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RESTRICTED -
- YEOMEN -
Grissinger, Y3c
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GILBERT LOSS MAY BRING A DECISIVE BATTLE OF THE FLEETS

PACIFIC WAR::: Capture of one Atoll in the Gilberts and impending capture of two others was announced today on the fourth day of the American Mid Pacific invasion. This virtual completion of the first critical phases, achievement of air bases from which to rout the Japs from the rest of the Gilberts and pound the nearby Marshalls incessantly, stamped the drive as the fastest moving one yet unleashed against Nippons outpost defenses.

Only a few hours after Secretary of the Navy Knox defined the strategic objectives as ouster of Japan from the Madnated islands and shortening of American supply lines to the Southwest Pacific, Admiral Nimitz announced these developments:

Makin has been captured; Tarawa, site of the bloodiest enemy resistance is certain to be captured. Apamamas situation is well in hand. American aircraft carriers continue to pour out their planes in a teamwork assault with army land based planes on the Marshalls.

Tokyo radio told the Japanese that the invasion, "Presages a real decisive battle of the fleet." Secretary of the Navy Knox in characterizing the drive as the, "beginning of a new campaign against Japan from the Central Pacific on a much more direct route toward Japan" said at Washington. "No elements of the enemy fleet have been seen. The attack has not as yet pulled the Japs out of shelter."

OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS CONTINUE ON GRAND SCALE IN SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

MACARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS::: In the sectors of Admiral Halsey and General MacArthur, to the southwest of the Gilberts where other enemy ouposts are being crumbled in the northern Solomons and on northeastern New Guinea, war advises today told of aerial assaults on eleven Japanese points with the heaviest directed at Gasmata, New Britain. One hundred forty two tons of explosives were dumped on Gasmata. Withing three days upward of 300 tons of bombs have hit that air base guarding the back door approach to the enemy's pivotal air and naval base of Rabaul. Fifty two tons of bombs were dropped at the Cape Gloucester airdrome on New Britains western tip Rabaul is on the islands opposite end and ground forces of Admiral Halsey moving up the Solomons now stand within 260 milos of it at Empress Augusta Bay on Bougainville.

Sixty tons of bombs were dropped on Kara airdrome at Buin. On the southern tip of Bougainville and on Malabita and Kangu hill gun positions. Kieta on the opposite end of Bougainville was strafed by a dawn patrol. Fighters and dive bombers also struck at installations at Monoitu and Mankara on Bougainville. A Liberator caught a 7000 ton Jap freighter transport off New Ireland scoring direct hit and forcing the crew to abandon the ship. Other bombing and strafing visits

HEAVIEST AIR RAID IN HISTORY ON BERLIN

LONDON--: The heaviest aerial bombardment in history poured more than 2300 long tons of explosives and incendiaries upon Berlin Monday night and Tuesday night German radio stations shut down in a possible indication that Allied forces were attacking again in a campaign to force the Nazis to their knees through airpower. 1000 RAF bombers participated in Monday night's attack on the world's fourth largest city in an assault which exceeded even the 2300 ton bombardment which knocked out Hamburg.

HEAVIEST SNOWSTORM PARALYZES COMMUNICATIONS

BOSTON, MASS--: New England's worst November snow storm in decades left a two foot blanket over many regions Tuesday, took at least one life and put 8,500 telephones out of order and cut off nine towns from electrical service. The heaviest fall in a settled community was in Dublin, New Hampshire, where 24 inches had fallen up to mid morning.



BEACHED SHIP TOWED TO DRYDOCK

NEW YORK--: The cargo vessel James Longstreet which had crashed upon a sandy beach on Sunday was pulled clear of the beach early on Tuesday and towed to dry dock, the Third Naval District announced. The 7916 ton ship with 70 aboard went aground in a storm. Coast Guardsmen ran a line aboard to rescue the men.

