

Hugh Gibson - Standard. Thurs., March 8, 1945.
Sunoco.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

The big news tonight ^{talks Robertson with} is ~~a paraphrase~~ of a once popular song: An American officer crossed the Rhine, parlez-vous. But the officer of the American First Army who did this yesterday was not alone. He had only a handful of men with him, but before he finished his job we had a strong bridgehead on the east bank of that historic and fabled river, and at last accounts the Yanks were four miles in and pushing ahead.

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Reports ~~fr~~ from the Western Front indicate that American correspondents are so excited that they are almost incoherent. Almost every hour a new version of the crossing has come over the wire. Apparently the advance units of the First Army achieved a complete surprise, a surprise not only to the enemy but ^{even} to our own forces. So far as we can judge tonight, the sequence of events was something like ~~this~~ this: Advance columns of the First Army were pushing south on the west bank of the river to encircle a large German force in the Eifel Mountains, ~~on the west bank.~~

They rolled so fast that they arrived at what is called the Ludendorf Bridge south of ~~Mag~~ Cologne. There they found that the Germans had not had time either to organize a defense or to destroy the bridge. And, so far as we can gather from U.P. reports, a junior officer said: "When you have something thrown into your lap, take it." An advance patrol doubled across the Ludendorf Bridge, found no opposition, and established a bridgehead. It was quickly consolidated and enlarged. ~~Now~~ At this moment American troops are ~~just~~ pouring over the Ludendorf Bridge. And, as I've said, the tanks are fanning out, thrusting a spearhead into the heart of Hitler's Reich.

This is an exciting moment in ~~American~~ history, ~~in world history~~. It has excited some correspondents from the front to broadcast extravagant ideas about the approaching end of that part of the war. But sensible people should discount that excitement. The German army is not ^{beaten} ~~licked~~. Most of it has been extricated and landed on the east bank of the Rhine.

We must realize definitely that the Nazis are going to resist to the bitter end. We have taken Cologne, and the Paris radio reports we have also taken Bonn.

~~But anybody who bets upon the reports of the Paris radio is likely to lose his money.~~ ^{But} Hitler's people

are manifestly determined to make a Stalingrad of every large city. That would include such strong places as Frankfurt-on-the-Main, Hannover, and

8 numerous other places on the western front. I ~~have been~~ ^{I know} ~~through~~ ^{part of the} that country. I know such places as Minder

in Westfalia, I know the point on the ~~Wxx~~ Weser ~~River~~ which the Germans call the Westfalian Gate, the Porta Westfalica, which will be a ~~mighty~~ tough spot to

break through. I emphasized all this because

excessive optimism at this date can, as ~~was~~ Secretary Stimson said today, cause us to ~~relax~~ relax on the home front and delay ultimate victory.

ADD LEAD

Still ~~and all~~ it was a dramatic achievement, one that will be many times retold in American military annals. A U.P. correspondent tells us it is safe to say that at a quarter to four Wednesday afternoon nobody on that beautiful stretch of the Rhine even thought of crossing it. The ~~stream~~^{Rhine} had not been crossed from the West in one hundred and forty years, in fact not since the ~~day~~^{days} of Napoleon.

CASUALTIES

Secretary of War Stimson informs us today that American war casualties to date amount to eight hundred and twenty-seven thousand, six hundred and thirty-two. That is ten thousand six hundred more than last week. Of these, a hundred and seventy-six thousand, seven hundred and ninety-eight have been killed. In this casualty list, more than seven hundred and thirty-two thousand were in the army alone.

The War Department also released the news that every hour of the twenty-four, fifty sick and wounded soldiers are arriving in this country from overseas. One out of every five is returning by air, an operation which four years ago the military doctors considered unsound and impossible. Today, air evacuation of the wounded ranks with blood plasma and front line surgery as one of the ~~five~~ greatest life-saving measures in military medicine.

Secretary

Stimson also tells us that on the Western

Front alone, the Allies have captured more than one
million Germans. But he added that this is nothing for
us to crow about, because the Nazis are still strong,
and able to put up a formidable resistance. They have
succeeded in withdrawing their troops across the Rhine,
the main bodies of their armies intact. ~~The moral of~~
~~this, added the Secretary, is that we need an even~~
~~stronger war effort on the home front.~~

JAPAN FOLLOW PACIFIC

The Japanese government today completely threw aside the pretense to which it has clung ~~for~~ steadfastly for years, the pretense of being invulnerable. Prime Minister Koiso today used these words in public: "Events of the immediate future will decide whether the nation of Nippon is to survive or be eliminated from this earth."

Never before has anybody in the Mikado's country dared ~~even to approach the utterance of~~ such a grave warning. Koiso further ^ucautioned his people that ~~we~~ ^{the Americans} might at ~~any~~ any time launch a ~~reckless, and~~ direct ~~and violent~~ attack against the ^{Japanese} ~~Nipponese~~ homeland. And he told them the entire nation must be fully prepared. He urged them to ~~throw away~~ ^{cast aside} all personal interests and ambitions ~~of all kinds~~, to rise as one to save their ~~very~~ homeland and the Imperial throne.

