

Tonight's news states that the American Ninth Army drive to the Rhine reached that historic river at two points. Both of these are on the bank across from Duesseldorf. The Ninth Army is surging forward in a thirty-mile sweep, from the historic city of Cologne northward to the factory town of Krefeld, and scores of places have been seized in an area tightly packed with industry.

The Germans in retreat everywhere - the enemy in a hasty attempt to get back across the river. And tonight American artillery is firing at targets on the opposite bank, along the front where the Americans stand in a new kind of watch on the Rhine -- a Wacht-am-Rhein that strikes terror in Germany.

~~To the South, etc etc~~

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all along the front where the Americans stand in a  
new kind of watch on the Rhine - a Wacht-Am-Rhine  
that strikes terror in Germany.~~

To the south, General Patton's Third Army  
drove ahead too, and took one of Germany's famous  
cities, Trier or better perhaps, Treves (Treeves).

These matters of pronunciation are of some  
consequence - political consequence. In England,  
the British Broadcasting Company today altered its  
previous practice in talking about still another  
German City. Instead of Aachen, B.B.C. said -  
Aix-la-Chappelle. This, we are told, followed a  
suggestion from Prime Minister Churchill, who pointed  
out that the names of many Rhineland cities have  
both a German and a French form, and he suggested  
that the French form be used. That may well be taken  
as a hint that the Rhineland is to be turned over  
to France, in which case the French forms of the names  
would become official. Anyway, on the air in Britain  
today, Aachen <sup>once again</sup> became Aix-la-Chappelle.

I myself might note that I, myself, have been calling it Aix-la-Chapelle all along - though without any political idea. Aix-la-Chappelle is French all right, but then it is classic English too. In times past, England had much to do in the wars in Western Germany, and English literature of the period established its own usage ~~of~~ the names of cities.

For example, the historic town captured by General Patton's Third today has two forms of name - German and French. But German Trier has also a traditional English form -- Treeves. And, in these matters of foreign names - why not fall back on English forms whenever we can. After all, it <sup>'</sup>is the language ~~it~~ that we talk. — *or try to.*

## BROTHERS - WESTERN FRONT

Somewhere along the Western Front, a newspaperman ventured far into the fighting area - (into a section where German artillery was trying to knock out a bridge.) Shells were bursting nearby, when he happened to ~~xxx~~ notice an odd sight - two American soldiers slapping each other on the back in violent greeting, and shouting welcome to each other.

This was so curious that the United Press Correspondent, C. R. Cunningham, made his way over to investigate - why all the friendly rejoicing, with shells banging here and there? He found that the two soldiers, both Corporals, were brothers - who hadn't seen each other in two and a half years. They <sup>are</sup> Joe and George Baily, sons of Mrs. A. W. Baily of Washington, D. C.

Back in nineteen forty-two, in November, Joe was home on furlough from the Army - before going overseas. Younger brother, George, was not yet in the Army - but expected to be soon. That was the last the Baily boys saw of each other - until now, when

they met under shell fire.

Joe stood back, and took a sharp look at younger brother George. "Say," he growled, "Am I standing in a hole or have you grown taller?".

"Well, I've grown an inch or two in the Army," responded George.

After which the same thought hit them both - "We'd better write home<sup>2</sup> to mother, and we'd better do it right away."

Whereupon the two Corporals sat down, and there, in the front line, each scribbled a note - while a German shell exploded over on one side and another blasted straight ahead - near the bridge.

I am relating this as a tip-off to Mrs. A. W. Baily of Washington, D. C., a hint that she'll soon be getting a couple of letters - from Joe and George, over there.



## BLACK MARKET - ARMY IN FRANCE

Over in France a lot of soldiers are being given another chance, soldiers convicted of stealing Army supplies and selling these to the black market. They'll be allowed to redeem themselves in battle, instead of having to go to prison.

A hundred and fifty-six have been convicted thus far, and of these a hundred and fifteen are being formed into what is called - "A special fighting unit."

This new chance was offered to all of the soldiers convicted, except twenty-seven -- the leaders in the looting and others who refused to help clear up the black market thefts. Fourteen who were offered clemency refused it - preferring to serve different prison terms rather than go into battle with the special fighting units.

## EASTERN FRONT

The Russians in Pomerania have cut the last remaining highway between the cities of Danzig and Stettin, and have the parallel railroad line under artillery fire. And that cuts the German province of Pomerania in two - isolating between two and three hundred thousand German Troops to the East. (Thus the Soviet Armies, which during the past few days have concentrated on Pomerania, have closed another big trap.)

## ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt thinks it might not be a bad idea to use German ex-soldiers to repair war damage in Soviet Russia.

On several occasions, Moscow has declared the intention of using forced German Labor to rebuild in Russia, making up for the Nazi havoc. This has been criticized - by the American Federation of Labor, for example, which declared against post-war slave labor. In Congress yesterday, President Roosevelt stated that the victorious Big Three does not intend to enslave the German people. At the same time, the Yalta agreements provide that Germany must make reparations - in kind. Not with payments of money, which worked out so badly after the last war, but with materials, goods, and possibly services. Does that include the kind of German forced labor which Moscow has demanded?

The President replied that he did not think so - did not think that forced labor came under the heading of the Yalta reparations. But he added that,



after what he had seen of Nazi havoc in the Crimea,  
he did not think it would be a bad idea to use former  
German soldiers to repair German war damage in Russia.  
He did not go on to the further subject of the  
possible use of ex-German soldiers to do rebuilding  
work in other countries ravaged by the Nazis.

— o —

Hugh — your message from  
Stan. of Cal. and then the news  
from the Pacific.

## PHILIPPINES

On the rock called Corregidor, the American flag was raised today in a formal ceremony - two years and ten months after the surrender of the half-starved American garrison to the Japs.

