

High Gibson - Standard. Friday, Sept. 8, 1944.
Sunoco.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

- Today yesterday's rumor was made ~~definite~~ ^{definite} -

Bulgaria has declared war on Nazi Germany. And this brings to a dizzy climax the bewildering complications in the Balkans. Declarations of war flying in wild confusion. We thought it extraordinary when Italy suddenly changed sides in the middle of the global conflict, and when Rumania threw the same kind of somersault. But the Bulgars really make it intricate. Tonight they are at war with both the Allies and Nazi Germany - just to make things complete.

16 The Bulgarian bewilderment began when the Balkan Kingdom declared itself neutral, but that didn't stick - and Soviet Russia declared war on Bulgaria. The Bulgars responded immediately by asking for an Armistice, but this was not forthcoming. So now Bulgaria makes another response to the Soviet

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declaration of war by declaring war on Germany. The paradox is likely to be simplified, however, for late word from Moscow states that Moscow is now ready to consider the Bulgarian request for an Armistice. So Bulgaria may find itself at war with one side, instead of both ~~1~~ sides.

Today Soviet troops crossed into Bulgaria, and met with no resistance. They were welcomed. Red Army forces pushed forward on a hundred and forty-four mile front, and advanced for distances up to forty miles - occupying the big Black Seaport of Varna.

FRANCE

17 *full of*
~~of things~~ The war news from northern France tonight is of contrast. In one sector, the advances are rapid, the Germans in hasty retreat. In another area, though, the battle ~~is~~ is stubborn and heavy.

The easy going is in Belgium, where the British today broke across the Albert Canal - a natural defense line. The Germans put up ineffective resistance, and the British pushed on beyond the Canal, which places them within twenty-five miles of the German border.

And the great Belgian fortress of Liège was captured today - by the American First Army - Liège, that mighty fortress, the fall of which was an initial catastrophe in the First World War, when ^{it} ~~Liège~~ fell ~~suddenly and surprisingly~~ to the ~~iron~~ legions of the Kaiser. Today the ^{place} ~~city~~ was taken with only minor resistance.

The hard fighting is in France, along the River Moselle. There General Patton's armor is thrusting with huge military power to force a way to the

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Siegfried line along the German frontier. The enemy is putting up his most stubborn brand of resistance, and the fighting is of the most violent sort. Patton has forced ~~the~~ crossings of the river at several places, and American troops and armor are pouring across the bridges.

The news today gives a most formidable picture of the American military might that is massing against the Germans along the Moselle, as they desperately defend their last toehold in northern France. But at Allied military headquarters the opinion is expressed that, in the heavy battle, the Germans ~~are~~ are really conducting a delaying action - in preparation for the withdrawal to their frontier fortifications.

None of this can be told in much detail, because General Eisenhower has again decreed a news blackout - concealment to keep the Germans in the dark about ~~the~~ Allied moves.

Farther south in France

~~In the southern French invasion,~~ the story of stubborn German resistance is repeated. The Nazi

19 Nineteenth Army, after its helter skelter retreat all the way from the Mediterranean coast, is now standing its ground and giving the French and American columns a hard fight. This, again, is believed to be a rear guard action to cover a further retreat.

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At the other side of Europe, the southern side, Flying Fortresses and Liberators based on Italy smashed German communication centers in Yugoslavia. Five hundred heavies blasted four railroad yards and two bridges.

The air war headlines extend around the world with another blow by the B-twenty-nines against Japanese war plants in Manchuria. Perhaps as many as one hundred of the giant Superforts flew the long distance from southern China to Manchuria, where the Japs have some of their most important industries of

AIR WAR FOLLOW FRANCE

The air war was on again today in a big way.

The weather has been bad over northern France, and air operations have been impeded for days. Now, the skies are clearing, and today a mighty air-mada flew from Britain against German war centers in the Rhineland.

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20 hundred of the giant Superforts flew the long distance from southern Chinese bases to Manchuria, where the Japs have some of their most important industries of

war. Factories were smashed and set on fire - in what was the eighth raid of the giant B-twenty-nines ^{during} the past three months.

Indirectly, the criticism came from William Phillips, the war representative in India. There has been much talk about a report that Phillips made in Washington on the subject of British role in India, and one story has been that the British Government requested his resignation because of unfavorable things he said - though this has been denied by the British.

Today's statement, while not mentioning Phillips as a source, answers four major points in the criticism. One of these concerns Britain's part in the war with Japan. The British contention today is that on the vast East Asian front British Indian troops outnumber all the other forces combined. Britain already the statement says, is contributing a good deal more than a mere token to the defeat of Japan.

The Phillips resignation report had stated: "there is no evidence that the British intend to desert their

INDIA

Today in Washington, the British Information Service issued a statement which is taken as an indirect answer to criticisms made by William Phillips, who was ~~United States~~ ^{The President's} representative in India. There has been much talk about a report that Phillips made to Washington on the subject of British rule in India, and one story has been that the British Government requested his ~~withdrawal~~ ^{recall} because of unfavorable things he said - though this has been denied by the British.

Today's statement, while not mentioning Phillips ~~in its report~~, answers four major points ~~in~~ ^{of} his criticism. One of these concerns Britain's part in the war with Japan. The British contention today is that on the vast ~~Bur~~ Burma front British Indian troops outnumber all the other forces combined. Britain ~~already~~, the statement summarizes, ^{already} is contributing a good deal more than a mere token to the defeat of Japan.

The Phillips ~~report~~ report had stated: "there is no evidence that the British intend to do more than

give mere token assistance".