INTRODUCTION TO HARRISON FORMAN

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I hope Lowell Thomas is listening in tonight, because here is something along the line of his lifelong interest -- exploration. On this program Lowell has passed along accounts of what is claimed to be the highest mountain in the world -- higher than Everest. The stories come from American pilots out in India and China who have been flying over Tibet and the Himalayas. Have they really spied a mountain higher than Everest? There is some discussion of that among explorers -- and tonight I have in the studio here a far-journeying traveler, a friend of Lowell's, who a few years ^{ago} ~~back~~ did some adventurous exploring among the mountains of Central Asia. More recently he's been doing ~~war~~ reporting in China, and a book of his is just out, called -- "REPORT FROM RED CHINA." So I've asked Harrison Forman to tell us what he knows about that reported super-mountain.

MR. HARRISON DORMAN

Well, here's what I know about that super-mountains. It's called the Amnyi Machin -- which in Tibetan means Old Man Peacock. To prove the Amnyi Machin to ~~xxx~~ be higher than Mount Everest -- the highest mountain in the world -- has long been my one great ambition. Well, I've made two unsuccessful tries at this -- once in Nineteen Thirtly-two, and again in Nineteen Thirty-seven - and I hope to try it again when the war's over. The Amnyi Machin is located near the headwaters of the Yellow River, in northeastern entological Tibet -- or what the Chinese call Chinghai Province. And if you'll look at a map you'll note that four of the largest ~~xxxx~~ rivers in Asia -- the Yellow River, the Yangtze, the Salween and the Mekong -- all have their headwaters in this same general area. That's certainly significant. Well, back in the early Nineteen Twenties,

Mr. Harrison Forman:- 2

General George P reira -- a Britisher -- saw the Amnyi Machin on a trek through Tibet. He reported, upon his return that he believed ti to be higher than Mount Everest. The British Government sent him back up there again -- but he died on the Tibetan border, a few years later Dr. Joseph F. Rock, of the National Geographic Society, went up there; and in his report to the Geographic Society he said he, too, believed the Amnyi Machin to be possibly higher than Everest. He was sorry, he said, that he had no proper instruments for its measurement. Well, in Nineteen Thirty-two I got within striking distance of this peak, and though I did have with me the necessary instruments, atmospheric conditions were so bad all the time I was there that I was never able to make accurate measurements. But I'm convinced the Amnyi Machin will one day prove to be the highest mountain in the world. You know, It'll be easy to prove this with

the high-flying planes we have today. All that will be needed in the way of special instruments will be a good barograph of extremely accurate altimeter, with supplementary instruments for correction for temperature, etc. Also, some instrument on the principle of a surveyor's theodolite to tell the pilot when he's circling the peak at the exact height of its tip.

EASTERN FRONT

Thank you, Mr. Forman

A Red army tonight is at Seelow, which is only twenty-six miles from the city limits of Berlin.

This comes from Berlin itself, whose radio also reports that a tremendous battle is raging on the road to the capital. Furthermore, another Red army ^{is} at Altdamm, only four miles away from the main docks of Stettin. Altdamm itself is on the waterfront.

Curiously enough, we again have no confirmation of these dramatic Red advances from Moscow. ~~The reason is that the Soviet high command does not announce important actions until their success is positive.~~ However, there was one order-of-the-day from Stalin today, in which he announced that the Second White Russian army had captured two strongholds southwest of Danzig. There again the Germans go further than their enemies, and admit that the Soviet troops are only thirteen miles away from Danzig.

HITLER

Another Hitler yarn and, like most of its many forerunners, from Sweden. The latest is that the Fuehrer made a speech February twenty-fourth, in which he admitted that Germany had lost the war and said that he had fallen a victim to the biggest treason in history. The treason apparently was on the part of Japan for not declaring war on Russia.

On top of this, Hitler is reported to have said that he has decided to leave Germany in ruins. The words attributed to him are: "I have decided to leave only ruins, rats and epidemics to the Bolsheviks, Jews and plutocrats."

BURMA

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A bit of news from Burma tonight! British soldiers are in the outskirts of Mandalay, only a mile from the center of the town. It was the Nineteenth Indian ~~Dixies~~ Division, headed by the fierce bearded fighters of the Punjab, who broke through the Japanese lines around Mandalay.

~~Then again, a hundred and eighty miles northeast of Mandalay, Chinese ^{troops} have captured Old Lashio, New Lashio, plus the airfield. The report says both towns have been completely cleared of the enemy.~~

MANPOWER

The Senate passed a manpower bill tonight, very different from the one ~~we got~~^{put} through the House. In the Senate's bill there are stiff penalties for employers who try to hoard surplus war workers. But there are no penalties for the workers. In the bill passed by the House it was the reverse, penalties for workers, not for employers.

