

~~today~~

On the Western Front, the headline ~~today~~ was -- fortresses falling to the Americans. One after another the great strongholds guarding Metz were taken today -- after the fall yesterday of Fort Laisne. Today, others were captured in steady succession. The latest -- Fort L'Yser, with its powerful system of defenses ~~Fort L'Yser~~ was given up by the Germans without a fight -- as were others of the strong points guarding Metz. Retreating enemy forces established themselves on lines within the fortress ring -- perhaps for a last defense, or maybe for mere delaying action. This latter supposition would seem to be the more probable -- after ~~the~~ the yielding of the forts without a battle. In any case, Metz appears about to fall. Patton's third army scored advances up to four miles today, and at last reports, forward American units were within three and a half miles of the city proper.

Metz, the city which had not been taken by storm since Attila and the Huns seized it more than fifteen hundred years ago. In the Franco-Prussian war, Metz was

SUBSTITUTE LAST PARAGRAPH OF WESTERN FRONT

The new offensive that the British launched in eastern Holland today is eloquently time^{d by}~~d with~~ the name given to it: - "the twilight drive." In other words, the British Second Army launched its assault at dusk today - an assault preceded by a four hundred gun bombardment. Massed batteries of Montgomery's cannon shattered the German line, after which British Second Army troops lunged forward into the light of the setting sun. Their purpose is to batter their way into the nearby Ruhr, Germany's Number One industrial area - and at last reports they had gained seven miles, and were within seven miles of the German frontier.

Twilight is supposed to be the placid hour, lyrical and poetic - a song of twilight, but today the guns thundered a deafening song of war at twilight.

RUSSIA

Russian troops are closing in on Budapest.

Moscow announces that the East bank of the Danube has been completely cleared of Nazi forces, and ^{today} in the Budapest area, Soviet troops pressed forward ~~xxx~~ for seven miles in a move to encircle the Hungarian capital. Berlin tells of violent street fighting in the suburbs of Budapest.

TIRPITZ

Sunday was a great day for British naval forces. They not only sank the Nazi battleship Tirpitz in the morning, as was disclosed yesterday, but that same night they smashed a German convoy off the southwest coast of Norway. The convoy was running along when it was spotted by British Warships. The German vessels ran close to shore, seeking protection of German guns on the coast. But the British warships ran right through the fire of the shore guns, and blasted the convoy with repeated salvos, ^{sinking} and sank ten of eleven ships.

~~The~~ The Germans admit that they lost what they call "a number of vessels" in ^{the} a convoy battle. And they also concede that earlier in the day, the mighty von Tirpitz was blasted by air bombs. They don't say "sunk", today's German version being that the Tirpitz was -- "put out of action."

From the British side ~~We~~ we have dramatic details of the bombing of the giant warship. British airmen did it knowing it was their last chance. For the Tirpitz

was lying in a Norwegian fjord above the Arctic Circle, and the Arctic night was closing down, the twenty-four ~~hours~~ ^{a day} darkness ~~a day~~ ^{and dimness} that lasts through the winter. They had a mere short interval of ^{day} light left this year, and they made the best of using it.

Twice previously during the summer they had made passes at the Tirpitz. ^{Flying} ~~They flew~~ from a base in northern Russia, ^{they had} ~~and~~ failed both times. Once the Tirpitz discharged a great smoke screen that ~~it~~ hid the ship from the bombers. Another time British airmen apparently had things right, when a big cloud blew over and hid the battleship from them.

This time, however, their luck was good, and in the last remains of Arctic light this year, they spotted the Tirpitz in the fjord, a clear mark for deadly bombing.

British fliers ridicule stories told previously that the great Nazi battleship had been heavily damaged and put out of action. They say the Tirpitz was in first-class fighting shape, and explained why the

Germans failed to put out a smoke screen for concealment. A violent wind was blowing through the fjord, and smoke would have been useless -- blowing away. ^R They smashed the monster with "earthquake bombs" -- ~~scoring four direct hits and a number of near misses. ~~xx~~ One deadly hit amid~~ amidships caused what seemed to be ~~an explosion of the magazines.~~ "A great ~~xxx~~ black plume of smoke shot ~~three hundred feet~~ into the air," relates one of the RAF pilots, "and there was a blinding flash of white fire."

