to do with the petition of an Attorney, Richard Knight, of New York; the same Richard Knight who enlivened an audience at the Metropolitan Opera House by standing on his head in the lobby between acts two seasons or so ago.

Knight has been conducting a fight over a legacy through the New York courts for many years. It culminated last year in his being disbarred as a lawyer, forbidden to practice because of the derogatory remarks he made about the judges who conducted the case in which he was interested. He appealed, and the New York court of appeals declared that his disbarment was quite right. Then he went to the United States Supreme Court, which last December refused to even review his case.

Knight petitioned for a rehearing, which the court denied, ordering his petition stricken from

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the files because it was so scandalous. That's the latest on the attorney who stood on his head in the lobby at the Opera, in N.Y.

INDIAN

From time to time you hear of people who have lived to be more than a hundred years old, but usually there are no records to back them up. A man ^{has} died at Happy Camp, California, ^{whose age is} ~~the other day~~ ^{given as} ~~who was~~ one-hundred-and-sixteen years ^{old} at least, ^{For} ~~and~~ some of his neighbors say he was one hundred and twenty-eight. He was "Indian Ned" Rasper; and according to the United States bureau of Census he was born one year before Andrew Jackson became President. He was a member of the Karok tribe and in his one-hundred-and-sixteen ^{odd} years he never learned to like the white man. His ^{main} objection to them ^{he said} ~~was~~ ^{was} that the white men always ^{seemed to} wanted to fight!

Well Ben, are you in fighting mood?

SHOOTING

The full details of the tragedy at the ~~camp Anza~~ army base near Riverside, California, only came to light a few minutes ago. The name of the officer who is reported to have run amuck is Lieut. Beaufort G. Swancutt, ~~who is~~ from La Crosse, Wisconsin. The reason for his apparent attack of homicidal mania is not yet revealed. The occasion was a friendly party at ^{an} ~~the~~ Officer's Club, ~~at the Camp Anza base.~~ As witnesses tell the story, ^{Lieut.} Swancutt was sitting in his chair at the Club. Suddenly he jumped up, brandished his forty-five calibre army service-revolver, ^{and} shot and killed his sweetheart and her friend, both of whom were visiting at the Club. He warded off arrest by any of his fellow officers by threatening them with his smoking revolver. He then ran to officers quarters, woke up his commanding officer, and fired two slugs into his stomach. His condition is critical. He also wounded another Captain who tried to stop him.

Then he fled from the camp, ^{ing} ~~he~~ commandeered a staff car driven by a sergeant, ^{Driving} ~~and went~~ to Arlington, nearby, ^{as} ~~when~~ he arrived

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outside the police station at Arlington, ~~Swancutt~~^{by} tried to commandeer another car, in ~~it~~^{which} were a couple of men, a woman and a little baby.

The eight months old baby was asleep on the rear seat and its mother begged for its life. Swancutt spared the mother and the child, but ordered the father of the baby to get behind the wheel and drive the car where he was ordered. At that moment, cops came rushing out of the police station. The man behind the wheel warned them that Swancutt had a gun. The police ordered the army lieutenant to put up his hands, but he retorted by opening fire. Before he was through, he had shot and killed a policeman, and wounded two others. As the policemen fell to the ground, he shot at Swancutt, who was finally felled by three bullets, and is now in Hospital.