

The word from the Western Front continues to be ominous - great battles raging, with the German offensive still in progress. In Belgium, our forces appear to have slowed down the enemy thrust, but in Luxembourg the battleline is described as being still fluid.

An ironclad censorship has been clamped down, a news blackout that gives war correspondents not much beyond vague generalities. But some of these generalities, which the censor has passed, convey the most serious impression of the state of affairs.

For example, United Press Correspondent James McGlinchey, in a late dispatch this afternoon, states: "The German drive appeared to be partially under control. But, even so," he goes on, "correspondents are now permitted to reveal that when the full extent of the advance is made known, it will come ~~as~~ as a

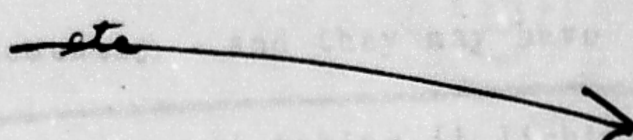
rude shock to many observers."

And still later, ~~there is~~ a bulletin which states the following: "The defensive tactical use of Allied heavy bombers showed the gravity of the situation." This refers to Flying Fortresses. Squadrons of these sky giants today took a hand in the immediate business of supporting the American line. Fortresses are meant for long range work, but in the present urgency they are hitting in close, hurling tons of bombs on supplies and transport for massed German armor. **R** It is noted that heavy bombers have not been used for this kind of in-fighting since the early critical days of the invasion of France - when the sky giants were turned into the fray to stop dangerous German drives. Now the same thing all over again - Flying Fortresses joining swarms of every other kind of plane in slashing at the Nazi columns of tanks -

although the weather today was abominably bad for flying.

Tonight's latest dispatch tells of air observation that reinforces the impression of a critical situation. American planes report masses of German tanks and armored vehicles moving westward, the roads choked with motorized equipment on its way to the front.

The belief continues that the Germans are exhausting their power in a drive that will be stopped, using their last resources to no decisive purpose.

People think inevitably ~~etc~~ 

~~of bombs on supplies and transport *for* massed ~~German~~
German armour.~~

~~Confidence is complete, of course, that the
enemy drive will be stopped - with the Germans using
up their power to no decisive purpose. People think
inevitable~~ of the last war, when Hindenburg launched
his Ninth hour drive, which almost succeeded, but
which was followed quickly by the final collapse of
Germany. However, nobody is taking lightly the fact
that the Germans have been able to strike so far and
so swiftly into Belgium. We know they plunged for
twenty miles into that country - and they may have
gone further. *The Belgians are not taking it lightly.*
They are afraid that, a mere four months after being
liberated from the Nazi, the tide of war is running
over them ~~their way~~ again. And they shiver at the thought of
the Nazi coming back. - *and* Today the Belgian ~~XXXXX~~

underground, which ^{has been} ~~was~~ disarmed, offered its services in the fight again. The offer is not likely to be taken up - for there seems little doubt that the American command can soon stabilize the whole thing, after the Germans have used up a lot of men and materials.

FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

The latest tells of angry news

correspondents at the battlefield protesting at
the way censorship has shut off information about
the critical situation.

in a drive that threatens to
outflank the important railroad city of Keesa,
and at Budapest, capital of Hungary, the encirclement
continues, with Moscow announcing that the last
railroad for German escape is now under heavy artillery
fire.

RUSSIA

The Russians are driving into Slovakia - their offensive resumed along the entire frontier of the Nazi puppet state. Moscow reports the capture of several towns today in a drive that threatens to outflank the important railroad city of Kassa. And at Budapest, capital of Hungary, the encirclement continues, with Moscow announcing that the last railroad for German escape is now under heavy artillery fire.

GREECE

The word from Greece sounds like regular war news--
telling of a British column fighting its way ~~through~~ ^{to}
the northeastern part of Athens. There, the
headquarters of the R.A.F. is under siege, surrounded
by a force of Elas insurgents. The R.A.F. garrison is
still holding out, and at last reports a British relief
column was nearing the scene.