There was drama and deep emotions in the flag raising. General MacArthur came to Corregidor, and with him were eleven officers who had served on Bataan and on that rock at the entrance of Manila Bay. The savage struggle for Corregidor having just ended, there were scenes of unbelievable havoc everywhere on the rock, vast craters from explosions and hundreds of dead Japs.

MacArthur went to the entrance of a tunnel, the Malinta Tunnel - one of the principal of the Subterranean passages in which the Japs have fought to the death. Smoke still issued from the dark underground passages, in which were hundreds of Japanese bodies. As MacArthur peered into the entrance, American machine gunners and riflemen kept xx their weapons trained into the black hole. There might

~~still be some Japs in there~~

still be live Japs in there - enemy soldiers who might charge-out, shooting, in a last banzai suicide hope of killing an American. But no sign of life appeared in the Malinta Tunnel, as General MacArthur peered into the sombre smoky hole.

Nearby MacArthur saw an upright staff, a familiar sight to him - the flagpole from which the Stars and Stripes had flown during the defense of Corregidor and Bataan. ~~He~~ turned to Colonel George M. Jones of Memphis, Tennessee, and gave the order: "I see the old flagpole still stands," said he. "Have your Troops hoist the colors to its peak, and let no enemy ever haul it down."

SUBSTITUTE IWO JIMA

On Iwo Jima the breakthrough of the Marines has driven a wedge into the center of the main line of Jap resistance - a wedge so deep that the Leathernecks are within less than ~~three~~ three-quarters of a mile of the northern coast of the island. ~~They're~~ ~~almost within sight of the ocean.~~ Their most striking success today was the capture of the highest hill in the northern part of Iwo, hill three hundred and sixty-two, near the north coast.

There is no let-up in the ferocity of the battle. Headquarters tells us that the Japs continue the fanatical savagery of their fight to the end. More than seven thousand enemy dead have already been counted. How many prisoners? Just thirty-two.

## BILLS

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And now - who's got all the thousand dollar bills? Don't look at me, ~~follow~~ - I might be able to rake up a ten spot. The question is being asked in Treasury circles in Washington. For some reason or other, there has been a disappearance of thousand dollar, five hundred dollar, and one hundred dollar bills. Are these being hoarded, being socked away?

The surmise is that there may be a hoarding of big bills to evade the payment of income tax. Treasury officials point out that many people get their income largely in the form of tips - such as taxi drivers and waiters. Such earnings do not appear on books anywhere, and it is believed that a lot are not being reported on income tax ~~ax~~ day. Tax evaders of this sort might refrain from putting such money in the bank or into investments, such as bonds - which would be on record. So they may be turning unreported earnings into large bills - and hoarding these.

Moreover, there is the Black Market which



goes in for cash deals. And for illicit big money transactions big bills might conveniently be used, and kept under cover.

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What to do about it? The answer may be another large scale government action in the world of money. Senator Bushfield of South Dakota proposes that the President solve the mystery of the vanished big bills by calling in all money of large denomination - just as he called in the gold at the beginning of the new deal. New money, also in large denominations, would be given in return - the advantage of the whole thing being that, by making people turn in the present big bills, the Government would find out who has them. <sup>And</sup> that would provide information for an income tax and black market check-up -- and, at the same time, would encourage a thing the Government wants, invest the big bills in War Bonds.

## ODDITIES

Here are two stories in the news that I am combining, although they may seem poles apart. One is about nudism - the other about a convention of ladies a hundred years old. Yet, a common theme combine them both.

In Chicago today, a new theory was advanced for the furtherance of democracy and world peace. This theory is propounded by Alois Knapp, President of the American Sun Bathing Association - sun bathing being a nice way of saying nudism. And the theory of Democracy and world peace amounts to just that - a reversion to the sartorial habits of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

The logic goes this way, and it isn't so bad:-As for Democracy, the President of the Sun Bathers states: "Both rich and poor are alike when nude. A millionaire is no different from his chauffeur when both are wearing nature's uniform." And that's an even nicer way of expressing it - nature's uniform. *Ah!*

All of which leads to the following Sun Bathing pronunciamento: "Nudism is the world's greatest manifestation of Democracy."

As for the abolition of war, the President of the Sun Bathers is equally logical - who is there to dispute the following? "Soldiers in the nude," says he, "Wouldn't know who the enemy was. They wouldn't even know their own commanding officers." Right you are, nature's uniform doesn't include either brass hats or gold braid.

Anyway, that's the new theory of Democracy and world peace - and I wonder whether it occurred to the Big Three at Yalta. President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Marshall Stalin might have given it serious consideration if they had thought of it. ~~They might even have started to practice it right there at Yalta - the Big Sunbathing Three.~~

There is still another angle propounded by the President of the Sun Bathers - who contends that nature's own uniform promotes good health and long

life. And this takes us to the hundred year old ladies.

From Boston, we have a symposium held among ten New England women who have lived to be more than a hundred years old. And they answer the usual question - to what do you attribute your longevity? They advance various ideas, none of which is nudism. Not one of them attributes her more than a hundred years to the practice of going about in nature's own uniform - not those New England ladies!

On the contrary, one of them, a hundred-and-five-years old, prescribes a thing that sounds very different - her secret of longevity. She says that in order to live to be a hundred, you should sleep under lots of blankets - and, you should keep the windows closed both in winter and in summer. Do not even open the ~~windows~~, no matter what the weather may be, and you may live to be a hundred.

To which we may fitly add the recipe for longevity given by two other ladies, a hundred-and-three and a hundred-and-four years old, respectively.

They prescribe: "Plenty of laughs will add years to your life." I like that formula. What say you Hugh?