

RUSSIA

L.I. - Standard. Friday, June 23, 1944
Sunoco.

The violence of war has been resumed on the first front. With Americans and British opening the second front with such success, the world has been awaiting a new Russian offensive - to put the new double-~~front~~ front-nutcracker-pressure on Nazi Germany. This, of course, has long been known to be the master plan of Allied strategy, and today the Soviet Armies went into action to play their part in assailing the Nazis from both the west and the east.

The sector of the Soviet offensive is at the middle of a ~~long~~ long battle line. ~~Today the Red Army launched a drive, against the powerful German positions at Vitebsk, from three sides.~~ The Russians promptly ~~scored considerable advances~~ pushing ahead for distances of from seven-and-a-half to nine miles, on a nineteen mile front.

~~The German report indicates that the Russian offensive will speedily be enlarged. There is a massing of Russian forces along further extensions of the line.~~ ^{That} There is

The new offensive points to the very heart

SUBSTITUTE LEAD FOR FRANCE

In France American troops have captured Mont Du Roc (Roke) a summit at the southwestern edge of Cherbourg. And this gives a clue to the kind of battle that is going on.

Let's look for a moment at the Geography of Cherbourg. The port faces the English Channel to the north, and on the land side is ringed by hills. These are the last German line of defense, and today Allied troops were storming those hills -- a savage task of war.

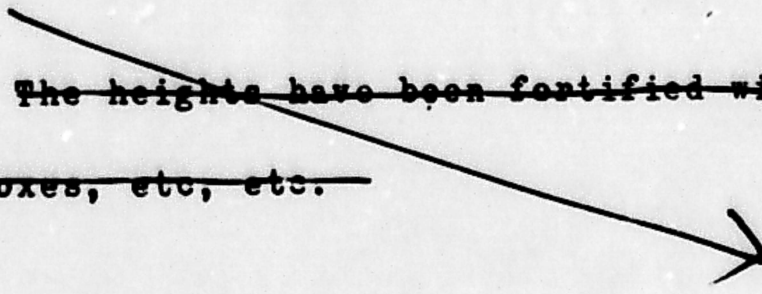
The hope of several days ago that the doomed Nazi forces might break quickly has not been fulfilled. They are putting up a desperate battle, nerved by a savage order given to their officers. Their commanding General has directed the officers to shoot any soldier who shows signs of weakening. And that has increased the grim fury of the defense.

One German prisoner states: "We ~~are~~ were with a Corporal who threatened to shoot us if we tried to surrender. He saw me trying to tie a white flag to

a stick", explained the prisoner, who adds: "the bombing and shelling were so terrible that I said to him -- 'I can't stand it any more, I must surrender'."

Two or three other German soldiers joined him, and they dashed away, with the Corporal's bullets whistling over their heads. They came in and surrendered and so have some others. But, for the most part, the Nazis are fighting it out to the end - helped by those hills.

~~The heights have been fortified with mazes
of pill-boxes, etc, etc.~~



FRANCE

These heights have been fortified with mazes of pill boxes, artillery positions. The battle there is described as the most violent of the invasion thus far; a ferocious struggle at close grips; our troops are resorting to cold steel. They weave their way forward under a blistering fire, and go at the enemy with tommy guns, hand grenades, and that weapon of the closest fighting, the bayonet.

ROBOTS

The rocket bomb attack against southern England ^{continued} ~~repeated~~ today; - ~~with new flights of robot planes~~ streaking across the Channel. And a new feature has entered the picture - a larger and more powerful rocket.

This was stated in the London House of Commons today by Herbert Morrison, Secretary for Home Security. He described the new and bigger robots as having a greater wingspan and as looking more ~~ix~~ like an ordinary fighter plane. Likewise, they are faster, and carry a heavier charge of explosives. ~~The Minister~~ for Home Security added that the smaller type of rocket is loaded with a twenty-two hundred pound bomb - the size of a blockbuster. The larger kind carries more ~~explosive and in its blast is correspondingly more violent.~~

The impression one gets is that the two weeks of rocket attack have been more serious than the guarded statements in London might indicate - the robot assault being ~~xx~~ of such character that it is important not to let the enemy know what is being hit. ~~Today in the~~

The military effect of the Nazi novelty has slight, the principal consequence being that a number of British and American planes had been switched to the battle of the rockets. Today the rocket launching platforms were targets for a thousand tons of bombs although bad flying weather impeded air action generally.

HITLER

Today the London ~~mark~~ stock market had a hot rumor - that Field Marshal Von Rundstedt, Commander of the German armies in France, has been putting out peace feelers. According to the report, Rundstedt was doing this apart from Hitler and the Nazis - ~~was~~ making inquiries about peace terms on his own. Or rather, in behalf of the German Army Command. The implication is that Rundstedt and the other German Generals are offering to toss out Hitler and the Nazis - sacrifice them for the purpose of making peace. This rumor has no confirmation of any sort, but it had the London Stock Exchange buzzing today.

