

Nov. 7, 1944

One marking point tonight was when the election returns passed the million mark. At that point President Roosevelt had a lead of two hundred thousand votes ~~far~~ over ~~himself~~ Republican Challenger Thomas E. Dewey. And then the totals became Roosevelt, six hundred and sixty-seven thousand; Dewey five hundred and thirty-five thousand. *This did however* ~~this~~ included heavy votes from the Solid South, where the Democratic majorities were overwhelming. In division of the states, the President led in eighteen out of thirty-two, Dewey ahead in fifteen.

by General speaking, the vote followed previous prognostications - the Solid South still solid. Dewey leading in the farm states in the Middlewest and also in New England. The great industrial states more or less in doubt, these destined to decide the election.

Still later the total figures piled up for the nation - ~~the~~ with the President showing the astonishing percentage of fifty-nine per cent, the Challenger forty per cent. This, *however* ~~it seemed~~ ~~was~~ the result of the quick flood of returns from the south. At the same time on the night four years ago, the President had more than fifty-four per cent while Wendell Willkie had something more than ~~the~~ forty-five per cent.

VOTING

This is a traditional occasion for a peculiar kind of bewilderment, that of a newsman watching the national election returns come in on the wire. Early scattering returns from this state and the next one, and then larger numbers appearing - numbers that grow larger as the minutes pass. The news wire pounds out an intricate puzzle of figures, which the newsman tries to figure out - always realizing that any tentative conclusion he may arrive at may be turned upside down in the next big batch of figures. For example, here is a set of election returns that I have been scanning on the wire:

CONNECTICUT: Dewey 31,000; Roosevelt 28,000.

TENNESSEE: Roosevelt 37,000; Dewey 20,000.

MARYLAND: Roosevelt 161,000; Dewey 121,000.

MICHIGAN: Dewey 2700; ; Roosevelt 1500.

PENNSYLVANIA: Roosevelt 290,000; Dewey 242,000.

MASSACHUSETTS: Dewey 8,000; Roosevelt 5,000.

and so on in a patch quilt of election returns.

CONGRESS

Second in importance to the presidency is the ^{matter} ~~eye~~ of Congress -
~~and~~ ^{and} ~~but it is~~ mighty important too. The general trend of the early vote would
seem to indicate that the Democratic candidates for Congress are running
behind President Roosevelt. And this might seem to jibe with predictions
that, while the Democrats were reelecting the President for a fourth term,
the Republicans might be winning control of Congress - the lower House
at least. And they might be increasing their strength in the Senate.

SUBSTITUTE PHILIPPINES

The news from the Philippines takes a new turn tonight, with a bulletin announcing the biggest battle in the invasion thus far - a major clash on the island of Leyte. The previous appearances were that the Japs on Leyte were pretty well washed up, but General MacArthur now announces that the enemy succeeded in landing reinforcements, and heavy fighting is going on. A MacArthur dispatch tells of a bitter battle between the American invasion forces and elements of seven Japanese divisions.

And here's the latest: A Tokyo dispatch telling of the shake-up of the Japanese command in the Philippines. A shake-up of command usually means that the party doing the shaking up is having trouble. Which is certainly true of the ~~Japs~~ Japs in the Philippines. And now they replace their commander. The new enemy boss has a name of sinister meaning for Americans - Yamashita. He commanded the Japanese Army in the overwhelming of the out-numbered Americans at Batan and Corrigidor.

Now he is given the direction of the Philippine war again, where things are mighty different than they were at the time when Yamishita brought in ~~the~~ huge Japanese armies against out-numbered and unequipped Americans.

TOKYO

Once again the Japs report superfortresses over Tokyo, and once again there is no confirmation from our side. The Jap accounts are vague, and give no indication of bombs dropped -- so we really don't know what it's all about, whether the B-29s did drop bombs or whether they were conducting some large-scale long-range aerial reconnaissance.

This is the third time in a week that Tokyo tells of superforts over the Tokyo area, ~~and one point of interest is the Japanese opinion that the giant planes did not fly from their secret bases in China. The previous B-29 bombings of Japan were from China, but the Japs think that, in their latest appearances, the mighty bombers came from the Marianas -- a long distance over the sea, from captured bases in the Pacific. This might likely enough be true -- B-29s now based in not only on southern China, but also on the Pacific Islands.~~

WESTERN FRONT

In the German Rhineland there is -- or was -- a tiny village called Vossenack. And this place, *as in* ~~as is~~ the case of so many other little towns in Europe, is dominated by a church, with the conventional spire. Or, at least, it was. For the church is now a ruin.

