

OKINAWA

C.I. - Sunoco. Wed., June 6, 1945. (Dr. R.C. Andrews.)

Good Evening Everybody -

There has been little or no news from Okinawa today, and the silence is taken to be significant - an indication that a ~~the~~ victory bulletin is expected. That is, the American conquest of the island has now progressed so far that the High command is believed to be about to issue a formal proclamation stating that organized Japanese resistance on Okinawa has come to an end.

This has been virtually conceded by the Japs themselves, with the Tokyo radio chalking up Okinawa as lost, and making gloomy predictions that an American invasion of the home islands of Japan will be launched in the near future.

From the fighting front on Okinawa itself, the last communique told of spectacular advances by American Army troops and marines - following the capture of the all-important air base at Naha.

CHINA

The Chinese have captured Liuchow, and that means ^{the} air base. Liuchow was the site of one of the big flying fields that the American air forces built in southern China; a base that had to be abandoned when the Japs staged their big sweeping drives some months ago. Now the enemy is pulling out rapidly, abandoning his hard won gains in southern China. The supposition is that the Japanese command is concentrating its troops, anticipating American landings in China or perhaps war with Russia. In any case, the Chinese are forging forward, and have captured the air base ^{town} of Liuchow.

BRAZIL

3/25/41

Brazil declared war on Japan today - with the government at Rio explaining that the declaration is based on the Pan-American agreements for mutual defense. Brazil broke relations with the Japs in Japan, and now is formally at war.

In Rio they don't believe that the Brazilian expeditionary force, which fought against the Nazis in Italy, will be transferred to the Far East. The big South American Republic is expected to send nothing more than token units to the war in the Pacific, or at least - some observers.

The government of Syria put a ban on all French newspapers today - the latest indication of the unyielding position the Syrians have taken in their quarrel with France. Since the end of the recent fighting, the native people show increasing signs of being determined to reject all the various kinds of domination that the French demand. And word from Beirut today is that the Syrian government will reject any conditional settlement of the dispute - anything that would impose conditions at their expense.

From Russian sources and from London come new indications that a meeting of the Big Three has been definitely planned and that a place for a Stalin-Churchill-Truman conference has been picked.

The Russian report was made today in a broadcast from Soviet controlled Austria, which quoted Moscow as declaring that Stalin agreed to a meeting of the Big Three.

The British intimation was made in the House of Commons, where the M.P.'s were told that there ~~was~~ was no chance of the British-Russian-American conference being held in London. Churchill wanted London to be the place of meeting, and today's declaration is taken to be a definite indication that some other place has been chosen.

The word today is that the Western Allies are going to turn over to Soviet Russia large parts of Germany that they now occupy. The American forces, for example, will hand over to the Russians such cities as Leipzig and Magdeburg. The American zone of occupation will be in South Germany - Bavaria mostly.

As indication of what the final arrangement is to be, a big map was displayed in Moscow today; a map showing the area of Germany which the Russians are to occupy. It reveals the Russian part as including all of central Germany. The Moscow map, in fact, places the power of Soviet Russia within a hundred and fifty miles of the borders of Belgium and France.

A story from London states that the Germans themselves have had advance notice of this. They are steaming westward from Central Germany to the territories held by the British and Americans.

Russia repeats its charge that the western allies are mistreating Soviet prisoners of war. This accusation was made previously, and has been officially denied by Great Britain. The British denial was published in Moscow today - along with a reiteration of the Soviet charge.

Colonel Golikov, Chairman of the Soviet Repatriation Commission, asserts that Russians who were taken in Germany are being confined in England, under what he calls "intolerable conditions". In other instances, says he, they are being kept in German jails, where the Nazis themselves ^{imprisoned} ~~imprisoned~~ them. Also, that Russians in Egypt have been subject to propaganda -- anti-Soviet propaganda. Others, says he, have been turned over to the London Polish government in exile, which is hostile to the Soviets.

POLES

1-15

The Poles in London make a statement about their own countrymen who were found by the western Allies in Germany. We are told that right now there are a 50 million Poles in the Anglo-American section of the occupied enemy country. And they don't want to go back to Poland while that country is under Soviet domination. So states the exiled government, adding that thousands of Poles in Germany were so eager to escape from the advancing Red Army that they swam across the River Elbe to reach the Americans.

The British government has offered British citizenship to Poles who don't want to return to their country, because of the domination of the Soviet sponsored government there. A spokesman of the exiled government stated today that the stranded Poles do not wish to accept the British offer - not yet, anyway, because, in his words, "they have not yet given up the hope of a free Poland".

Meanwhile, the Russians tell another story altogether. They say that the vast majority of the Poles

in Germany, are eager to return to Poland and live under the Soviet sponsored government, "but", says the official Soviet news agency today "the reactionary leaders of the Polish exiled government hinder this in every possible way.

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Today an American military governor in Germany admitted that, in the administration he runs, he employs some Nazis. He says he can't help it - can't organize things in Germany without using Nazis.