The Tirpitz was so shrouded by the smoke of explosions that they couldn't get a good look at the stricken ^{monster} ~~monster~~ as they flew away. But one RAF pilot turned back -- determined to have a look. He ^{had} returned to the fjord, when his rear gunner yelled: "Quick, Skipper! She's going!"

And then the pilot saw the giant warship had rolled over, looking like some ~~great~~ prehistoric monster as she lay with her red-painted belly glistening in the Arctic sunlight.

HITLER

New rumors about what's happened to Hitler -- the latest story ^{being} that he ^{has} been operated on for a dangerous tumor of the throat. This account is attributed to a high German personality who arrived in Switzerland today. ~~Who~~ states that Hitler has had throat trouble all along, and now has had to go under the knife. A lot of people would ~~be~~ have no difficulty in prescribing what kind of ~~throat~~ operation to perform ^{the throat,} on Hitler ^{with a knife}.

Another story is that Der Fuhrer is paralyzed. Moscow quotes Swedish sources as saying that Hitler had a stroke which ~~has~~ paralyzed the right side of his body ~~for~~ and all but deprived him of the power of speech -- power of speech having always been one of the principal things about Der Fuhrer.

(These rumors all weave around the fact that the Nazi Dictator has disappeared from public view ~~in~~ Germany for some time, and that on the recent big Nazi anniversary somebody else read the speech attributed to him.)

GERMAN PANIC

As if enemy Germany were not having enough trouble, that Nazi-ruled country has now been having a financial panic, a run on banks. This is reported from Sweden, which describes the money crisis as follows: "A panic within German financial circles greater than the panic following the bank crash of Nineteen Thirty-one." We can remember with a shudder the way the bottom dropped out during the depression, and now the Germans are having ^{the same thing} a financial panic ~~in addition to a lost war.~~ ^{all over again} Hitler surely has given them a lot -- old Nick could hardly have done worse.

The money crisis, we are told, resulted from the arrest of the heads of two of the most important German banks. They were grabbed by the Gestapo, and the reason ^{given} is that they refused to cash short-term notes issued by the Hitler Government -- "thus expressing doubt in a German victory," say the Nazis. Well may they express the doubt -- ~~but another version explains~~

that the two big financiers refused to throw the funds of their banks to the support of the Nazi "Labor Front Bank." This Heil-Hitler financial institution is reported to be in a bad way, ^{ready} ~~reported~~ to crash. Anyway, when the arrest of the managing directors of two of Germany's greatest banks became known, the panic was on. ~~The~~ Stockholm newspaper reports: "People stormed banks to withdraw their deposits, and big industries attempted to withdraw their accounts." ~~In other words,~~ ~~a run on the banks, in addition to disasters on the war front.~~

IRELAND

Ireland refuses to promise not to give refuge to war criminals. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Other neutral countries have, but Dublin says "No" to a British inquiry. This was disclosed in the London House of Commons today. The DeValera Government says that it can give no assurance that ~~it~~ would prevent it from exercising the right of asylum -- ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ "should justice, charity or the honor or interests of the nation so require" as the Irish phrase it.

Actually the Dublin reply is not so drastic as it might sound, because ^{as} the Irish point out, since the beginning of the war they have refused to admit into their country, any alien whose presence would not be in accord with Irish neutrality or would be an injury to friendly states. (~~When such aliens land, they are~~

~~deported as soon as possible. That has been the Irish practice heretofore.~~ ⁰ ~~the DeValera Government maintains~~ *H - will you take over while I take a look at the same stand with respect to war criminals.* *the dispatches from the Philippines*

SUBSTITUTE PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines the word is - envelopment, two MacArthur columns swinging around in an encircling move that threatens to split the Japanese army in ~~two~~ ^{two} - the powerful enemy force ~~of~~ Leyte Island, thirty-five thousand of which are reinforcements ~~that~~ the Japs succeeded in landing. The ^{are} ~~big enemy force is~~ holding what the Japs call the Yamashita Line, named after the arrogant commander who led the conquest of Singapore, Batan and Corregidor early in the war.

The key to the Yamashita Line is a valley leading to the port of Ormoc, the last base the Japs hold.

And the American strategy apparently to is rip flanking moves into the valley, and outflank the

^{Tap}
~~Yamashita~~ Line.