It now turns out that yesterday's prison attack
in Athens has resulted in the disappearance of four
hundred and five persons who were being held. These
include the Quisling Premier Rhallis, who was ~~being~~
~~held~~ to face charges for having collaborated with the
Nazis. When the ~~xxxxxx~~ Elas forces attacked the
Averon Prison yesterday, shooting and dynamiting their
way in, the British defenders evacuated the place - and
tried to take the prisoners with them. But they were
able to take only a few. The others are missing.

~~four hundred and five of them. Most of these were
being held as collaborationists, as was the former
Quisling Premier. It is uncertain what happened to them.
Maybe some of them got away, but~~ The presumption is
that the prisoners were seized by the Elas.



ADD GREECE

Meanwhile, the question of a regency is in the forefront at Athens. Cabinet ministers are said to favor the idea of King George turning his royal power over to a regent, but the monarch himself is not so enthusiastic about it. Kings usually try to hang onto their royal power.

CHURCHILL

In London this afternoon, Winston Churchill retreated a step or two - backed down. In the morning, he refused to take up the question of Greece - the Greek civil war, in which British troops are participating. ~~The Prime Minister admitted that there were sharp differences of opinion in England, with much opposition against his policy of throwing British armed power against the Greek Left Wing, the ELAS. But, he, argued Churchill, this was no time for ructions in Parliament on so controversial an issue.~~ ^{He} pointed to the critical battle on the Western Front - the startling news of perilous German drives into Belgium and Luxembourg. With such a crisis, ~~on the Western Front,~~ argued Churchill - the Greek business had better be put over until after Christmas.

It was noted that the Prime Minister sounded tired, his voice dull and slow. He ^{had} little of the

slashing fire with which he met his critics during recent days, -- ~~when he he defiantly proclaimed his policy in Greece and gave a British okay to the Soviet demands on Poland.~~

Churchill's refusal this morning did ^{not} stick. Immediately afterward the Labor Party in Parliament got together, and renewed its demands for immediate consideration of the British part in the Greek civil war. The Labor Party insistence was pressed so urgently that the Prime Minister had to give in, ~~he~~ agreed to an immediate debate. He will face Parliament on the Greek question tomorrow.

Now Hugh - a word
from you - then some Pac.
News

Yesterday we heard of a double blow through the air against the Japs ^{-- Nagoya, and Hankow.} ~~B-29s struck at Nagoya in Japan and Superfortresses massed with other bombers, hit Hankow, the great enemy industrial base in China.~~

Today the word is - a triple blow. This time Japan was assailed again - B-29s bombing the industrial city of Omura. ^{and} Shanghai, clustered with enemy shipping, got a rain of high explosive. ^{So also} ~~and~~ did Chinese Nanking, where the Japs operate big war industries.

on Omura, ^{on} the southernmost island of Japan, was bombed through heavy clouds - and the results could not be observed. At Shanghai and Nanking, the weather was clear, and the ~~AMERICAN ENGINEERS~~ American airmen could see their bombs landing among docks and ^{war plants,} ~~engineering engine factories.~~ At each ~~point of today's triple blow, opposition from ground guns and enemy fighters is described as weak.~~

SAIPAN

I supposed that our great B-29 base, the island of Saipan, has now been finally cleared of Japs. Saipan was conquered by American forces five and a half months ago, and today, so long afterward, we have news of some Japs being seized - a family of enemy civilians, who had been hiding away for five and a half months.

A party of American soldiers ^{on Saipan, the B.29 base} was on a sightseeing

tour through rugged mountains, when to their surprise they saw a child - a half grown boy who scampered away when he spotted the Americans. They saw the boy disappear into the mouth of a cave, and they went to investigate, clamboring down some cliffs. When they reached the cave, a man came out - a Jap with his hands up. He was followed by a woman and five children. ~~They were a~~ family ~~which had been~~ hiding in the cave ever since the Americans took Saipan.

