

Get ready for the capture of Manila.

The latest from General MacArthur's headquarters states the following: "The fall of Manila to American forces appears imminent, and plans were being made today for the entry of General Douglas MacArthur and other high American officials into the Philippine capital".

What a triumphal entry it will be. The Filipinos, who have been fighting bitterly against the Japs, are getting the Americans with frenzied cheers, and the climax will be in that great and historic capital, Manila.

In what shape will our forces find the Metropolis of the Philippines? Not so badly damaged -- is the word tonight. There are no signs that the Japs have started to destroy Manila -- no wanton burning and blowing up. And the supposition is that the enemy will content himself with demolitions at various key points -- harbor works -- possibly.

One point to be noted is the fact that the American advance on Manila is so swift that the Japs may not have time to carry out any plan of systematic destruction. And here's another thought advanced tonight - it sounds curious!—

The news dispatch from MacArthur's headquarters makes the suggestion that the Japs may have an idea in the back of their heads -- in refraining from general devastation of the city. They may be thinking of times after the war, when they will want to open trade again with the Philippine islands. And a wanton, ruthless destruction of Manila would create new hatreds that would impede a post-war trading policy. It seems odd to think of the Japs figuring on Philippine trade after the war, but that's what the news dispatch from out there suggests.

As for American military moves today, they were of blinding speed. The main advance on Manila from the North has reached a point seventeen

and a half miles from the city. The troops that landed to the south of the capital, at ~~Bt~~ Batangas yesterday, drove nine miles today, and are approaching a town thirty-six miles from Manila.

The force that had previously landed near the top of Bataan Peninsula and captured the port of Olangapo has now thrust six miles across the base of Bataan, and is within seven miles of a junction with the American forces moving on Manila.

And swiftest of all was an amazing twenty-seven mile dash along a highway, a lightning thrust across the central plain of Luzon. The road junction town of Gapan was captured, and that severed the remaining north-to-south highway left to the Japs. The advance to Gapan, in General MacArthur's words, "gives us dominance of all major roads and railroads in the central plain of Luzon".

And the MacArthur bulletin adds, "with the loss of all main lines of communication, the enemy forces in the north and south of Luzon are now ~~mtt~~

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totally severed". All of which represents a catastrophe of communications for the Japs, and helps to explain the jubilant statement tonight -- that the capture of Manila is at hand.

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In the attack, after a bunch of Japs had been wiped out, there was a delay at the main gate of the prison camp. They couldn't get it open and Ranger Theodore Richardson took out his pistol to shoot out the lock. As he did so, a Japanese bullet struck the pistol from his hand. Richardson picked it up swiftly, and killed the Jap who had fired the shot. Then he blew off the lock.

RESCUE

Today's news from the Philippines, brings later details about that thriller of war - the rescue of ^{the} ~~of~~ five hundred and ten prisoners from the Japs.

We are told how two gunshots gave the signal for the climax.

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That opened the way, and within seven minutes after the first shots, rescued American prisoners were pouring out of their huts. Eight minutes after that, everyone of the five hundred and ten rescued men were out of their camp and on the march to safety.

The story features the valor of the Philippine guerrillas, who held their ground when a force of eight hundred Japs came charging. A mere hundred and fifty guerrillas stopped the big Jap force with rifle fire, and only withdrew when tanks showed up. The guerrillas lost twenty-one men. The American Rangers had one man killed and two wounded.

ADD RESCUE

The families of the liberated Americans will be interested in this -- the War Department invites them to send telegrams to their relatives among the five hundred and ten prisoners released from Jap captivity. A late dispatch from Washington states that each may send a twenty-five word telegram which the Army will transmit to the Philippines without any cost to the sender. They should specify the ~~xx~~ relationship of the sender to the liberated American and ^{include} ~~include~~ his rank and serial number. The Army urges families to take quick advantage of the opportunity, because the liberated men will be removed from Luzon as quickly as possible, after which it may take some time for mail to ~~that~~ catch up with them.

RUSSIA

The distances with regard to Berlin tonight are as follows: The Germans report the Russians as being within thirty-three miles of the Nazi capital. Moscow places Soviet forces at a distance of forty-six miles from Berlin. The same old story - Nazi news being in advance of Soviet news in picturing the advance of the Red Army.

The whole thing lines up more and more along the River Oder. At its nearest point to Berlin, a bend of the River, the Oder is only thirty-three miles away. And that's where Berlin locates the Russian troops tonight. The key points are the fortress of Kustrin, and the important city of Frankfurt-on-the-Oder. Both are immediate Russian objectives. The German news would indicate^s that the Russians are assailing Kustrin, and the Moscow news represents the Red Army as approaching Frankfurt. There are some indications that the Soviet forces may have actually broken across the Oder. One Berlin account tells of Russian Armor getting across, ~~but being~~ ^{and then} driven back.