Today's news tells of the American First Cavalry Division crashing through mountains to within eleven miles of Ormoc, the foremost of the cavalry

units reaching a peak named Mt. Laao, which dominates one road into Ormoc Valley. And through other mountains the Sixty-Ninth Infantry Division is cutting its way and is now only fifteen miles from a junction with the cavalry at Mt. Laao, threatening to complete the encirclement.

All of which looks bad for the ⁺Yamashita Line - although the Japs, having been heavily reinforced, are in formidable strength.

Tokyo has
~~The Japs have~~ been reporting heavy American air blows hurled at the Manila area, - a four hundred plane strike yesterday and another one of similar magnitude today. Hitherto there has been no confirmation from our side - until tonight. A late Navy bulletin gives confirmation, and more. It states that planes from American carriers have struck devastating blows at Japanese shipping in Manila Bay. Two enemy

destroyers were sunk and a light cruiser damaged.

Eleven cargo vessels and oil tankers were either sunk or left blazing on the water of Manila Bay. Airfields and harbor structures were likewise hit hard. A big floating dock was blasted by projectiles from torpedo planes. ^{And} Twenty-eight Jap planes were shot down in air battles.

BYRNES

The White House announces that War Mobilization ^{director} Byrnes will stay on the job until the end of the war with Nazi Germany. Often called "The Assistant President," Byrnes will continue in his influential post. This represents a change of plan -- because the War Mobilization Director had announced that he would resign his post as soon as Congress returned from its election vacation. Byrnes had intended to step out this week.

The President, however, didn't want him to go, and now Jimmy Byrnes has reconsidered. He has agreed to stay on as Mobilization Director until the Nazis have been eliminated from the war.

INAUGURATION

The Fourth Term inauguration will not be staged in the traditional fashion ^{on} ~~from~~ the steps of the capitol. ^{TP} Instead, President Roosevelt will be inaugurated in the White House. ^{TP} This was announced today with the explanation that the construction of the usual stands at the capitol would use up critical war material, and that crowds of visitors attending the public ceremony would be contrary to the principle of minimizing travel during war time. So, instead of a big public show at the Capital there will be a smaller and more private affair in the White House.

DEWEY

The newest mystery is, what did Governor Dewey write to President Roosevelt? Today at the White House the President admitted that he had received a post-election day communication, a letter of congratulations, from his rival for the presidency. He wouldn't tell what Dewey wrote. ^{TT} Later on, at Sea Island, Georgia, where the New York Governor is vacationing - Dewey said, Yes, he had written a letter of congratulations to the President. What had he said? The Dewey answer was - no comment.

TRUNK

The great boy-and-trunk prodigy at Long Beach, California, was exploded today, when David Bourbonnais, nine years old, admitted the truth. He's the lad who was found in the trunk of a trailer, and told a story of how he had been locked for a week in a small constricted space. He said he had been able to survive because air came through the cracks and some rain trickled in, which kept him from dying of thirst. ~~The~~ kindly neighbors showered him with cakes, ice cream cones and soda water, but the unsympathetic police noted that the trailer trunk was air-tight and water-tight, with no ^{air} ~~way~~ to breath or water to drink.

It was altogether too miraculous, and late word from Long Beach is that David has admitted - that he ran away, roamed around for days, then sneaked home and crawled into the trunk - where he remained until his cries attracted attention.

So the extraordinary ordeal ~~of~~ the
nine-year-old was just a whopper told by a runaway
kid.

eighty-eight cents a pack. The cigarettes have been
left unaltered by parcel post, and the purchaser is the
Famous Guggenbloom Drug Company, a large retailer of
cigarettes. Buying at eighty-eight cents a pack, for how
much will the drug people sell? How much profit
will they take? They are going to retail the cigarettes
at the standard price of eighteen cents a pack. They
explain that they are taking a loss so as to keep
the market off the black market.

That's not the extent to which the cigarette
shortage has gone. The United Press survey shows
that all over the country people are paying exorbitant
black market prices. And in Chicago OPA officials are
investigating the fact that there has been a leak of
thirty percent in the flow of cigarettes from
manufacturers to retail stores, that thirty percent
going presumably into the black market.

CIGARETTES

At Chicago today they auctioned off cigarettes, the regular price of which was eighteen cents a pack. The price brought by one ^{large} lot in the ~~xxx~~ auction was eighty-eight cents a pack. The cigarettes had ^d been left unclaimed ^{at} ~~by~~ parcel post, and the purchaser ~~was~~ ^a ~~for the Walgreen~~ Drug Company, a large retailer of smokes. Buying at eighty-eight cents a pack, for how much will the drug people sell? How much profit will they make? They ~~are~~ going to retail the cigarettes at the standard price of eighteen cents a pack. They explain that they are taking a loss so as to keep the smokes off the black market.

