

The latest about the conferences of the Big Four is a story from London, outlining one particular idea that Stalin is said to be prepared to lay before Churchill and Roosevelt. It won't be of so much interest to Chiang Kai-shek, because it concerns the question of what to do about Germany after the war - a question that is being hotly debated far and wide. ~~The~~ British familiar with Soviet policy, declare that Stalin will lay before Churchill and Roosevelt two tenets, in which he believes: -

One, ~~is~~ that Nazi Germany systematically set out to kill off the manpower of conquered lands - such as Poland, France, Czechoslovakia, Russia - the Nazi idea being to reduce the number of men in those countries.

Secondly, Stalin contends that the Germans believe ~~is~~ that should they lose the war, they can build a fighting population in another ten or fifteen years,

while their former enemies are still weakened from the destruction of life inflicted on them.

So the Stalin plan is to block that idea, and keep the Germans from utilizing their manpower for another onslaught. How to do that? By conscripting millions of Germans for forced labor - make them work for years to rebuild the huge areas that Hitler has devastated. ^{TP} London believes that Stalin, in planning the reconstruction of the ruined sections of Russia, is prepared to make ^{a vast} ~~huge~~ demand for German manpower as labor - several million ^{young men} ^{TP} probably. The argument is that it ^{is} not only just for Germany to repair what Germany wrecked, but also the taking away of millions of young men would prevent the Germans from building up an army again, and would tend to deNazify those young Germans - bring them in contact with other peoples' ideas, and indoctrinate them against the Hitler *ideology*.

~~secret~~

Such, we are told, is what Stalin has to say about the post-war handling of Germany, what he has to tell the American President and British Prime Minister at the big meeting ^{— —} which has been surrounded by so much secrecy, rumors and speculation. ^{HP} Well, ~~secret~~, the secret is out - how Churchill, Roosevelt and Chiang Kai-shek had a long series of conferences in Egypt, and how the three thereupon left the land of the Nile, going to meet Stalin, *presumably in the Land of the Medes and Persians.*

Nov. 30, 1943

~~The big secret is out official at last.
President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and
Generalissimo Chiang Kai shek had a long series of
conferences in Egypt. And the three leaders are now
on their way to meet Soviet Marshal Stalin.~~

This story has been brewing for days, but
it could not be released. The enemy radio gave us
plenty of intimations, but nothing official could be
stated from the Allied side. The break came today when
Reuters, the great British news agency, disclosed the
story. And later American short wave stations,
broadcasting to France in the French language,
confirmed the account.

The American, British and Chinese meeting was
held in Cairo and vicinity. At one of the conferences
Messrs. Roosevelt, Churchill and Chiang Kai-shek ~~were~~

fore-

gathered in a tent, in the shadow of the Pyramids.

Using the famous figure of speech uttered by Napoleon: -

"Twenty centuries look^{ed} down on them." TP The Chinese

Generalissimo, who was accompanied by Madame Chiang,

~~Kai-shok~~, made the trip by plane all the way from

distant China - the ancient land of Cathay, journeying

to the equally ancient land of the Pharaohs. Prime

Minister Churchill went by ship to Egypt. The American

short wave account does not state the mode of

President Roosevelt's travel, but I suppose it can be

assumed that he flew by Trans-Atlantic plane.

~~During their meetings, all communications with Cairo were cut, and the deepest secrecy shrouded the whole thing. We are told that a full statement of the decisions arrived at will be released during this week - and you may depend upon it that they are of historic importance. No doubt, the confabulation~~

at the Cairo conference was concentrated on the Pacific, since it was a case of American and Britain foregathering with China.

It is specifically stated that Chiang ~~Kai-shek~~ Kai-shek is also going to attend the conference with Stalin - which would seem to indicate that the talks with the Soviet Premier may have Pacific angles. ~~the~~ ^{with} ~~will the Japs think~~

⁴ ^P The place for the second meeting is not stated in today's official version, but Nazi reports place it in Persia. Last night we had the rumor that the conference with Stalin will be staged at the Iranian capital, Tehran.

~~Secret~~ So that's the Big secret that was rumored and rerumored, talked about, ^{and} gossiped about, with endless guesses and speculation!

RUSSIA

Tonight Moscow announces another retreat by the Red Army in the sector in front of Kiev. Soviet troops have abandoned the important rail junction of Korosten. This comes as rather a surprise, because previous reports during the day indicated that the Russians were on the offensive in the Korosten area. However, the Nazis have been hurling powerful counter-attacks with ~~forces of~~ eight tank divisions and more than a hundred and fifty thousand infantry. This has been going on for two weeks, and now the Soviet high command ^{has} ordered the evacuation of Korosten. This is the second Number One stronghold that the Russians have abandoned to the German counter-attacks, the first having been that railroad center called Jitomir.