But in neither bill is there any protection for a man who does not want to join the Union.

REBELS FOLLOW PHILIPPINES

Do you remember Aguinaldo, ^{He was} once a Philippine hero, leader of two insurrections, one against Spain, another against the United States, at the beginning of the century. It took an American army years to ~~fight~~ ^{crush} ~~that~~ ^{the second} revolt, which ended only when General Funston captured the leader. Emilio Aguinaldo is again a prisoner of the Americans. He is accused of having ~~collaborated~~ with the Japanese. In fact, he is charged with having joined the puppet government of Jose Laurel.

Aguinaldo was pardoned and took the oath of allegiance to the United States, ^{some forty years ago} but when the Japanese landed, the temptation seems to have been too much for him, ~~and he joined the so-called council of state created by the Japanese under Laurel. Laurel himself escaped to Tokyo, Aguinaldo, a brave man for all the trouble he has caused, was evidently too proud for flight.~~

RABBITS

Lowell Thomas told you last night of the rumpus that has been raised by Captain Raymond ~~E.~~ Powers of the Army news service, the man who raised the question whether a rabbit runs faster uphill than downhill. As you may recall, the question has museum and zoo curators by the ears. But today two fellow citizens of Captain Raymond Powers sent him a sharp telegram of rebuke. Incidentally, they reminded him that they knew him when he used to carry a stuffed rabbit to bed with him every night at six thirty ~~P.M.~~

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One of the men who sent the telegram is his father, James J. Powers, head of the Draft Board at Enid, Oklahoma; the other is John C. Vater, a merchant of Enid. The tenor of that telegram was that Captain Raymond E. Powers of Oklahoma should be ashamed of himself. He should have remembered that where he comes from the rabbits don't run either up or down hills- they jump over them.

~~Hugh Jones, can you top that one?~~

Handwritten notes at the top of the page, including a date that appears to be "Sunday, March 20, 1945" and other illegible scribbles.

8 1/2

Now as ^{one} ~~a man~~ who has hunted and fished in

the West quite a lot I'm going to ~~have the nerve to~~
~~throw in~~ ^{add} my bit. I'll back a Nevada Jack ^{rabbit} against any
animal that ever came out of Oklahoma.

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What do you say, Hugh James?

Faint, mostly illegible text from the reverse side of the page is visible through the paper.

P.T. - Standard.
Surreo.

Thursday, March 8, 1945.
(taken out.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

There couldn't be any more inspiring beginning for a broadcast than the text of the message that General Eisenhower sent tonight to General Hodges, commander of the First Army. ~~I was~~ "The whole Allied force is delighted to cheer the First United States Army whose speed and boldness has won the race to establish the first bridgehead over the Rhine." To which Eisenhower added: "Please tell all ranks how proud I am of them." Signed - Eisenhower, Supreme Commander.

Americans
Yes, the ~~Yanks~~ are across that historic and ~~much~~ fabled river. As C.R. Cunningham of the U.P. puts it: "We are across the Rhine on the pay dirt side." Cunningham reports there is an atmosphere of coming victory all around them.

According to his account, this amazing advance ~~in~~
~~the path of Napoleon's invasion of Germany,~~ came as the
result of a snap decision made by a Second Lieutenant
named Burrows, who said: "If you have something given to
you, the best thing is to take it." At that time German
shells were hitting all around, but that officer's
company advanced, crossed the river, and there they were.

Spearheads of the First were pushing south from Cologne
to trap the Germans left behind in the Eifel Mountains,
their numbers being estimated anywhere from fifty to
a hundred and fifty thousand. Those columns moved so
quickly that the first thing they knew they were at the
Ludendorff Bridge across the Rhine, a five-span affair.
They got there before the Germans could either organize
to defend it or destroy it. And thus they got across
considerably sooner than they expected, and apparently
it was owing to the decision of ~~a~~ Second Lieutenant

~~and~~ Burrows. As it was expressed in Allied supreme headquarters, Hodges's forward elements found a weak point in the German Rhine defenses and speared through in a surprise thrust.

What is more, The First has a solid beachhead where it landed south of Cologne. For reasons of security,

the exact point of the crossing is not revealed. ~~and~~

According to London, it was somewhere south of Bonn.

Incidentally, the Paris Radio reports that Patton has

captured Bonn. (~~But anybody who bets on the accuracy of~~

~~the Paris Radio is risking his money~~)

North of there, the Canadians started a new attack on the Wesel bridgehead, and the British troops east of them fought their way into the outskirts of a place called Alpon. Some twenty thousand Germans are left on the west bank of the Rhine in those parts. They are withdrawing every night under cover of a heavy smokescreen

The Nazi Radio reported that Patton's army had begun the siege of Coblenz, one of Patton's spearheads being less than six miles away on the west. Germans are escaping across the river by motor barge. Patton's forward tanks units caught sight of one of them, laden with some four hundred and fifty troops, shelled it, and sank it.