The soldiers led the parents and children to

American headquarters, and there they were bombarded with the usual treatment that American soldiers give - even to Japs. The G.I.'s had just received a mountain of Christmas packages, and they pressed upon the Japs all sorts of Yuletide delicacies - candy and cookies. But the Japs refused to eat, the parents forbidding the children - until finally the eight year old boy, whom the soldiers had seen first, couldn't control himself any longer. He made a dive for the candy and cookies. When the Japanese parents saw that he was doing okay, the whole family pitched into the American Christmas cheer.

To make the story good, we should be able to remark that the Jap family was almost dead from starvation after five and a half months in the cave. However, the Americans noted that they did not look starved at all - they were rather fat. ^{And} ~~in fact. An~~ investigation disclosed^s that the cave in which they

had been hiding was a secret storage place of the Japanese, military food supplies - crammed with canned goods, rations and rice. A sort of paradise for ~~the~~ *me* ~~Japanese~~ family. - ~~So~~ no wonder they were able to refuse, at first, with such oriental stoicism, the American Christmas delicacies. They were probably stuffed so full they had to work up an appetite.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD PHILIPPINES

The latest from the Philippines tells of a new American advance on Leyte Island, MacArthur's troops capturing the Valencia air base. This is a key point in the corridor of Ormoc, and the American advance to Valencia resulted in the surrounding of a Japanese force at the northern end of the Yamashita Line. That line, all but six miles of it, has been captured by our troops.

PHILIPPINES

The news from the Philippines is good. Jap resistance on the island of Leyte is being rapidly smashed - a late dispatch telling us that American troops have captured all but six miles of the enemy defense line in the valley of Ormoc.

Across the archipelago, on the island of Mindoro, the uneventful tidings continue - hardly any fighting. Japanese resistance is conspicuous by its absence, and the invasion of Mindoro has turned out to be the easiest of the major amphibious operations that our forces have launched thus far.

BONG

Ring the gong!

Make it forty for Dick Bong! Our Number One ace

^{has} shot down another Jap, ~~yesterday~~, in air battle over

Mindoro; ~~and~~ ^{ing} boosted his total to a record-breaking

forty!

PACIFIC FLEET

We have figures tonight for the Jap losses in the great series of carrier plane raids in the Philippines. From December Thirteenth to Fifteenth, bombs assailed enemy ships in waters off Luzon, and a-hundred-and-two were sunk or damaged. This is revealed by Admiral Nimitz, who says that in the smashing of the hundred-and-two ships, twenty-seven American planes were lost.

And from Admiral Nimitz headquarters we have news of the arrival of the Commander-in-Chief of the British fleet, Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser. ~~He has~~ ~~arrived~~ ^{at} Pearl Harbor for a series of conferences with Admiral Nimitz. The two naval chiefs will discuss plans for throwing British sea power against the Japs.

BOMBER

In a bomber over the north Pacific, a crew of American airmen saved themselves with pistol shots - but they weren't shooting at the enemy. It was a freak accident - when a Billy Mitchell bomber, attacking the Japs in the Kurile Islands, ran short of gas, and the crew had to toss out all sorts of extra weight. They jettisoned excess equipment - including their rubber life raft. *TP* As they were tossing out the raft, something started the inflating mechanism going - and the raft ballooned out, *— just* as they dropped it. Its mooring line fouled the tail section of the plane just behind the cabin, and got tangled. And there was the bomber towing an inflated life raft behind - something like a plane towing a balloon.

The drag made it impossible to control the plane, and to deflate the raft the airmen opened fire with their pistols. They punctured it all right -

but the plane was still towing the big hunk of deflated raft. ^{So} they kept on shooting, trying to hit the tow line and cut it - but their marksmanship wasn't that good.

^P Finally, in desperation, Sergeant George Twomey of Washington, D.C., crawled out ^{through a} ~~from the bottom~~ window - and, with a pal holding his legs, he was able to get near enough to the tow line to hit it. Whereupon the line parted, the life raft fell into the ocean - and the plane was able to get back to its base.