The second point concerns ^{some} thing stated by Phillips and commonly believed to be a fact - that Prime Minister Winston Churchill ^{had} declared that the Atlantic Charter does not apply to India. Today's British declaration denies this in the following words: "The Prime Minister", ~~it argues~~, "has never said that the provisions of the Atlantic Charter do not apply to India. The statement he made cannot honestly bear this interpretation"..

The Phillips report expressed ^a poor opinion of the British-Indian Army saying:- "The present Indian Army is purely mercenary."

Today's British answer is as follows: "The ~~fact~~ ^{pro}wess of the Indian Army has aroused the fear of its enemies and the admiration of its Allies. To allege that it is a purely mercenary army is merely unjust and offensive."

The Phillips report declared that the British Government should now name a definite date for the independence of India. The British reply is that Great Britain has gone further than that, has left the date of independence to the decision of the Indian leaders themselves.

~~It's all a ticklish matter. India is a possession of Great Britain, but at the same time the state of affairs in India is of great importance to our mutual war with Japan.~~

And now, after a few words from Hugh James speaking for Standard of California, I shall be ready to give you news from the home front -

DEWEY

Louisville is a town that knows how to stage a celebration. They do it down there every year on Derby Day. So today's greeting to Republican Candidate Thomas E. Dewey was something special - whooped up with all that old-fashioned Louisville ~~hunger~~ *enthusiasm*

When the Deweys arrived by ~~railroad~~ *train*, they found jampacked crowds to greet them, with brass bands, G.O.P. elephants and a blaze of colored bunting. It looked a lot like Derby Day - only it was not a horse race that was getting all the attention. A different kind of race - with the White House as the finishing line.

There is no use talking about what Dewey said - in calling for a world organization to maintain the peace. I suppose all of you heard it, and have been thinking it over.

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CONFERENCE

Here's what sounds like fairly definite word about the place of the next Roosevelt-Churchill conference - Quebec, the Chateau Frontenac. A dispatch from the old city on the St. Lawrence relates that all signs of preparation are evident, things being made ready for the international pow-wow. Hotels are being taken over to house the members of the Delegations that will accompany the President and Prime Minister, and the Chateau Frontenac is quite apparently being readied for the principal role, so far as buildings are concerned.

Roosevelt and Churchill have conferred previously in the stately hostelry on a bluff overlooking the St. Lawrence, and now they will do so again - for their tenth meeting.

When? The Quebec news doesn't tell us that, merely stating that the date is not yet available.

PACIFIC

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Here's an impressive announcement from General MacArthur's Headquarters in the Southwestern Pacific. It states that the American Airforces have now won the domination of the sky above the southern Philippine Islands. The occasion for this declaration was the news of another big raid against Mindanao, a hundred and thirteen tons of bombs dropped on the Japs there. The American planes encountered no Japanese air opposition. We now dominate the sky over the southern Philippines.

DEWEY SPEECH

President Roosevelt was asked today about the Dewey campaign address of last night. Correspondents at today's White House news conference reminded the President that he had previously stated that, while he wouldn't make a regular campaign for a fourth term, he would correct - "misrepresentations". So how about the first campaign speech of the Republican candidate?

The President replied that he had not heard it, but that one of the members of his family had heard it and told him about it, and F.D.R. had read about half of it - ~~and~~ ^{but} he didn't know enough about what his rival had said to discuss it.

26 One reporter called attention to Dewey's reiteration of the charge that the Roosevelt administration was, in Dewey's words, "tired, quarrelsome and defeated". To this the President remarked with a smile that he had said previously that he would like to go home to Hyde Park - but not because he was tired and defeated.

Another newsman referred to the Dewey

accusation that the Roosevelt administration, rather than demobilize the troops as soon as possible, intends to keep the soldiers in uniform for some indefinite time - rather than take a chance of having them jobless. The President's reply was, in effect, that he wouldn't discuss that point.

In other words, if the newsmen expected any White House fireworks in response to the Dewey blast, they were disappointed.

TAR

In the legend of America, an old, if not honored, place is held by the institution of tar and feathers. However, for Ignatz Banikonis today, it was a case of only the tar - without the feathers.

7 Ignatz works on the railroad, and last evening in Jersey City he drew two weeks ~~of~~ pay. Whereupon he decided to have a good time. He did, making the rounds until he was tired - very tired. So to get some sleep, he staggered to the yard of an abandoned factory, and there picked a comfortable spot at the foot of a tank. This happened to be a tank of tar which, in the course of time, had leaked. And the ground on which Ignatz lay was really a bed of tar a foot and ~~xxxgxxxg~~ ^ a half thick.

Ignatz went sound asleep, and during the night the heat of his body softened the tar, and slowly he sank in. He slept through it all, and this morning was still snoring when a couple of fishermen, saw the strange sight of Ignatz half buried in the tar.

They shook him and awakened him, and Ignatz

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tried to get up - in ~~ix~~ vain. He was stuck. They tried to pull him out - no go. The tar was like glue, strong and resistant. They called the cops, and the police went to work with shovels, Longshoremen's hooks, knives, gasoline blow-torches, everything that might make an impression on tar. But nothing worked. And it looked as if Ignatz might have to stay there - a tar baby.

Then someone had a brilliant idea. After all, the tar was clutching, not Ignatz himself in person, but his clothes. So with a knife they cut around his coat and trousers, took away the upper half of these, and up rose Ignatz - in just about the way he was born. He went home in a blanket, having had the tar, if not the feathers.

8 1/2 And now back to Hugh James