The Moscow news likewise features Stettin, the important port on the Baltic - and states that advancing Russian troops are within thirty six miles of Stettin. This Russian drive threatens to cut off the large province of Pomerania - just as East Prussia was cut off. Pomerania lies on a flank of the wedge the Russians have driven toward Berlin. And Soviet strategy might well be to wipe it out - and thereby trap a couple of hundred ^{thousand} German troops, who are said to be in Pomerania.

The latest tonight is a Moscow dispatch stating that the Nazis are evacuating Stettin -- pulling out by sea, in boats.

Now a message from Stan. of Cal. and then back to the news.

seized Calcutta, the ... across the Rhine. ... thrusting into the outer ring of Siegfried Line fortifications, and General Patton's Third Army drove likewise into the first line of that powerful system of fortifications guarding Germany on the West.

The news has featured a lack of resistance to the American forces driving into the outer fringe of the Siegfried Line - Nazi strong points being strangely silent, not firing a shot. Allied headquarters today, however, tells us that we should not attach too much importance to this area of resistance. It was, in the words of headquarters, "a local phenomenon".

WESTERN FRONT

The most important success on the Western Front today was the capture of the Alsatian stronghold of Colmar. American and French troops seized Colmar, the Germans pulling back across the Rhine.

To the North, American First Army troops pushed ahead for three miles, thrusting into the outer ring of Siegfried Line fortifications, and General Patton's Third Army drove likewise into the first line of that powerful system of forts guarding Germany on the West.

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But
~~And tonight's report from the United~~

Press correspondent with the First Army, John McDermott, states: "There is no sign yet of a ~~any~~ crack in German morale - or that there will be a complete mass surrender of German troops defending the Siegfried Line.

However, ~~It~~ is apparent that the Hitler Command is moving some of its forces from the western to the eastern front. American air observation reports considerable masses of traffic moving eastward.

~~It is disclosed that~~ General Eisenhower, on a visit to the front, has had a twenty-four hour conference with Army Group Commander General Bradley and other important leaders. ~~Headquarters describes the topic of the conference as 'current operations'.~~ ~~and~~ the word is that an all-out offensive on the Western Front is being prepared.

NAZI RESISTANCE

An official opinion about the prospects of the European war was given today by under-secretary of War Patterson. Concerning ~~the~~ Nazi ability to hold the Red Army along the riverline of the Oder, the Under-Secretary stated: "With short supply lines and an interior network of roads and railways, the Germans may be able to make a stand on the Oder - although even that ability is in doubt."

As for the Western Front, he indicated that an all-out American-British offensive is in prospect.

~~"The Germans," said he, "Will naturally fight desperately to prevent a wide open breach of the Siegfried Line. Terrain and fortifications in that area, in addition to the weather, pose difficulties for us." But he indicated the Nazis will soon have to contend with a major offensive in the west.~~

As for what will happen if the German Lines are broken, Under-Secretary Patterson gave

the following opinion: "Even the fall of Berlin might not end the war." And he added: "No doubt the Hitler gangsters would like to fight to the last German."

~~This last opinion is emphasized by word from London, which states the following: "Allied military leaders have reason to believe that the fall of Berlin will not necessarily bring about the end of the war - nor the disintegration of the German military machine."~~

~~that the large~~ ^Q ~~This~~ London story ^{states} ~~adds~~ that for many months the military strategy of the Allies has been based on the knowledge that the Nazis plan to retire to the mountains of South Germany, ~~-- if necessary.~~ And the capture of Berlin might mean a methodical withdrawal of an Army, more or less intact, for a final battle amid the rugged and difficult high lands of Bavaria.

BULGARIA

Three former regents of Bulgaria have been executed - the ministers who acted in the name of the boy king, and collaborated with Nazi Germany. Earlier news today told of sentences imposed by what is called - the Bulgarian peoples court, sentences against a whole string of prominent political figures connected with Bulgaria's part in Germany's war. Against these a number of death penalties were pronounced; and later news, via Turkey, declares that the three regents have been executed. One - Prince Cyril, brother of the late King Boris.

~~Thus the new Bulgarian government, which rules under Soviet domination, takes vengeance on the members of the previous government - which was in partnership with Nazi Germany.~~

ADD BULGARIA

The latest is a report that one hundred former Bulgarian officials were shot in Sofia by firing squads last night. Twenty-two were former cabinet ministers, and sixty-six former members of the Bulgarian parliament.

In Greece on the other hand two members of the left wing ELAS have just been sentenced to death -- on charges of having murdered hostages.

ALLIED POLICY

London is beginning to ask - what about the committee of German officers in Russia? Do the Soviets intend to use the group of captured Generals in the future government of conquered Germany?

