

L.I. - Standard. Wednesday, Aug. 30, 1944.  
Sunoco.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

That place in the southwest Pacific called Halmahera is taking a ferocious pounding. Once again tonight General MacArthur's Headquarters reports a violent blasting of the island. One hundred and thirteen tons of bombs, hitting the Japs there. And, as we know, Halmahera is on the road to the Philippines, a stepping stone, which apparently will soon be used for a long American step to the Philippine Islands.

## RUSSIA

Tonight in Moscow two hundred and twenty four cannon fired twenty salvos - a thundering salute to celebrate Stalin's latest announcement. In an order of the day the Soviet War Leader reported the capture of the Rumanian city of Ploesti, the oil city.

<sup>TP</sup> Which means that  
~~That's the oil city, and the news means that~~

the Russians have taken those famous Rumanian oil fields. This had been expected for days, and it marks one of the toughest blows the Nazis have sustained -- the loss of the Rumanian oil supply.

The Ploesti field provided Germany with the greatest part of its natural petroleum, and now they'll have to depend mostly on a synthetic variety. The figures show that, with the loss of the Rumanian fields, the Germans are deprived of one-third of their petroleum supply both natural and synthetic. And you know what oil means in this modern war.

There is still another Russian success tonight, but we hear of it from German sources. A Nazi news agency announces a Red Army break-through

northeast of Warsaw, and the Germans call it -- a major breakthrough.

The blow was launched by four Russian Divisions, <sup>now</sup> ~~and these are~~ on their way, driving forward northeast of Warsaw - say the Germans.

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~~In the part about north France add this final statement: Here is the latest from headquarters. An official announcement as follows: "Allied Troops are now advancing into the robot area of France.~~

## FRANCE

The spotlight in France tonight is on the American First Army, commanded by <sup>Lieutenant</sup> General Courtney Hodges. The First Army makes a surprise entrance, coming as if out of nowhere, and appearing at a spectacular place - way out in front, capturing the city of Laon, only thirty-four miles from the border of Belgium. The First Army did this after a swift and secret move of seventy miles from Paris.

In the magnificent offensive that burst out of western Normandy ~~it~~ and made the great sweep, the spotlight was on the Third Army, Patton's outfit. All the glory of war was focused on Patton's armor, ~~as the tanks lashed forward with~~ <sup>and</sup> those dazzling drives, but the First Army was there all the time, though in the background.

General Hodge's force had delayed its part in the ~~xxxxxx~~ D-Day invasion and in the stern and stubborn battles that followed - 'cracking the German line. Then it rested, while Patton's armor surged through. It was a game of leap-frog. Patton's <sup>tanks</sup> ~~guns~~ jumping ahead,

and going on, the leap-frogging is now resumed, with the First Army, fresh and rested, jumping past Patton's Third and taking the lead today, hurrying seventy miles from Paris to spearhead the drive - and seizing the city of Laon.

Patton's Third, meanwhile, struck a <sup>blow</sup> ~~blow~~ of its own, and captured the cathedral city of Reims today. To all of which we can add still another famous city - Rouen, the ancient capital of Normandy. The Germans announce that they have evacuated Rouen in their hurried retreat eastward.

They had better retreat fast, or another net will be flung around them. That ~~is~~ fresh and rested ~~Third~~ Army, driving toward Belgium, threatens to cut off the enemy forces along the rocket coast, and pin them against the Channel for a major disaster. ~~However,~~ ~~the Germans appear to be moving fast, offering little~~ ~~resistance to the fast Allied columns. And they are~~ ~~likely to get out - by evacuating that rocket coast.~~

~~In South <sup>East</sup> France, American forces have driven~~

Here is the latest from Headquarters.

An official announcement as follows: "Allied Troops are now advancing into the robot area of France."

*In Southern France American forces*

*driven*  
 twenty-seven miles up the valley of the Rhone, and are chasing the disorganized remnants of the German Nineteenth Army - which was barely able to escape a trap farther to the South. Large forces of Germans were caught in a net along the Rhone, and have been rounded up. The prisoners include another high commander - ~~Major~~ General Otto Richter, captured with the hosts of captives taken in the trap ~~xxx~~ on the Rhone.

However, fragments of Hitler's Nineteenth Army managed to get out, ~~though they had to abandon most~~ *and* ~~of their heavy equipment.~~ They are now being pursued, with American flying columns ~~pushing~~ *trying* ~~out ahead in an effort~~ to cut them off.

All of which is taking the American forces ~~rapidly~~ *in the center of the Rhone Valley,* in the direction of Lyon, the number ~~three~~ French city - fifty-nine miles away.

Over to the East, in the Alps, the Germans are bringing in reinforcements from Italy. This was indicated today, when an ~~an~~ enemy push expelled American troops from a town they captured several days ago. It

## COMMAND

Once again we have reports of changes in the Allied High Command in France. This time it is stated that General Eisenhower will soon be put in charge of the invading army in southern France as well as the forces that he has been directing in the north.