~~The story comes along to us in connection with signs and portents that are being noted in London. United Press correspondent Edward E. Beattie, who was stationed in Berlin for years, cables that official quarters in the British capital are discussing the absence of Hitler from the public scene today. Der~~
^{now}Feuhrer makes no appearance as the Commander-in-Chief of the German Armies. ~~No~~^{is} has he issued any of those

shouting exhortations to his soldiers, urging them on to Nazi frenzy. Nor, in the battle of Cherbourg, has there been a stirring command from Hitler personally to fight to the death.

All of which is very different from previous phases of the war - the Russian campaign, for example. Then Hitler established his headquarters at the front, and howled proclamations. In the Stalingrad disaster he gave frantic orders for a fight to the bitter end. He was much in public evidence in Germany all along - but not now.

And yet you'd think that the supreme crisis of the invasion would have brought the Nazi dictator into the foreground, doing everything ~~the~~ he could to incite his Nazi troops to a frenzied fight. But no. ~~Has Hitler come to the invasion front and established his headquarters there? Not ~~at~~ at all.~~ Der Fuehrer seems to have disappeared. ^{no} ~~since the invasion began, no~~ word of him. And, this leads to the London surmise that the German commanding generals have chucked Der

Fuehrer right out of the picture, and sent him into exile at his Berchtesgaden mountain retreat.

One sharp indication of the attitude of the German officers toward Hitler and the Nazis is found in a military document captured in France. This document was signed by Lieutenant General Rudolf Schmud, and is a report to commanders on the Italian front. Lieutenant General Schmud informs them of the execution of seven officers who were charged with making fun of Hitler. The document puts it in these words - "they were guilty of a breach of their oath of allegiance to their Fuehrer, by slandering, mocking and insulting his person". One can imagine the ill-

fated German officers doing a take-off on Der Fuehrer, a thing which any comedian can do so readily.

Field Marshall Ernst Udet used to do a howlingly funny imitation of Hitler. He and Jimmy Doolittle were friends before the war. Will, Udet, 2nd to Goering in the Luftwaffe, died mysteriously. One theory was that he did his Hitler crowning act once too often.

PRISONERS

The truth is ^{out} about the killing of escaped war prisoners in Nazi Germany. The story was told in bitter terms by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, in the London House of Commons. He said the British Government had full evidence of cold-blooded murder committed by the Nazis, the mass murder of fifty prisoners of war.

Anthony Eden told how it all came about. At a prison camp near Breslau, an escape was planned by British captives of war. With infinite labor and secrecy they dug a tunnel - a tunnel seventy-five feet below the surface and two hundred yards long. It led to a point outside the camp, and on a night in March seventy-six prisoners stole through the tunnel and made their way out. Twenty-five were flying officers of the R.A.F. The escape was discovered prematurely, when Nazi guards spotted the last four prisoners emerging from the underground passage. There was a widespread hunt for the fugitives, and most of them were recaptured.

Then what happened? It became known that many of the escaped prisoners of war had been killed, and the Nazis gave an explanation. They claimed that

the prisoners had been shot while escaping or while resisting recapture. This version now turns out to be a fraud, and today in the House of Commons the British Foreign Secretary revealed the brutal truth. Fifty of the prisoners were taken by the Nazi Gestapo, and herded off in small groups, and executed. One of the most cold-blooded of all the atrocious Nazi crimes in this war.

Although as we know it has been common enough for the Nazis to slaughter civilians - Jews, Poles, &

Anthony Eden said that this disclosure comes

from various sources - including a statement from the Hitler government itself. After the first phoney explanation had been given out by the Nazis, London made a formal inquiry of Berlin - acting through the neutral Swiss government. And now an answer has been received.

The German government states that during the month of March there were a number of escapes by prisoners of war; and ^{Berlin} claims that these were directed by the Allied military authorities. The Germans maintain that the escapes were planned for both military and political reasons. ~~The prisoners of war, upon getting~~ ^{out}

were to act against the Nazis, both by doing military damage and by carrying on political propaganda, presumably in the countries that are under Nazi oppression. Hence, in dealing with escapes, the Hitler authorities gave, what the German statement calls - "especially severe orders". And that phrase, "especially severe ~~in~~ orders", is a confession.

Today the Foreign Secretary denied that any orders to escape had ever been given to British prisoners of war or any instructions to engage in subversive activities against the Nazis. And he vowed Allied vengeance against the Hitlerites responsible for the mass executions. - "Foul criminals!", he rightly called them.

Now Hugh will you take over,
and then we'll talk about the
Pacific War.

STRIKES

The sailors who sent money to provide wage increases for strikers are getting back their donation. This was announced by the Navy tonight, with the additional information that the Navy does not approve of the dramatic gesture.

The story is that the crew of the seaplane tender Goos Bay raised four hundred and twelve Dollars and sent it to the Associated Press, Asking the A.P. to pass the money along to strikers at the Wright Aircraft Corporation. The purpose was, in the words of the letter -- ~~is~~ "to help pay the wage increase the money-hungry strikers are demanding". The A. P. thereupon sent the four ~~hundred~~ hundred and twelve dollars to the Secretary of the Navy, and tonight the word is that the cash will go right back to the crew of the Goos Bay.