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~~In cities across the country people~~ are lining up in front of stores. Some with their pockets loaded with dimes are standing watch over empty vending machines, ready to go to work as soon as the ~~are~~ are filled. And there's widespread hoarding.

In many places workers are taking time off from war plants, in their hunt for cigarettes. And this is disrupting war production. (In Memphis, armament plants are so handicapped by cigarette-absenteeism that they've appealed to dealers to sell their limited supplies only before and after working hours.)

In Los Angeles, war plants report an impairment of morale among armament workers, because they can't get cigarettes.

In Chicago the retail druggists are asking the OPA to ration cigarettes. OPA officials indicate that this will not be done -- no rationing. Because it would be too difficult to administer.

ADD CIGARETTES

The latest in the cigarette crisis is an order by the O.P.A. - an order for a crack-down on the black market. This is to begin in Detroit and Minneapolis. *An* O.P.A. ~~will~~ fight all over the country against illicit sellers of cigarettes at exorbitant prices. People are urged to refuse to pay more than ^{the} ceiling ~~prices~~ - and don't hoard. The O.P.A. says that, because of the shortage scare, people are trying to stock up, and it adds - "even some who don't smoke are buying for their smoker friends."

ADD CIGARETTES

RETAKE

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OIL WELL

At Taft, California, they've dug just about the deepest ~~well~~ hole in the world, and they are digging it deeper. It's an oil well being bored by ~~the~~ Standard ~~Oil~~ Company of California, and right now they've driven down three miles, fifteen thousand, two hundred and nineteen feet -- which ^{breaks} ~~brings~~ the oil well record, breaks it by one hundred feet.

It is tough going away down there, as three miles of shaft ^{turn} ~~goes~~ round and round and gouges out the rock at the distant bottom. ^{It} The rock down there is soft -- not so bad. But when the grinding bit gouges into ~~hard~~ hard rock at a three-mile level, there's a toiling ^{and} ^{ing} strain of machinery and metal.

Have they struck oil? Not yet. ^{Will they} ~~Will they~~ strike oil? That's what they'd like to know. The biggest kind of gamble? It sure is! But oil is needed for the war, and ~~Standard~~ Standard of California is taking the ^{gamble,} ~~gamble,~~ in the nation's bid for victory.

BOYS

Today the news takes another smack at one of the most familiar of superstitions -- the ~~notion~~^{notion} that in war time an unusually large proportion of boys are born. The legend is that because war kills men, nature makes up for this by causing more boys to be born in war time.

In Washington the census bureau today gave figures for last year. And what do we find with the war in full ~~spring~~^{sw}? Yes, more boys were born than girls -- but that's the case in any year, war time or not. In the war year of Nineteen Forty-three there were One thousand, fifty-five boys born for every thousand girls. But, that's less than in ordinary peacetime. ~~years~~. Take Nineteen Twenty-five, when the ~~ratio~~ was one thousand, sixty boys for every ^{thousand} girls.

Figures are always disproving the old superstition, and they do once again this wartime year -

but maybe it won't make much difference, for
1/2 superstitions have more lives than cats, and are
talked about twice as much.

And having talked about
them that much ~~I'll say a-b-o-u-t-i-t.~~
it's your turn to talk again H.

BROOKLYN BOYS

Brooklyn is up in arms about a book. Today Congressman Samuel Dickstein announced that he will take measures to prevent the author of the book from coming to this country again -- Author Noel Coward.

^{TP} Dickstein is irked because Coward implied, in the Congressman's words -- "that the boys in Brooklyn are not as good as the boys in other parts of the country."

The ^{volume} Part in the Noel Coward ~~book~~ that arouses ~~the~~ ^{Flatbush} ~~Brooklyn~~ indignation is one that tells about military hospitals. The author speaks of what he calls -- "mournful little Brooklyn boys living ^{there} ~~there~~ in tears with nothing more than a bullet wound in the leg or a fractured arm."

Brooklyn claims that its boys do not sob and cry, and Author Noel Coward won't get into this country again ^{iforate} ~~HA~~ Congressman Dickstein can help it.