ITALY

The extent of the British break through along the eastern coast of Italy is indicated by a statement from the front - that ~~General~~ Montgomery's long range artillery should soon be able to shell the harbor of Pescara. That large port is twenty miles from the *farthest point of* ~~most advanced parties of the~~ British, *advance. But* ~~but the~~ *the* important point of the news is that the Eighth Army push is rolling on. "Our advance is continuing," states today's communique. ~~The report of Pescara is of Number One importance, as has been recently pointed out. It is not only a first rate and exceedingly useful harbor, but it is the terminus of a great lateral highway system leading across the peninsula to Rome.~~

The Eighth Army break-through was accomplished after a thirty-six hour battle, which is described as "heavy and continuous." Having smashed across the

Sangro River, Montgomery's troops proceeded to drive on for four miles, creating a wedge that deep, and twelve miles wide. As a result, the Adriatic end of the Nazi Winter Line is described as - "shattered."

And we hear that the Eighth Army is not going to have the whole show - for General Clark's Fifth Army *is ready for a drive. One dispatch* ~~is making a drive. The dispatch from Montgomery~~ states that the Fifth is about to stage its biggest offensive, and the slogan will be "Free Rome or Bust."

One of the finest pieces of good news from Italy concerns the weather. ~~Skies have turned dry,~~

The rains have ceased; ~~which is~~ good for the ground soldiers, ~~and simply~~ perfect for the air forces.

So now once again Allied air power, with its huge superiority, has engaged in tactical operations on an immense scale - blasting the enemy from the air in support of the Allied advance on the earth. ~~with one~~

ITALIAN KING

~~King~~ today lost both a royal crown and an imperial crown - and that brings to a ceremonial end a couple of ill-fated adventures. ~~An~~ announcement from Naples is that the Badoglio government has deprived King Victor^{II} Emanuel of his titles of King of Albania and Emperor of Ethiopia. The latter item represents the final flickering out of Mussolini's dream of African Empire - Ethiopia conquered by the Fascists with all sorts of noisy triumph and then lost by them in the disasters of war. Albania represented a bit of loot that the one-time Duce picked up while Hitler was grabbing things in the days of Munich. ^{It} was ^{all} part of Mussolini's braggadocio to place the imperial crown of Ethiopia and the royal crown of Albania on the brow of his diminutive sovereign, which was hardly more than piling diadems on the ~~brow of a~~ little wooden figurehead. ^{It} Now Victor Emanuel has shed those

flimsy crowns, and will be exceedingly content if he can remain simply and solely the King of Italy.

LEAD GILBERTS

~~Today~~ Admiral Nimitz, Commander of the Pacific fleet, ^{tonight} issued a statement concerning the American conquest of the Gilbert Islands. He called it - "the most difficult attack the United States has yet made in the Pacific." Admiral Nimitz has just returned to his headquarters at Pearl Harbor, after a trip of inspection to the newly captured islands.

His comment on the difficulty of the operation is echoed by another dispatch, which gives a consensus of opinion of officers out there. They are jubilant about the seizure of the Gilberts, but they add grimly - "it's a long way to Tokyo." Lieutenant Colonel Carlson, of Carlson's Raiders, says the fighting on Tarawa atoll was the most savage he ever saw - and he, as Marine Corps observer with the Chinese armies, witnessed the most ferocious combat in the war ~~we~~ between the Chinese and the Japs.

T Tonight's dispatch tells us that the

conquest of the Gilberts has persuaded many of the officers who led it, that the way to Tokyo is via the Chinese mainland, and not by way of the mid-Pacific islands. As they count our losses, in the face of the fierce Japanese resistance, they stop to reflect that the nearer the islands are to Japan, the more heavily they will be fortified - particularly the larger islands.

Today in Washington, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox stated that our commanders knew how heavy the Japanese resistance would be in the Gilberts, particularly at Tarawa. "We were not at all fooled by the enemy strength," he declared, and added: "Preparations for the attack were most thoroughgoing." And he told of how for a week before the landing, Tarawa was subject to a terrific aerial bombing, and then, on the day of the landings, there was an immense naval bombardment.

NEW GUINEA

In New Guinea, the Australians are pushing forward, and have reached ^{that} a place called Bonga, ~~which is~~ described as an important trail junction. ~~In Europe,~~ ~~the war news tells us about railroad and highway junctions,~~ ~~but in the equatorial swamps of New Guinea, all you get is jungle trails - and you're lucky to have them.~~ The Australians captured ~~Bonga~~ without opposition. The Japs withdrawing. At the same time, Allied troops pushing north of the captured town of Sattelberg, ~~XXXX~~ are about to attack the Japanese position off the shore - an enemy outpost called Wareo.

All this has to do with the Huon peninsula - and who on earth knows about the Huon peninsula?

Mighty few of us ever heard of the name until recently.

^{But} the fact is, that the peninsula is a strip of land thrust toward the island of New Britain. And on this latter island is situated the Number One Japanese base in the southwest Pacific - Rabaul.