Such is tonight's description of the focus of battle on the Western Front. The village of Vossenack is a crossroads, and thereby dominates communications with another small place called Kommerscheidt, a mile and a half ~~xxx~~ away. This latter place is held firmly by American forces, who have made it a formidable stronghold -- ~~and this is the~~ ^{our} farthest point of penetration ~~of~~ ~~the Americans~~ into Germany, the apex of the front that they have thrust into the German Rhineland.

The bitterest kind of battle has been raging for Vossenack, with the Germans trying to take the crossroads and cut the communications with the other village -- that apex point. The news tonight indicates the situation is about half and half, the Americans holding one-half of the town, the Germans the other half -

and the bitterest point of conflict is at the church. Both Americans and Germans were in the ruined building, fighting there. And United Press correspondent John Frankish, puts it in the following grim terms: "Both the Yanks and the Germans are inside the church, and they aren't getting married," he flashes.

The conflict for Vossenack has been raging for bitter hours. The Americans pushed in, and ~~seemed~~ seemed about to take the place. The enemy retorted with a counter-attack but shoved them back. The G.I.'s rallied in the seesaw fight to regain ~~their~~ their former positions. Then today another violent Nazi counter-attack rolled forward, spearheaded by heavy tanks. Once again the Americans retired a bit, and that left the situation half and half, which obtains tonight -- with both Americans and Germans in the church that dominates, or used to dominate the village -- or what used to be the village.

~~On the coast of Holland, where the British and Canadians have opened the great port of Antwerp, in the~~

EUROPEAN WAR

We have a report tonight that the Allied command on the Western Front has abandoned all hope for a swift knockout of Germany. This word comes from Washington, with the explanation that ~~the High Command has abandoned the expectation of a quick knock out~~ ~~the expectation that was so bright some weeks ago~~. It is pointed out that the Germans are making stubborn and effective resistance all along the Siegfried Line and wherever Allied forces ^{punch} ~~launch~~ ahead. ~~For a job~~ The enemy reaction is strong and violent. It looked for a while as if the Nazi forces might be ^{caught} ~~sent~~ off balance and outflanked for a quick thrust into Germany, but ^{the} ~~a~~ set-back in the paratrooper battle at Arnhem changed the military prospects -- that, together with the ^{enormous} ~~the~~ Allied problem of supplies. So now the High Command has reconciled itself to a bitter war of attrition for months -- before the Siegfried Line can be smashed open or outflanked. ~~in~~

PRISONERS

On the Seventh Army front in France, there's a Staff Sergeant who has been making something of a record for capturing prisoners. He has been taking them -- two a day as regular as clock-work. In eight days he has brought in sixteen prisoners of war, which might seem to indicate some extraordinary heroism, but it was really a matter of luck.

Sergeant Henry Hogan of West Monroe, Louisiana, occupies an outpost position, and straight across, ~~and~~ not far away, is a German pillbox. You might think the pillbox to be a thing of menace and peril for the Sergeant, but it's something quite different. Each morning, for the past eight days, two German soldiers emerged from the strong point, strolled over and surrendered to the Sergeant. That pillbox, by a freak of accident, happens to be so situated that it's one place from which German soldiers can come out and surrender without being observed by their officers.

The way the Heinies work it is this: - The pill box is supposed to be held by two men, ~~who will~~ *And the*

others
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tell their officers that two at the strong point
have been killed. So during the night two more are
sent to hold the fort. These two surrender and the
same thing is repeated -- making American Sergeant
Henry Hogan quite a champion at capturing prisoners.

CARPENTIER

Years ago George Carpentier, the orchid man of France, was a shifty boxer, fast and ingenious. Today Carpentier is fifty, and once again is required to do some fancy footwork -- though not in the boxing ring.

In Paris he's the manager of a big night club where he was visited recently by his old antagonist, Jack Dempsey, the manassa mauler, who smashed down the orchid man in that battle of the century years ago.

The trouble for Carpentier is that he is accused of having been a collaborationist, hobnobbing with the Nazis during their time of tyranny in Paris. And this Carpentier is busy denying. ^{TF} The one bad thing for him is a photogfaph, a picture showing him in the boxing ring during the German occupation. With him in the ~~rink~~ ring is Max Schmeling, the German prize fighter and former heavyweight champion. The two are seen exchanging a friendly embrace.

Today's news gives the Carpentier explanation.

He says that he was about to give an exhibition bout on his fiftieth birthday, when some uninvited Germans got in and brought Schmeling, also uninvited. Schmeling climbed into the ring, and embraced Carpentier -- and at that moment a couple of Nazi photographers snapped the picture. "What could I do?" the one-time orchid man asks *with a shrug.* And he adds, "I could not give Schmeling a straight left. I would have been shot,"

nespa

Extra 3.

