

Esp. March 30, 1945.

The news from the Western Front pictures a wildly surging advance, with Allied columns driving ahead at breakneck speed. Today the American First and Third armies made a sweeping advance for thirty^{three} miles on a solid hundred mile front - and that's the fastest kind of going under conditions of war. And Allied troops are now little more than a hundred and eighty mile^s from Berlin.

General Patton's Third Army drove toward Leipzig, in a direction that would lead to a junction with the Russians, who are at the gates of Saxony.

The First Army, commanded by General Hodges, is approaching the important city of Kassel. That's at the center of the First Army advance. To the north, Hodge's troops have captured the city of Paderborn, which ~~is~~ was founded by Charlemagne at the beginning of the Middle Ages.

By bursting through Paderborn, the First Army has now thrust from hill country into the open plains of northern Germany, the flat lands of

Westphalia. This utterly outflanks the industrial Ruhr, where the Germans have been making their only effective resistance - knowing only too well the importance of the Ruhr.

And Hodges' First Army troops are within less than fifty miles of a junction with Field Marshal Montgomery's British Second Army. ^{TR} Montgomery's forces, including the American Ninth Army, are likewise driving at top speed, having broken completely through along the northern edges of the Ruhr. However, we don't know just what gains they have scored. Because Montgomery has imposed a security blackout so severe that hardly anything trickles through - save for the fact that his soldiers have neared the city of Muenster, where white flags are reported to be waving.

All along the front the word is - little or no German resistance. The only fight the Nazis are reported to be putting up today is far to the south, where General Patch's Seventh Army has captured the legended university city of Heidelberg - famous in

song and story. Near Heidelberg is the Oden Forest and there the Germans are fighting stubbornly - their only real resistance, as American columns slash forward almost at will.

Tonight United Press correspondent Robert Richards describes the dizzy advances as follows:- "Our battle against the Nazis" he cables, "is fast becoming a mad rat race, with American tanks and trucks straining every bolt in a tremendous effort to continue chewing up the dazed and stricken foe. It looks like the Germans have quit cold. The Wehrmacht is not being outfought - but overrun".

An American officer, Captain Joseph Lanfer of New York City, is quoted as saying; "It just isn't a war any longer, it's a ~~xxx~~ circus".

One of the most ~~significant~~ significant of all the facts is that the Germans are surrendering wholesale. Today the Third Army scored a record - by taking twenty-two thousand and forty prisoners in a period of twenty-four hours. The First Army in that time

captured eleven thousand two hundred and twenty-six. That makes a one-day total of more than thirty-three thousand prisoners seized by two American armies, ~~is~~ equivalent to capturing more than two full German divisions.- Among the captives of the Third Army is what is significantly, though cryptically called "a high ranking German officer".

All dispatches indicate that one of the greatest mass surrenders in history is in progress on the First and Third Army fronts. One news ~~correspondent~~ correspondent gives this picture:- "Platoon after platoon of prisoners passed us, with no one guarding them. They were merely walking to the rear looking for M.P.'s.

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SUBSTITUTE END WESTERN FRONT

~~Continue from "and among the captives of the Third Army is what is significantly and cryptically called a high-ranking German officer!"~~

Later news discloses significant things about this individual. We are not told who he is, merely that he surrendered. He was in a small camouflaged automobile, when overtaken by an armored unit of Patton's forces and promptly gave up. And here is the importance of the capture of the "high-ranking German officer" in the story as given us tonight:-

To American officers he stated that the road to the Nazi capital was virtually clear. The dispatch puts it in these words: "He asserted that there was no organized German resistance between the American Army and Berlin.

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As an example, here's an incident to illustrate the German will to surrender. In the ~~path~~ path of the American advance was a military hospital where fifty-eight wounded prisoners were kept. Allied fliers. A German medical soldier slipped through the line, contacted Americans and gave them the location of the hospital. Whereupon an American outfit made a dash to liberate the prisoners. When they got there the entire German medical staff came out, bringing drinks to the Americans. The wounded fliers said they had been well treated.

A flashing statement comes from General Patton. In a special order of the day he praises his Third Army troops for their spectacular victories since they crossed the Rhine: "History", Patton tells them "records no greater achievement in so limited a time".

Well, it was only last weekend that the

Patton break across the Rhine occurred - and look where the Third Army is now, deep in central Germany.