And once again, we hear that American General Omar Bradley will be raised to a status equal <sup>to</sup> ~~of~~ that of British General Montgomery. Right now, Montgomery is the Commander of all the Allied Ground Forces, Americans as well as British. It had been rumored that ~~previously that~~ the Montgomery command would be limited to the British and Canadians, and that Bradley would be put in charge of all the American Ground Forces. These predictions were resented in England at the time, the British giving Montgomery the credit for the amazing success of the Allied offensive.

Now, however, it is pointed out, that the Allied armies in France are mostly American, and that the proportion of Americans will increase -- so it is only logical that an American should command all those



American soldiers. Hence the new report tonight that Montgomery will be limited to the direction of the British and Canadians.

— o —  
Hugh, tell us your message  
from Stan. of Calif. — and  
then back to the news.  
— o —

Here is ~~a~~ late <sup>word about</sup> ~~bulletin which tells us~~ how many prisoners the American Armies in France have captured since D-Day -- a hundred and eighty thousand. That many Germans have been rounded up since the first landings on the beaches of Normandy. Quite a figure -- a hundred and eighty thousand; imagine all those prisoners lined up. They would stretch from here to Chicago or maybe San Francisco.

And with this news we have an estimate from London, an estimate of how much the German Army has shrunk in five years of war. Back in the fall of Nineteen Forty, when Hitler turned loose the tempest of horror by ~~invading~~ invading Poland, Germany had an Army of eight million men, eight million first class troops. Since then, says our London authority, Germany has lost more than six million - killed, captured and disabled. So that now - the Nazis have something like two million for the defense <sup>of</sup> what is left of the vast empire that Hitler conquered. And the London belief is that the two million men available are not enough to

protect the frontiers of Germany itself against the masses of men and armor that the Allies can hurl to the assault.

GERMAN COMMANDER

There's a rumor of the death of the German  
Commander-in-Chief ~~of~~ <sup>in</sup> France, Field Marshal General  
Von Kluge. The report comes from a neutral source and  
gives a Nazi version -- that Von Kluge succumbed to a  
heart attack while at Hitler's Headquarters. Another  
account states that he was a suicide after the German  
defeats in France. There is still another surmise -  
made by American Air Force Officers. They think he  
was killed by American Fighter-Bombers, ~~there a few~~ <sup>when they</sup>  
~~days~~ delivered a blasting assault against German  
Headquarters in France -- ~~and~~ <sup>with</sup> Von Kluge ~~may well have~~  
~~been~~ one of the victims.

## GERMANY

In Washington, the Secretary of State thinks Germany is trying to put out feelers for peace. This opinion is based on the Berlin comment that we had yesterday - the radio statement of Lieutenant General Kurt Dittmar, who gave the Germans a gloomy and pessimistic picture of the war. He intimated that Naziland was continuing the fight only to gain moderate peace terms.

Today Secretary Hull was asked about this, and replied that the Dittmar statement indicated a desire by the German High Command to talk terms of peace. The Secretary added, however, <sup>that</sup> the only terms the Allies will consider <sup>still</sup> are, ~~still~~ - unconditional surrender.

~~Along with this we have an article by William Philip Simms, Foreign Editor of the Scripps Howard newspapers, who today writes that in London some highly placed figures believe that the unconditional surrender policy is a mistake. They think, says he, that if the Germans were offered some kind of bait, some inducement~~

get better treatment if they surrendered now. This sort of thing in a big time Nazi newspaper, is a telling indication that the Germans, knowing they are defeated, are wondering whether or not they could gain some advantage by giving up right away.

However, ~~Here~~ is something else ~~and it is~~ in wild contrast with <sup>recent</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>German</sup> gloomy admissions of defeat. It's <sup>a</sup> ~~another~~ statement in a German newspaper, a dispatch from a correspondent at the front, <sup>with</sup> ~~and it goes into a~~ frenzy of ~~hops~~ and hurrah. ~~This Nazi version makes~~ the following astonishing statement: "A German victory is not only certain, but near." And the Nazi war correspondent goes on to predict what he calls - "A miraculous victory." This - within six months. Well, how would even the wildest Nazi figure that? The answer is in that same old phrase - secret weapon.

The German newspaper correspondent at the front does not offer any information about the nature of the secret weapon that will work the miracle. He merely goes into crazy raptures, and gives the following

one-man's account of the great Allied victories in France. "Only Churchill," he writes, "knew that Hitler had a secret weapon in readiness, and that is why the Allies attacked so violently on all fronts. These attacks, however, are not a sign of Allied strength, but of utter distress and panicky fear." <sup>So</sup> writes the Nazi correspondent - in one of the most curious frenzies that the war has brought forth.

However, the British are not taking the secret weapon theme with levity and scoffing, not after their experience with the rocket bombs. They expect new troubles from the super robot plane, the V-Two - of which the Nazis have been boasting. And, moreover, they anticipate something else, a thing that may be the basis of that loony victory prediction made in Germany today. The secret weapon referred to may be - poison gas, some new horror of poison gas attack.