He is Major General Ernest Harmon, whose troops in battle are reputed to have killed more Germans than those of any other American commander. General Harmon is tough. His tones of speech have won him the name of "old gravel voice". And his constant growl is, "I don't like Krauts". He was made the first American military governor in Germany, and placed in charge of the Rhineland. This area is soon to ^{be} turned over to the British, into ~~the~~ whose zone of occupation it now falls. And today he explained his employment of Nazis as follows:

- He says he has had to keep people in the Rhineland from starving. "I don't like Krauts", he grumbled, "but letting them know who won the war is one thing - and letting them go without food now and without food and coal this winter, is another." ⑥
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"This country", he continues, "has been run by the Nazis for a long time, and practically all its administrative and commercial brains is in the Nazi party. You can't run railroads with drug clerks or run factories with bootblacks. So, in some cases", says the General, "we had to keep the Nazis who had the know-how".

To which old Gravel Voice adds in his most gravelly tones: "I don't like it personally, but until we get better men - this is the way it has to be". And he makes the final comment that the job of saving German lives is an unfamiliar one to him.

The mystery of Hitler seems, in all probability, to have been solved. The Russians announce that in the burned out Reichs Chancellery at Berlin, they found a burned body, which has been identified, almost certainly, as the Nazi Fuehrer. The identification is based on a careful examination of the teeth and other characteristics. ⁵⁻³ (7)

An examination shows that Hitler almost certainly died of poison - either Hitler killing himself or having been poisoned by the Nazis around him. This ties in with a story that the Russians have reported recently - that Hitler died of an injection given him by his physician, after he had been insane and partly paralyzed for several days.

COUNTERFEIT

1-30

Word comes along of another one of those European war secrets. This time, we hear about a huge Nazi printing plant for turning out counterfeit money. Millions, or perhaps billions, of British pounds were printed -- also American money, especially the kind issued during the invasion of France. And the Nazis also counterfeited stamps, passports, identity cards.

The plant had a big rush last winter, when it turned out false American army identification cards.

~~These were~~ used at the time of the Von Rundstedt offensive through Luxembourg and Belgium, the last powerful blow launched by the Germans. During recent 54 weeks we've been hearing of the extensive use the Nazis then made of spies and saboteurs in American uniforms. ~~uniforms~~ These were given false American identity cards turned out by the counterfeiting plant.

It was run by German criminals, counterfeiters whom the Nazis took out of prison and placed in charge of the "fraudulent-money-and-document" factory. Slave ~~men~~ laborers worked under the direction of the

German counterfeiters, skillful photo-engravers whom the Nazis rounded up in the occupied countries.

The story is told by one of these, a Dutch photo engraver, who stated that the counterfeiting plant was established first at a place north of Berlin. Then, when the Russians approached, it was transferred to Austria. There, presently, the Americans drew near, and the counterfeiting equipment, the presses and the plates and other technical apparatus, were dumped into a mountain lake. Today's word is that some of the equipment has been fished out of the lake.

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From South China ~~comes~~ comes news of a retreat, an escape, a march through the wilderness, *altis* a story to be placed alongside of that ancient Greek "anabasis", the retreat of the ten thousand. Xenophon's "anabasis" is the world's classic among stories of soldiers trapped in the heart of enemy countries, who fight their way out on a march of heart breaking distance ~~amid~~ amid incessant perils.

Today's "anabasis" of this global war tells of two battallions of the French Foreign Legion, which were stationed in Indo-China. The Japs seized that French colony shortly before the beginning of the Pacific war, but left the French officials in control - until a couple of months ago, when the Japs clamped down. At that time we heard of an outbreak of fighting, and then it was that troops of the French Foreign Legion got into hostilities with the Japs.

The two battalions in today's account fought off the enemy, but were in a position that might have seemed utterly hopeless. They were in southern

Indo-China, and the nearest Allied force was six hundred and fifty miles away - China. To reach China represented an almost incredible trip through tropical jungle, with Japs to fight all the time.

The two battalions, however, started out, marching north to China. They had little food, were on the verge of starvation. They suffered from jungle diseases. Nearly all were ill of typhus. Their clothes were worn to tatters. Some had no shoes. They were nearly eaten alive by the leeches of the jungles. Some died, others collapsed and their comrades carried them - carried them for the last hundred miles. And all the time they had to fight off parties of Japanese - the Japs pursuing them, trying to wipe them out.

They made the six hundred and fifty mile jungle march in two months, lost one third of their number, and today are reported at an American Army post in southern China. American Colonel Maurice Sheahan says: "They are in the worst shape of any soldiers I 52 ever saw". The Colonel found them lying in an old

Chinese barn, and some tottered to their feet to salute him - the old French Foreign Legion discipline. They were taken to an American medical station, after what may well be called - The "anabasis" of the present war.

No one knows better than I do what a terrible march that must have been. I have hunted tiger all through that Indo-China jungle. It is impossible even to move without cutting a path through the tangle of thorny vines and creepers. To have travelled without food and no proper clothes, fighting Japs all the way, is another evidence of what incredible hardships it is possible for brave men to endure.