General Patton reveals that his troops have seized six thousand, four hundred and eighty-four square miles of German territory; they have ~~xxx~~ captured three thousand and seventy-two cities and towns, and have taken more than a hundred and forty thousand prisoners, eliminating practically all of the German First and Seventh armies. All that accomplished by Patton's troops - since they crossed the Rhine. The exploits of the Third Army alone are a brilliant indication of the abysmal depths of the Nazi defeat.

Well, it's either of two things -- either the German Army in the West is breaking to pieces, collapsing and disintegrating -- in which case a ~~xx~~ complete Allied victory will not long be delayed; — Or -- the desperate Nazi command is pulling back its Armies as fast as it can for another stand -- along another line. A swift methodical retreat would

ACCOUNT FOR THE UNRESISTED DRIVES OF THE Allied columns. However, the phenomenon of mass surrender does not fit the picture of a methodical, though hasty withdrawal, to another line. When two American armies capture thirty-three thousand prisoners in one day, ~~it~~ looks more like enemy collapse.

Anyway, where can the Germans ~~fix~~ form a new line? In retreating, they might reach the Eastern Front, and back right into the Russians. The only important river between the western Allies and Berlin is the Elbe, a large stream. But, if ~~the~~ the Germans should try to make a stand along the Elbe, the western Allies would be about as near Berlin as the Russians are on the Oder, and Hitler's Army would be defending only a narrow strip of Germany.

Meanwhile

The Russians have captured the city that was the Nazi pretext for starting the war - Danzig.

To gain Danzig was the principal reason that Hitler gave for attacking Poland and beginning the global conflict. The great Baltic seaport has been under Russian attack for weeks, and now it has been taken. The Germans put up a bitter defense, and Danzig fell only after a ~~two~~ three-day street battle. Soviet forces, upon taking the city, immediately raised the flag of Poland, indicating, of course, that Poland is to acquire Danzig - ~~now~~ as was agreed upon by the Big Three in their conference at Yalta.

To the south, ~~the Russians crossed into Austria today~~ Stalin announced ^S a breakthrough by the Red Army along the northern bank of the Danube, and later came the bulletin - Soviet forces have crossed the border of ~~Austria~~ Austria. This - at a point fifty miles south of Vienna.

NAZI PLAN

We've had a lot of stories about Nazi plans for controlling Germany after defeat and ~~pre~~ preparing for ~~the~~ another war. Most have been of the rumor sort, but now we have an official disclosure ~~is~~ from the State Department in Washington. We are told that ^{our} ~~the~~ government has in its possession photographic copies of seven volumes setting forth instructions to Nazi^s during the post-war period.

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The general idea^{is,} says Washington, ~~is~~ for the Germans to soften up the Allies with arguments urging fair treatment for the defeated nation. Also, to form commercial and technological connections that will enable Germans to acquire influence in business and industry in the Allied countries. In particular, German technicians are to be used - in an attempt to continue technological development that will be at the service of Germany for another war.

The whole thing is a kind of complicated fifth column project - centering around the intention

to keep Nazi doctrines alive and revive German ambitions for world domination.

"Unless these plans are checked" the State Department warns, "they will present a constant menace to post-war peace and security."

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Hugh, will you take over for a few moments - and then will turn to Pacific.

PACIFIC

There are intimations though rather vague of great naval developments in the far Pacific. The Japs continue to tell of American task forces in operation in Japanese home waters - and we know ^{now} that American warships have been joined by powerful units of the British Fleet. (Tokyo tells of two American task forces off the main islands of Japan - ~~and~~ ~~they are~~ mighty close to the Japanese shore. One is described as being near an island only twenty-five miles off ~~xxxx~~ the coast of Kyushu, the southernmost main island of Japan. That's the nearest approach of American warships to Japan thus far.

On our side, military secrecy covers what would seem to be ~~great~~ great naval activity out there.

~~and~~ Today's dispatch from the headquarters of Admiral Nimitz merely tells of another assault by B-29s -

~~Superfortresses~~ Superfortresses ~~have~~ again bombed the big Japanese aircraft center, Nagoya. Likewise - B-29s

have hit Singapore - ~~and~~ ~~the great British naval base~~

transformed into
~~has become a major stronghold for the enemy. Vast oil fires were set at Singapore.)~~

NAVY

The Japs have lost another big ~~NINETY~~ aircraft carrier - this one sunk by an American submarine. The Navy Department tonight gives a new list of enemy ships destroyed by the American undersea fleet, and at the top of the list is - a big Jap aircraft carrier.