PRESIDENT'S SON SHOT DOWN OVER ENEMY TERRITORY

NEWARK, N.J.--: Mrs. Roosevelt takes with a grain of salt a report that her son Elliott has been shot down over enemy territory. "I heard from Elliott not so long ago and he said everything was all right". She stated Monday night after attending the premier of "Marching with Johnny" musical show sponsored by the National CIO War Relief Committee here.

REAR ADMIRAL RECEIVES AWARD

WASHINGTON--: The Navy announced Tuesday the award of the Legion of Merit to Rear Admiral Olaf M. Hustvedt, Chief of Staff to the Commander in Chief of the United States Atlantic Fleet, for services in organizing the Fleet and its bases.

CENSORS CUT OFF BROADCAST

NEW YORK--: Columbia Broadcasting System announced Tuesday that the Office of Censorship had cancelled authorization of the broadcast of former King Carol of Rumania, and that as a result neither Carol nor any of his opponents will be heard in a broadcast originally scheduled for Tuesday night.

ROOSEVELT URGES ACTION ON SOCIAL SECURITY PLAN FOR ARMED FORCES

WASHINGTON--: President Roosevelt sent Congress a formal request Tuesday that it do something now about providing mustering out pay, unemployment allowances and social security credits for men and women in uniform. In addition he urged the legislators in a

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PLAN OF THE DAY, WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1943

- 0335 - Condition II Section 2 relieve the watch.
- 0443 - Reveille.
- 0508 - Flight Quarters.
- 0513 - Dawn General Quarters.
- 0613 - Secure from General Quarters - Set Condition III Section 2.
- 0735 - Condition III Section 3 relieve the watch.
- 0815 - Muster on stations.
- 1000 - 1100 - All Fifth Division seamen 2/c of port watch report to Ens. Way in school room.
- 1205 - Condition III Section 4 relieve the watch.
- 1330 - 1415 - Skylookouts of "L" and 6th division not on watch report to school room for instruction.
- 1430 - 1515 - Instruction for Quartermasters in school room.
- 1535 - Condition III Section 1 relieve the watch.
- 1735 - Condition III Section 2 relieve the watch.
- 1935 - Condition III Section 3 relieve the watch.
- SUNSET - Darken ship on main deck and above.
- One-half ($\frac{1}{2}$) hour after sunset - darken ship.
- 2335 - Condition II Section 4 relieve the watch.

J. T. WARREN,
Commander, U.S. Navy,
Executive Officer.

NOTE: (1) All hands are again cautioned that used gum must be thrown over the side or placed in spit kits or trash cans. Recently there has been some evidence of gum about the decks; and yesterday three scuttle butt drains had to be cleared as a result of gum. If this does not cease at once, the privilege of purchasing gum at the Ship's Store will be withdrawn.

The following despatch from Commander Task Force 54 is quoted for the information of all hands:

THE UNITS ATTACHED TO THIS FORCE ARE HONORED IN HAVING BEEN SELECTED TO STRIKE ANOTHER HARD BLOW AGAINST THE ENEMY BY CAPTURING THE GILBERT ISLANDS X THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN ALL OUR SERVICES THE SPIRIT OF LOYALTY TO EACH OTHER AND THE DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED DISPLAYED BY VETERANS AND UNTRAINED PERSONNEL ALIKE THAT GIVES ME COMPLETE CONFIDENCE THAT WE WILL FIGHT UNTIL WE HAVE ACHIEVED SUCCESS X I RAISE MY HAND IN SALUTE TO THE SPLENDID COURAGE AND FIGHTING SPIRIT OF THIS UNDEFEATED TEAM OF ARMY NAVY AND MARINES WHETHER ATTACHED TO SHIPS AIRCRAFT OR GROUND UNITS AND SAY TO YOU THAT I KNOW THAT GOD WILL BLESS YOU AND GIVE YOU STRENGTH TO WIN A GLORIOUS VICTORY X SIGNED REAR ADMIRAL TURNER

The following message from Commander Central Pacific Forces to Task Force 52 is quoted below:

"CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL HANDS NORTHERN ATTACK FORCE FOR JOB WELL DONE X SIGNED SPRUANCE