During the robot bomb attacks against London, the question over here was -- could the Nazis hit us with robots? Today we have an official answer made jointly by the Army and the Navy. And the summarizing words are -- "entirely possible." ^{TP} How? In what fashion?

Here's the Army and Navy answer: "Such raids ~~might~~ ^{might} be launched against the United States by submarines lying offshore or by one-way sacrifice flights of long-range bombers controlled across the Atlantic by submarines. It is also possible," the statement goes on, "that attacks might be launched from tenders carrying catapult planes."

The statement tells us that such attacks could not ^{have} ~~have~~ any military effect, but the Germans might try them -- as a spite job.

The Army and Navy explain that the only reason for this declaration today is the fact ~~xx~~ that newspapers have raised the question of the possibility of robots hitting this country.

STALIN

That statement by Stalin was one of those things that makes people scan the meaning of a few words. The Soviet war leader, in his address on this year's anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, classified ^{ng} Japan with Nazi Germany as an aggressor nation. *Today it is pointed out that this* ~~It~~ was the first time during the war that Stalin has said anything antagonistic toward Japan, with which nation Soviet Russia has been maintaining the strictest kind of neutrality. Hence the surmise is inevitable -- that by now calling Japan an aggressor, Stalin is turning ~~against~~ the Far Eastern enemy of the other United Nations. ~~It has been explained that~~ ~~and~~ and again that Russian neutrality toward Japan has been based on the fact that Stalin, above all things, does not want a war on two fronts. The Russians have had too hard a ^{battle} ~~war~~ with the Germans in the West to want to take on ~~a war with~~ Japan in the East. But now the Nazi tyranny is on the verge of utter defeat. This was pointed out emphatically by Stalin himself. He's a realist, and has been accustomed to point out the grim

harsh facts of the Soviet war situation -- all of which makes his optimistic opinion the more impressive -- his declaration that the ~~war~~^{conflict} in Europe will soon be ~~war~~^{war}.

~~war~~^{TP} Hence the new Stalin tone toward the Japs. --

That's the way you can logically figure it. With less to worry about from Nazi Germany in the West, Stalin can afford a change of attitude toward the Japs in the East. This line of reasoning was set forth widely today, with further expressions of hope -- that Soviet Russia might soon join the United States and Great Britain in the war against Japan, or at least permit the western Allies to use Russian bases.

Today Moscow got a tall stack of congratulations -- the heads of nations felicitating the Soviet government on the twenty-sixty anniversary of the revolution that put the Soviets into power -- and one message was from Winston Churchill. That was especially noticed -- because this is the first time that Churchill had sent congratulations on an anniversary of the

Bolshevik revolution. On two previous anniversaries, with Great Britain and Russia partners in the war, Churchill was the only one of the United Nations leaders who did not send felicitations. But today he did, and his message was given special attention in Moscow. ^{He sent} the warmest kind of greetings to the Soviets, with the statement, "The Anglo-Soviet alliance will be a source of many blessings to both countries, the United Nations and the whole world."

In Parliament today Churchill stated that he had no information as to the identity of the assassin. Two young killers who were captured. They were not Egyptians and to this Churchill referred. "Very searching inquiries will be made of the origin and association of these strangers to Egypt."

One statement made by General Sir Bernard Freyberg, British Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East is that the killers are "Jewish assassins." This would make them Palestinian terrorists, and one of the groups needed by the Arab and Muslim forces.

LORD MOYNE

In the ~~London~~ House of Commons today Prime Minister Winston Churchill, speaking in somber tones, announced the assassination of Lord Moyne -- British Resident Commissioner in the Middle East. "The crime was committed in Egypt, at Cairo, --" at the hands of foul assassins," said Winston Churchill. The Prime Minister was a close friend of the murdered Resident Commissioner, and was deeply grieved by the news of the deed of terrorism.

In Parliament today Churchill stated that he had no information about the identity of the assassins -- two young killers who were captured. They were not Egyptians and to this Churchill referred, adding: "Very searching inquiries will be made of the origin and association of these strangers to Egypt."

One statement made by General Sir Bernard Paget, British Commander-in-Chief in the Middle East is that the killers are -- "Jewish assassins." This would make them Palestine terrorists, members of the group headed by the Extremist leader, Stern.

On the other hand, in London today, Lord Strobolgy, the Labor Peer, is quoted as expressing a belief that Lord Moyne was murdered by Nazi agents.

Churchill characterizes the Resident Commissioner as a well-informed friend of the Jewish people, who had devoted himself to the solution of the Zionist question -- the problem of Palestine as a Jewish homeland.