PHILIPPINES

The reconquest of the many islands of the Philippines goes on - the island of Negros being the latest to be invaded by MacArthur's troops.

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A late bulletin tonight states that American troops have landed on Negros, ~~which is~~ the fourth largest island of the Archipelago. They drove swiftly for fourteen miles, captured an airdrome, and reached the outskirts of the town of Bacalod, capital of the island of Negros.

CHINA

News not so good

~~Bad news~~ from China. ~~continues~~. The American

Air Force out there has evacuated its important bases in the area of Laohokow. Jap columns have lashed through the defenses of that ^{place with} ~~place with~~ Tokyo ^{ing} boasts that Laohokow has been captured.

(All of which is another setback for General Chennault's Air Force in China, which last year was forced to give up all its bases in the eastern and southeastern part of the country.) Of course, importance of ~~the~~ American bases in China is now minimized by the fact that we have acquired flying fields that are far better for bombing Japan - ^{these} mid-Pacific islands, the Philippines, and above all, Iwo Jima. (Nevertheless, the continuing series of Japanese victories in China are not pleasant to contemplate.)

Today at Boca Raton in Florida, ^{(a tropical}
~~island~~ Paradise near Palm Beach, ^{captain}
Balfour Gibson finally told his wife, confessed to
her the story of his adventure on a South Sea island -
a bit of tropical land that may be aptly called -
the Isle of Women. Its population is of the feminine
gender. The captain has been back home for a year now,
but he never told the Missus. Not that he was cautious.
It was a case of military secrecy. He was not
permitted to give any information about his adventure,
not even to his wife - not until today, when the veil
of official secrecy was lifted, and ~~she~~ was she
surprised!

Here's what he told her: He was piloting
a big bomber, and was shot down. Landing on the sea,
the captain and his crew got out and drifted on a
life raft - for sixteen days, eating mouldy K-rations,
sharks and seagulls. At length, they sighted a
string of seven islands, and paddled ashore. The
natives were friendly - ~~but~~ they were mostly women.
For some ~~of~~ reason, the population of the seven bits

of land, was almost entirely feminine.

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The survivors of the American bomber were too many for the food supply of any one island - so they spread out - seven men, one man to each island. The one on which Captain Gibson took refuge had thirty-five women, and one man - the Chief ~~was~~^a South Sea potentate ^{who} lived a life that Riley never dreamed of. ~~XXXXXX~~

The women did all the work, naturally - you wouldn't expect the Chief to do any. The women provided banquets of chicken and lobster, and the Captain, after the starvation trip on the liferaft, put on fifty pounds. ^{Soon he} was beginning to look like ^{the} Chief.

Finally, he and his men on the other islands decided to make an attempt to get to the Americans on Guadalcanal. Chief Friday provided a canoe, but he was no fool in such matters. He charged them forty follars for it. They had no money, so it had to be on the cuff. The wiley potentate was taking no

chances. He went along to protect his investment and collect it at the other end.

In the big canoe they set sail for Guadalcanal seven hundred miles away. Before they got there, they were picked up by an American ship, aboard which Captain Gibson scraped up the forty bucks, and paid off the Chief - who thereupon in the canoe, started back for his island and the thirty-five women.

That's the story Captain Bibson, down in Florida under the waving palms at Boca Raton, related to his wife today. 35 women, and 2 men -- one of them her husband. And that gave the wife at Boca Raton, food for thought.

And now a message from Stan. of Calif, that will give all us food for thought.

MOSQUITO

Science has achieved another of its wonders, another of its miracles. Scientists have succeeded in recording - the mating call of the mosquito. Maybe you didn't know that the ~~mosquito~~ ^{anophales and} ~~his pestiferous cousins~~ had a mating call, but it has. After the Mosquito takes a stinging bite out of the back of your neck, he lifts his voice and sings to his mate. And now, professors at Cornell have transcribed the mosquito love song on a record, ~~and~~ ^{so they can play} it over and over again.

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Why did the professors do this -- at a great expense of time and labor? Are they fascinated by the mating call of the ~~pestiferous~~ ^{swamp and bayou?} No, not exactly. Their idea is that by putting on a serenade of mosquito love songs, they may be able to lure the insects to destruction - something like the pied piper of Hamelin and the rats.

The magazine Science relates: The most astonishing and important observation of the experiment is that the noise of a single female will

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often cause the males to burst into an answering chorus.

I can't give you the mating call of the mosquito. But I can give you the closing call at sunset of my pal Hugh.