That influential British weekly, The Economist, states that the Red Army is employing German regiments in battle - ~~that is, regiments~~ made up of German Prisoners of War. ~~These, says the economist, are acting as pioneer units in the Soviet invasion of Nazi land.~~ And this is taken as a hint of Russian policy - a possible policy of using prisoners of war, who have become anti-Nazi, in the administration of German territories. ~~What do the British and Americans think about that?~~

The London Economist refers to reported plans whereby the British, Americans and Russians will take over the control of various areas of Germany. Will they recognize the German officer group sponsored by the Soviets? Or will they set up their own kind of administration in the sectors of Germany

assigned to them?

The London View is that the Big Three had better make a prompt agreement concerning their respective policies for conquered Germany. And that, indeed, is undoubtedly one of the major problems of the new Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin conference.

REVENGE

In an American outfit on the Western Front there is a soldier who goes about on a quest of hate. Whenever his duties permit, he hunts around among prisoners of war, looking tensely, relentlessly for an officer of Nazi Storm Troops - seeking one man and one only. The American soldier is Private Donald Smith, a former truck driver of Dayton, Ohio, and to explain his fanatical manhunt, he tells a weird story.

He relates how, shortly after D-Day, he led an American Patrol into a village near Cherbourg. As he stalked through a street, he saw a woman in a second story window, waving at him - waving with a cognac bottle. He thinks she must have been a decoy, because as he stood looking at her, a shot rang out, and he fell - wounded by a Nazi sniper. A minute later, Hermans came swarming out, and captured him.

"They turned me over to the Gestapo," says Private Donald Smith. "The Nazis wanted information,

but I wouldn't talk. They struck me with a blackjack across the face and took me to a little shack where they beat me, but I still wouldn't talk. Then," he adds, "They put a beautiful woman in a room with me, and left us alone."

The soldier tells of the wiles and seductions the beautiful woman used, trying to get information from him. "I kicked and slapped her away," he relates, "And then her screams brought storm troop guards. They stripped me to the waist, and a Storm Troop Officer beat me across the back with a cat o'nine tails, The scars," he added, "Still bleed today."

Finally, they took him to a hospital, and from there he escaped by ^{getting hold of a gun and} shooting the German guards.

Eventually he made his way to the American Forces - his mind haunted by the nightmare of the beautiful woman and of the whipping with the cat o'nine tails the Storm Troop Officer gave him - the scars of which

never quite healed. He vowed he'd find the Nazi Officer, and have revenge.

That was eight months ago, and he has been hunting ever since, prowling among prisoners of war, looking and searching. Time and again he has got what seemed a lead - somebody telling him of a Storm Troop Officer among the prisoners at some place or another. Every clue thus far has failed, but Private Donald Smith of Dayton, Ohio, is still on his lone manhunt.

Today United Press Correspondent John McDermott described a scene at an American Headquarters on the Western Front. In a room, where German prisoners of war were questioned, an officer of the Nazi Storm Troopers was being interrogated, and in stalked Private Donald Smith. He walked to the Nazi Officer and peered in his face. Then the American soldier shook his head slowly and gloomily - this was not the man.

"What will you do, if you find him?"

asked the newspaperman.

"What will I do?" The hatred in the soldier's face answered the question. "Some day I will find him," He muttered. "Forget him? Never. I'll see his face to my dying day."

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And now a final word from Hugh.

BASKETBALL

The Brooklyn basketball players who took money to throw a game have been expelled from college. They had previously been tossed off the team -- naturally, after which the question was -- would they be punished further? The answer is -- yes. The five players who conspired with gamblers have been expelled for what the President of Brooklyn college calls "conduct unbecoming a student in the college".



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from Hugh.

PHILIPPINES

The story from the Philippines is one of swift dashes by American units. Today's late bulletin from MacArthur reports a thirty-two mile advance along a highway to capture the road-junction-town of Gapan. That's forty six miles ^{from} of Manila, but American troops are much closer to the Philippine Capital than that.

~~Other strong~~ motorized patrols went twenty-five miles by road to a place called Sabang, ~~and that's~~ within twenty-three miles of Manila. Obviously, ~~the Japs are not offering any real resistance to American moves in the vicinity of the Philippine islands.~~

As a result of the speedy ~~re~~ drives, the American forces have attained what tonight's late bulletin calls - "dominance of all the major roads and railroads in the central plan around Manila"

And the MacArthur bulletin adds the following significant summary: "With the loss of all

main lines of communication, the enemy's forces in the north and south of Luzon are now totally severed".

It is estimated that, when the civilian production of automobiles begins again, there will be an immediate demand for between twelve and fifteen million passenger cars. And it will take three years of record-breaking production to meet that demand.

In the last year before the war, sixteen forty-one, the automobile industry turned out three million and seven hundred and forty-four thousand cars. That production figure will be increased in the post-war period. But, even with the production of cars, it will take at least three years to fill the immediate demand.