And, at the same time, the Navy issues a statement saying that it certainly does not approve of strikes in war time. "But neither does the Navy",

declares the statement, "condone expressions by its personnel of resentment, however sincere, which are in disregard of official regulations". Then the Navy goes on to mention -- "publicity seeking". An investigation is to be made to determine how the whole thing happened.

At the same time, in Congress today, Representative Compton of Connecticut disclosed some correspondence that he has had with Lieutenant W. F. James of the Sea Tender Coos Bay. The Lieutenant sent two letters to the Congressman protesting against strikes -- particularly ~~was~~ a C. I. O. walkout at Lockland Ohio, that was in progress on D - Day. The Congressman wrote in reply that the D; Day strike was, in his words, "particularly unfortunate". But he assured the Lieutenant that the strike situation wasn't as bad as the published news ~~news~~ would seem to indicate.

CHINA

From China we continue to have ominous news. Chungking reports that the Japs, having captured the great railroad center of Changsha, have driven on toward Henyang, another vital railroad junction. And Henyang is the site of an important Allied air base - maybe one of the flying fields from which the giant B-29's took off to bomb Japan. Tonight the Japs are only twenty-five miles away from Henyang and the air base.

Chungking says it looks more and more as if the Japs, driving down the railroad from Hangkow to Canton, will succeed in their purpose - which is to cut China in ~~the~~ two and establish a continuous rail connection from Manchuria on South. In fact, if the Japanese campaign succeeds, the far eastern enemy will establish overland communication all the way from Manchuria to Singapore - down the length of China to Jap-~~controlled~~ controlled Indo-China, and then down the Malay Peninsula to Singapore.

SUBSTITUTE PACIFIC

However
favorable news keeps coming from the far spaces of the Pacific, news featuring Jap aircraft carriers. Admiral Nimitz gives us new information about the enemy losses in the sea and air conflict on Monday, the battle ~~at~~^{off} the eastern Philippines. One Jap aircraft carrier had already been listed as sunk, and now another is added -- a small one. This enemy flat-top had been reported ~~to be~~ damaged; and now it has been ~~ascertained~~^{found} that the smashed up carrier went to the bottom.

Still larger news tells of the torpedoing of a big aircraft carrier, a twenty-thousand tonner. The attack was delivered by an ~~AMERICAN~~ American submarine. The twenty-tonner flat-top was blasted by three torpedoes, and is listed as - probably sunk.

SAIPAN

On the island of Saipan, the focus of action today was on a tall mountain, ~~a peak called Tapotchau~~. American troops were pushing up the slopes - moving ~~xxxxx~~ toward what is believed will be a decisive battle. The principal Jap forces are on the other side of the mountain, and the climax is expected when the Americans get across and at them.

Today our Commanding General said: "We have not met the bulk of the enemy forces yet - a lot of their best men are concentrated back of Tapotchau".

The fighting now going on is of a familiar ~~xxxxx~~ pattern - parties of fanatical Japs fighting to kill as many as they ^{can before} ~~xxxxxxx~~ they themselves are killed. In desperate jungle conflict they are conducting a delaying action, ~~while their main forces~~, ~~make ready for the culminating clash. There can be~~ ~~no doubt of the outcome.~~ The battle for Saipan can have only one result. The Japs, ^{there} ~~on Saipan Island~~ are now without any hope of reinforcement or relief. ~~this~~ ~~following the flight of their big naval force, driven~~ ~~away by Admiral Spruance's~~ ~~navies in the sea fight~~.

QUESTION

We know that the American soldiers fighting in lands of the tropics have a lot of weird perils to contend with. G. I. Joe is particularly aware of the spooky dangers, and sometimes he wonders. This is illustrated vividly in an incident reported by a Marine Corps combat correspondent, Sergeant John ~~B. F.~~ Campbell, formerly of the Los Angeles ~~XXXX~~ Herald-Express. ~~The newspaperman-sergeant deserves a pat on the back for the following.~~

He tells how, when the Marines were about to invade Saipan, ~~Island,~~ a medical officer called the soldiers of an artillery unit together and warned them of the dangers in the landing. ~~Not~~ counting the Japs, he listed the ~~firm~~ following:

In the surf they must beware of sharks, barracuda, sea snakes, ~~sea-~~anemones, razor-sharp coral, polluted waters, poison fish. And, of all things, look out for the giant clams ~~that were~~ capable of snapping a man's leg like a bear trap.

Ashore, they ~~must~~ ^{were to} take precautions against

QUESTION - 2

leprosy, typhus, the yaws, typhoid and paratyphoid, ~~severe~~, dengue fever, dysentery, and an assortment of skin and eye infections. Also - saw grass, which some call sabre grass, all kinds of poison insects; ~~and~~ snakes and giant lizards.

The soldiers listened attentively, and when the list of variegated perils was complete, one G. I. Joe raised his hand and asked "Sir, why don't we let the Japs have the island".

And now Hugh, Sir, why don't we hear from you, sir?