VANDEGRIFT

Tonight the leathernecks have a new Commander Vandegrift of Guadalcanal. That fighting General was named today to succeed Lieutenant General Thomas Holcomb as Commander of the Marine Corps. General Holcomb ~~retires~~ retires, having passed the age limit. Actually, he passed the age limit last August, and Lieutenant General Alexander A. Vandegrift would have taken his place some while ago - except for the call of war. ^R Vandegrift of Guadalcanal was on his way back to Washington, and had got as far as Honolulu - when he received orders to turn back and take command of the invasion of Bougainville. This because of the death of Major General Charles D. Barrett, who was killed in an accident. So the veteran Marine Corps fighter directed the successful landing at Bougainville, and now, after the delay, takes over the job assigned to him - becoming the big boss of the leathernecks.

I don't know how much at home Vandegrift will be, directing things from Washington. He is what they call "a front line man" - as was witnessed amply on Guadalcanal. One comrade in arms out in the Solomons relates: "He'd stand there talking to an officer as though he were at home - while the Jap machine guns were banging all around."

I myself have an example of this in my recently published book - "These Men Shall Never Die." One Vandegrift episode is told by the General himself, who relates how he with some others were ~~examining~~ inspecting the fighting front in a jungle infested by enemy troops. "Three Japs surprised us," says Vandegrift. "They came out of the woods yelling 'Banzai'. The leading Jap was shot and killed by my signal sergeant, and a sergeant-major raised his rifle and shot and killed ^{the second} ~~the~~ Jap. A corporal nearby,"

KENTUCKY

Most of us did not expect any 'election returns tonight, but in Kentucky they had a voting contest today to fill a congressional post left vacant by the death of a congressman. Political wisemen had their eye on this Kentucky election because of the surprise ^{registered} by the Blue Grass State when it went Republican in the statewide balloting in November.

So who won today? It looks as if the Republican sweep were continuing, for, ^{the G. O. P. candidate} ~~with three-quarters of the~~ ^{scored a smashing victory —} ~~precincts in, the latest returns give the G. O. P. candidate~~ ^{with a majority of 12,500 votes.} ~~a big majority — twenty-four thousand to fourteen thousand.~~ ^{FF} This is the more to be noted because the election is in the Fourth Congressional District, and that ordinarily is a Democratic stronghold. ~~Yet tonight~~ ~~political observers in Kentucky were predicting that the~~ ~~Republican candidate would wind up with a plurality of,~~ ~~more than eleven thousand votes.~~

MARRIAGE

The problem of war marriages is becoming acute in Chicago, with teen age girls hanging around in the corridors of the marriage license bureau and asking passers-by to help them get married. Their purpose is to dodge the law in Illinois, according to which girls under eighteen cannot marry without the consent of their parents. Their fathers and mothers refusing consent, the under-age youngsters try to enlist what they call --proxy parents." That is, somebody who will pretend to be father ~~and~~ mother and go with the girl for a license., though that, of course, ^{involves} ~~is~~ perjury.

Today Sidney Summerfield, chief clerk of the bureau, told of a case in which one mother telephoned five times in one day and begged that no license be issued to her teen age daughter. But the daughter found a proxy parent, got a license, and was married.

~~Now~~ ^{has} The marriage bureau [^] asked the city and county authorities to do something to stop the proxy parent

business, and take measures to prosecute all adults who pose as fathers and mothers.

Of course, the teen age girls can't neglect the old device of falsifying their ages--and that was the case ~~in~~ the marriage of Private Bruce Gōdār and a sixteen year old Muriel. They were married three days before he was sent overseas. Muriel's father objected angrily, and took measures to have the ceremony annulled. Muriel appealed to him tearfully: : "Bruce ~~and~~ ^{she wanted.} I love each other, and want to stay married." But the father was adamant, according to the old tradition of irate fathers.

The case went to court, and now the judge has received a cablegram from the young husband. From a war base somewhere overseas, Private Bruce Gōdār wires: "I cannot defend myself while here," he said. "Pray do all you can to ~~at~~ save my marriage. It seems impossible," pleads the soldier, "that any civilian would deliberately destroy the only thing that keeps me going."

DIVORCE

A sidelight on the possibilities of married life is given to us in a story from Los Angeles, where Mrs. Margaret Weaver is suing her husband for divorce. Hubby was jealous. Why? Because when wifie came home at night by street car, the motorman always clanged the street car bell.

Wifie, it appears, worked on a night shift, while hubby's occupation was such that he was always at home when she returned from work. She took the same street car all the time, and the motorman was a friendly soul. He got to know her, and when she got off he'd keep the street car waiting for a minute or two.

"The motorman used to wait," she explains, "while I ran down the dark street. When I got to the street light," she adds, "I'd wave, and he'd ring the bell."

And every night hubby heard the bell, which made him jealous - and we all know that jealousy can lead to tragic results. Wifie states that hubby was so haunted by the green eyed monster, ^{and the street car bell,} that one time he tried to hit her with a golf club, but she ducked and countered with a right swing. That was bad -- for her. Because she broke her hand on his jaw.

And all because every night the motorman rang the bell, saying - So Long ~~Until Tomorrow~~ ^{— but wait,}

④ let's hear from ~~Hugh~~ George.