We have not yet set a million cars per year

AUTOMOBILES

Some more figures on economic prospects after the war - the question of whether business and employment will boom:-So far as the automobile industry is concerned, almost anybody will say - booming business. And that is borne out by figures that emanate from the Office of War Information.

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We have had no new civilian cars now for

more than three years, and the automobiles of the nation are becoming old and decrepit. The O.W.I. gives us a figure for that, saying that cars are now going off the road at the rate of four thousand a day. The total still running is twenty-five million, which is four million less than the cars in use in nineteen forty-one.

When will we begin to get new cars?

The O.W.I. answers by saying that civilian production will not be resumed in nine teen forty-five. The way the war is going makes it certain we will get no new automobiles this year. All of which only magnifies the prospect of the demand for cars when production is resumed.

And the cars we must give our cars this year. Hugh James, speaking for my Sun Oil sponsor, nearly every night tells us how to do that. Let's see, this is Fri., maybe Hugh is going to urge us to go to church on Sunday. Or maybe he has some more sound advice about our autos

How about it Hugh?

CASUALTIES

New casualty figures were made public today - more than seven-hundred-and-thirty-seven thousand, nearly three-quarters of a million. This represents an increase of ^{more} ~~one~~ than thirty-five thousand since January twenty-fifth - a week ago: —

~~The new figure includes, apparently, most of the casualties incurred in the violent battles of the German breakthrough, the Army reporting its losses up to date at the end of December. That would include the bad days when the German offensive was rolling on.~~

~~The total for the war, more than seven hundred and thirty-seven thousand, represents a-hundred-and-fifty-four thousand killed, four-hundred-and-nineteen-thousand wounded, a hundred-and-one-thousand missing, and sixty-two thousand prisoners of war.~~

~~Other figures made public today disclose the distribution of the eight million men in the Army, five million at war fronts overseas, while~~

BURMA

Taken from late 2/15 bc.

Change

The Chinese units of ^{the} First Army are continuing their march down the Burma Road. Their latest operation was to occupy a town ~~only~~ thirty-nine ~~or~~ miles ~~away~~ from the southern terminus, ~~of the road~~ at Lashio. ~~They met with little or no opposition.~~ The Chinese First is cooperating with the British Thirty-Sixth Division, ^{Also, in,} ~~and now advancing down the valley of the Shweli River and clearing out enemy pockets~~ In ^{central} Burma, the Nineteenth ~~Indian~~ Division is ^{now} ~~coming closer~~ ^{near} to Mandalay.

Once again there appears to be no hope that the Chiang Kai-shek government of China and the Communists will get together. Our ambassador, Pat Hurley, did his best, and both sides thanked him for his efforts; but, *it's no go,* ~~there is discussion between both sides.~~ The chief of the Communist delegation accused the Minister of Information at Chungking with having released unfair statements, and misleading the rest of ~~the~~ world.

Major General Wedemeyer, ~~United States~~ *our Air and*

Army Commander in China, ^{is} said he still hopes ~~with all his~~ ~~heart that the Chinese~~ ^{they} can get together. ~~At the same time,~~ He admitted ^{that} that under ^{the} present ^{setup he himself} ~~arrangements~~ he is unable to cooperate with the Chinese Communists. All ~~United States~~ *our people* ~~officers~~ in China are required to sign an agreement that they will not assist any individuals or organizations except those affiliated with the Chungking government.

ITALY

In Italy, the Allied forces on the Fifth Army front have been forced to retreat. Headquarters at Rome reports what it calls "increased enemy pressure^π on the western sector." In other words, the Germans have been attacking there, and have been ^{a bit} too much for the Fifth Army.

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The rumor in London is that the Churchill government will shortly withdraw its recognition of the Polish government in London, that will be the end of it, because that government and all the armed forces are financed through the British.

POLES

The ~~Polish~~ ^{is} government in exile ~~feels quite~~ ^{are} bitter about the Yalta Conference. The Polish Premier, ^{in London} today said that he and his government will never accept the decision of the Big Three, never accede to what he calls a new partition of Poland. And he used these words: "We don't believe Stalin's words about democracy", and he added that if the American and British peoples believe Stalin, they will soon be disillusioned.

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URUGUAY

The Republic of Uruguay is now at war with the Axis. The government at Uruguay made the declaration today. It ~~is not quite~~ ^{is not} final until the Uruguayan Congress approves, but the government has all the majority it needs to bring that about.

This means that every country in the Western Hemisphere has joined the United Nations, except Argentina.

For the first time in history, an American Admiral today sat in the Senate of the United States, as a member. Admiral Thomas C. Hart, former Commander-in-Chief of the Asiatic Fleet, took the oath of office as Junior Senator from Connecticut, succeeding the late Senator Francis Maloney.