SENATE.

The Senate has just confirmed the nominations to the State Department, the six appointments that had ~~been~~ caused a revolt of Senate New Dealers. The votes in favor of the candidates named by the President were overwhelming. ~~For example, our former Ambassador to Tokyo, Joseph G. Crew, sixty-six to seven. Nelson Rockefeller - sixty-two to nine. The closest vote was in the case of the cotton magnate, William L. Clayton - fifty-two to nineteen.~~

~~At~~ This followed a decisive bit of intervention by President Roosevelt, who today returned from a vacation and promptly suppressed the New Deal filibuster. His vacation had been kept a secret, three weeks of take-it-easy down in Georgia. ~~F.D.R. returns with a coat of tan and a few pounds of extra weight. And he certainly seemed in good condition as he put down the rebellion of his own most faithful followers - New Dealers.~~

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt today disclosed an interesting thing about the Atlantic Charter. He said that no such charter had ever been signed. That is --- no complete charter. He explained that when he and Prime Minister Churchill met in mid-Atlantic in 1942, they agreed on principles that are called the Atlantic Charter and memoranda were written down -- a set of notes rather than any formal document. ~~Some of the~~^{self} incomplete memoranda were signed by Roosevelt, given to Churchill -- who has them now. And ~~visa versa~~, the President has some of the notes signed by ~~Churchill~~.

In other words, the whole thing was decidedly informal -- consisting only of conversational agreements and fragments jotted down. That, so far as official status goes, is the Atlantic Charter.

~~President Roosevelt spoke likewise today about the much rumored prospect of another meeting of the Big Three, ~~Roosevelt~~-Churchill, and Stalin, He stated that no date has been set for such a conference, and~~ ^{and Roosevelt.}

CHAPLIN

Charlie Chaplin on the witness stand ^{today} was not the humorous Charlie on the motion picture screen of years ago. He was agitated and emotional - in denying that he was the father of Joan Barry's baby daughter. Under a barrage of questions, Chaplin lost his temper more than once, and at one point he shouted an appeal to the judge, protesting against Joan Barry's lawyer: "I committed no crime, Your Honor. I am human, I can't help it. But this man is trying to make me look like a monster."

~~And~~ that Chaplin outbreak today was more like melodrama than like old-time Charlie Chaplin comedy.

BULL FIGHT

A sad state of affairs in Mexico ~~were~~ revealed by a dispatch which states that at the bull ring in Mexico City the sale of cushions for seats has been suspended. Hereafter, for the time being at least, the Senor while watching the torreador and el torro will have to sit on the hard bench. What's the reason?

A wartime shortage? Not at all. ^{TP} The explanation is that of late the bull fights in Mexico City have been so bad, that the enraged public has been bombarding *the matador, and the picador* the torreador ~~and el torro~~ with the cushion seats.

These are soft to sit on, but not so soft when they land on your head. The torreador apparently didn't mind the sharp horns of the bull, but when he was crowned by a hard throw ⁿ of seat cushions - that was too much, Senor.

So the impresario of the bull ring had to face the facts - either he had to provide better bull fights, ~~ixxx~~ or stop the sale of seat cushions.

BULL FIGHTS - 2

He stopped the sale. So now the fans will have to watch the same old bad bull fights, and do it while sitting on a hard seat - a thing which may not

improve the Mexican temper.

~~And I don't think~~

And now ^{Hughes} from where you are ~~sitting~~ seated how do things look?

all talk about a date for the get-together, is just rumor. And he added that the whole idea of a Big Three meeting was highly speculative.

~~He was asked about the statement that he had initialed the British plan to take control ~~■~~x in Greece -- the plan that has now resulted in the Greek civil war. We had this a few days ago on the authority of British labor leader, Bevens. But today President Roosevelt seemed by inference, to deny the whole thing. He said that the report was "contentious", and shouldn't be brought up again.~~