And In London today the new Zionist organization denounced the murder in bitter terms. One of ~~its~~ leaders declared: "The new Zionist organization ~~is~~ ^{will} ~~designed to~~ do all in its power to bring Jewish youths back to the realization that only by employment of political instruments, discussion, negotiation and public enlightenment, can the legitimate Jewish claim of Jewish statehood be attained". And the new Zionist organization calls for a rigorous inquiry into crimes of terrorism.

Meanwhile in Cairo the two assassins refused to talk. Today they stated: "We will not talk until we are in court." They won't admit who they are, and no papers to identify them were found in their clothing. Investigation by the police indicates that they had been in Cairo for about ten days, and a checkup on them shows that they hired bicycles, on which they followed Lord Moyne and ~~xxxxxx~~ watched his movements. Three times they hired bicycles, and trailed him, ^{— and then} tried to escape on these after the crime.

ELECTION ODDITY

Here's an election oddity -- about a man in Chicago who, ^{when} ~~he~~ asked his name at a polling booth, replied -- Incognito. The officials were astonished -- they had never heard of anybody wanting to vote without giving a name, [^] incognito. Why? How come? After some bewildering [^] ~~ed~~ questioning the puzzle was cleared up -- that was his name -- Incognito. — *JOE Incognito.*

END

Here are some late figures, an example
of the kind we will be getting from N.B.C. all evening
-- as the great drama of the election unfolds!-^{RP} The
city of Norman, Oklahoma, incomplete returns --
Roosevelt two hundred -- Dewey one hundred and eighty
three.

In South Carolina, the city of Columbia,
~~there was~~ ^{there} a write-in-vote_A for Senator Byrd, not
large but curious at least. Roosevelt fifty-eight -
Dewey, none; Senator Byrd - three. That of course ^{is}
~~is the~~ ^{deep in the} solid South.
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And that's all up to now!

ELECTION

The election returns at this hour can, of course, be nothing more than the merest sporadic ~~figures~~ ^{figures}. Only a few precincts here and there have flashed ~~figures~~ ^{numbers counted} and only the tiniest trickle of votes has been reported. For example, it is expected that the total vote this election day will run up to fifty million, while the latest figures we have, give a total of less than ten thousand.

~~Here's~~ ^{One} late return, ~~which~~ ^{with} totals from ~~widely~~ ^{two} separated areas -- President Roosevelt four-thousand, five-hundred-and-ninety-three; Governor Dewey three-thousand, five-hundred-and-fifty-four. Those votes were cast in states of the solid south, where the Democratic party is overwhelming, and some ~~of them come~~ ^{and} from the Middle West, ^{and} others from New England. ^{It} It is noted that President Roosevelt is going strong in Oklahoma, while Governor Dewey has been well ahead in the early returns from the New England states of New Hampshire and Vermont.

One feature in the ~~early~~ returns has been Kansas, which, with the ^{early} trickle of votes ^{announced} this afternoon gave Roosevelt two thousand, six hundred and thirty-four; Dewey two-thousand, -three-hundred-and-fifty-one. *Giving F. D. R. a Kansas edge.*

The votes were in part from the industrial area of KansasCity, where the Democrats would naturally run stronger than ~~the~~ in the rural sections of the state.

R Altogether, on the basis of the exceedingly fragmentary returns, the President seems to have a bit the ~~better~~ of it -- but ~~let's~~ let's look at the news, the tidings from the war fronts, and then turn to some late figures ~~in~~ at the end of this program.

PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines the final stages ~~of~~ the battle ~~for~~ Leyte are being fought, with the American ~~of~~ offensive turning into a mopping up operation. The last core of enemy resistance is being assailed, and the last possible escape route for the Japanese force is being cut and narrowed. This is a corridor twenty-five miles ^{leading} long to the port of Ormoc, the Japanese base on the west coast of Leyte. The passage is narrow and ~~is~~ under constant ^{heavy} fire, ~~of American long Ton-~~
~~guns.~~ Apparently it will soon be closed, and Ormoc ~~and~~ itself be placed under assault. At last reports tanks of the Twenty-fourth division were within fifteen miles of Ormoc Harbor. (According to today's dispatches the Japs are not landing any more reinforcements at Ormoc. They did get some ashore a few days ago, but that now has ceased. The Japs don't even seem to be trying, and the opinion from the battle front is that the enemy commanders have given up hope of doing anything about Leyte, and are leaving their garrison on the island as a sacrifice, -- to hold out as long as possible, ~~just~~
~~to delay us.~~

on Pro -

A late bulletin from the Philippines. The first big battle since the invasion is now being fought -- on the island of Leyte. The Japs succeeded in landing reinforcements and ~~General~~ General MacArthur announces heavy fighting.

Another late bulletin from Admiral Nimitz. Four hundred and forty Jap air craft destroyed in the weekend attack on southern Luzon and thirty enemy ships were sunk or damaged.