Today the London Daily Mail stated that the Nazis <sup>definitely</sup> were preparing to strike with that final atrocity. <sup>^</sup> Chemical factories in Bohemia and northern Italy are

busy at work on secret orders - says the London newspaper. The secret job they are supposed to be doing is the manufacture of materials for a poison gas assault. Still other factories, says the Daily Mail, are working day and night making gas masks, gas masks for everybody, soldiers and civilians - this in anticipation of the retaliation the Allies will make, blow for blow, poison gas for poison gas.

The London newspaper adds that reports are circulating freely in Germany and in neutral countries that the Nazis intend to launch a warfare of lethal vapors as a last resort.

Hoping to force the Allies to grant a lenient peace. Offer terms, rather than ~~to~~ face the ultimate atrocity of war.



ADD GERMANY

Here's a late one -- a London prediction that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill will soon have a conference and discuss Armistice terms to be given to Germany.

## ROBOTS FOLLOW GERMANY

All of this gives an added pertinence to the news of a new rocket bomb assault against London today - waves of robots buzzing across the Channel. There had been a lull of seventy-two hours, during which time not a rocket hit England. And optimists over there were beginning to hope that the inhuman terror campaign might be over; but that hope was dispelled today. New streams of robots did damage and snuffed out lives. London <sup>thinks</sup> ~~this is~~ <sup>it a</sup> ~~part~~ of a last gasp offensive - the Nazis doing their worst before they lose the rocket coast.

## WAR CRIMINALS

It was stated in London today that the American and British have already drawn up long lists of Nazi war criminals. And these will have to be handed over before any kind of Armistice is made. The list has been compiled by the United Nations War Crime Commission - on which Russia is not represented. Stalin is going on his own as far as war criminals are concerned.

Today in London, the Chairman of the Commission was asked whether Hitler's name was at the head of the list. To which he replied dryly: "The list is alphabetical."

Next the Chairman was asked whether the list included Italian Marshal Badoglio, who once commanded the armies of Fascist Italy. That made the Chairman stare with such an expression of alarm, that the newsmen had a laugh -- Badoglio having come over to our side, together with the Italian King and the legal government of Italy.

## BLUEBEARD

Months ago the news told of a ferocious Bluebeard in Paris, a doctor who had killed many victims by means of medical injections. At the time there was some surmise that this fantastic Parisian criminal might well be a Nazi invention.

Now, however, Paris has been liberated, and a United Press correspondent, with a nose for news, has inquired about the Parisian Bluebeard. Was he a myth? The answer is -- no. An official of the Gendarmes in Paris exclaimed today: "A myth? We wish he were. He is only too real. We have identified fifty-four of his victims, and heaven knows how many more there are." And the Gendarme added, that the fiendish doctor, the modern Bluebeard is still at large. He never was arrested.

NEWSREEL

A couple of weeks ago the news, day after day, told the story of the Mad Man of St. Malo - a German Colonel Von Aulock, who commanded the Citadel at the old Breton fishing port. His position was hopeless - not a chance of relief. But he refused to allow his <sup>r</sup>garison <sub>^</sub> to give up, and held out for two weeks against continuous and violent assault. We were told that the Germans in the Citadel were drunk, and fought on with alcoholic recklessness and desperation.

We heard about this in words, but sometimes mere grammar and vocabulary are pale beside pictures - motion pictures, especially. ~~Last night at the~~ <sup>at Movietone,</sup> ~~we have just been working on the~~ <sup>we have just been working on the</sup> ~~Movietone newsreel we worked on~~ <sup>ing</sup> a film showing the capture of St. Malo, ~~and this~~ <sup>ing</sup> included a motion picture account of the episode of the Citadel - the story of the Mad Man of St. Malo. The picture showed the sending of American radio messages, urging surrender. And then, out of an underground passage from the Citadel came an emissary of the Madman. This emissary was a German Lieutenant, and he was reeling drunk - ~~a classic example~~

weaving and bleary-eyed. The motion picture camera made close-ups of him, as he talked to an American Colonel - delivering an alcoholic harangue. The message that he brought was that Colonel Von Aulock would fight on, and hold the Citadel as long as their ammunition and brandy lasted.

So they sent the staggering Lieutenant back thru the underground passage, into the fort, and the battle went on - for two weeks, until the ammunition and brandy were gone. They must have had a lot of brandy! But at last it ran out, and the Madman of St. Malo surrendered.

The newsreel pictures just in from Normandy show the prisoners streaming out of the underground passage, a long file of high German officers; fancy uniforms, and gold braid. All of them looking mighty serious. No reeling this time. Brandy all gone. So the Germans in the Citadel - including the <sup>Madman</sup>~~XXXXXX~~ of St. Malo, gave up.

And now Hugh I surrender  
to you.