

P.J. - Standard. Wednesday, March 7, 1945.
Seneca.

Substitute lead Weastern Front

The news toninght is hailing the dash made by General Patton's third army. Patton's army in fifty-eight hours drove for sixty miles through the heart of the German Rhineland, and today reached the Rhine near the city of Coblenz.

This drive to the Rhine is one headline that is permitted to flash, as another news blackout covers the Western Front and conceals the doings of General Patton's third army and General Hodge's first army. Patton's troops went racing ahead against feeble opposition. Their strategic objective is to join forces with the first army, which is pushing ~~at~~

Another news blackout on the Western Front, secrecy covering the moves of General Patton's Third Army and General Hodges' First--both of which are known to be making rapid progress. The veil of censorship, however, permits us to get a pretty good picture of what is happening.

Patton's third army was last reported to be within ten miles of the important city of Coblenz, on the Rhine. And third army troops were racing ahead against feeble opposition, continuing their drive northward through the Moselle Valley. It is probable enough that they have reached Coblenz on the Rhine already, and are pushing northward along the west bank of that stream.

Their strategic objective is to join forces with the ~~first army, which is thrusting~~ southward from Captured Cologne.

At last reports first army troops were approaching the university city of Bonn.

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A junction of the forces of the third and first armies along the bank of the Rhine would trap large enemy forces that are still west of the river. The Germans have been giving up

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their Rhineland, pulling out, but plenty of Nazi units have not been able to extricate themselves. And around those the first and third armies are closing a trap.

All of which is a fitting celebration of an anniversary-- the tenth anniversary of the Nazi Remilitarization of the Rhineland. On March seventh, nineteen thirty-five, Hitler sent Nazi troops across the Rhine into the province that had been demilitarized by the Versailles Treaty. And thereby the Nazi fuherer tore up one of the most important pages of that pact. It was one of the important steps leading to the present war, as German troops went into the Rhineland then--and now they've lost it.

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COLOGNE

Here is a first hand report on the Cologne Cathedral. It comes from United Press correspondent John McDermott, who states that the world famous edifice did sustain some damage in the great allied bombings of the city. The walls show scars where shell fragments hit. There is a big hole in the Gothic facade above the entrance--a hole made apparently by a fragment of a bomb that exploded in the neighborhood. And one flying buttress is badly damaged. But the lofty twin spires, though blackened by smoke, are intact. And the roof is strong and secure.

The Cathedral, with a deluge of bombs raining on every side, sustained not one direct hit--though a blockbuster did come crashing down at the foot of the stone steps of the entrance. And there the ponderous bomb is still to be seen--it was a dud. Had it exploded, it probably would have shattered the facade of medieval masonry, but the missile was one of the very few that failed to explode.

Today, American soldiers were swarming to the Cathedral of Cologne. They drove toward the city, they had seen miles away-- those twin spires which dominate the view. And they are eager to

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to have a look at the lofty architecture which had been like a goal for the American First Army.

The United Press correspondent reports that the G I's are not disappointed. The general concensus of opinion is expressed by Sergeant Benjamin Barone of Atlantic City, New Jersey. Staring at the medieval architecture, he exclaimed, "Boy, it's just out of this world. I never saw anything like it. It's the most beautiful thing I ever saw."

end.

EASTERN FRONT

The Russians are ~~starting~~ storming the front nearest to Berlin. This is stated by the Germans, who relate that the expected Soviet offensive along the line of the Oder has begun. There was a tremendous artillery bombardment, and then Soviet troops drove forward. The word from Berlin indicates that the Russians have made progress and are now within twenty-nine miles of the Nazi Capital. From the Russian side, the news is more general--indicating merely that violent fighting is raging on the road to Berlin.

Moscow announces new progress and the capture of many places in Pomerania--progress toward the great ports of Stettin and Danzig. Berlin admits that the German Pomeranian front has been cut into sectors--the usual preliminary before elimination.

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POLES.

In London today, the provisional government of Poland, sponsored by the Soviets, was given a warning. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told parliament that the Lublin regime must not persecute the Poles who are loyal to the exiled government in London. Eden referred to the negotiations in Moscow for the establishment of a new provisional government, in which all patriotic Polish elements are to be represented. And he stated that these negotiations would be jeopardized--if the Lublin regime oppresses patriotic Poles. This would destroy British confidence in the negotiations.

At the same time, the Foreign Secretary disclosed that the wife of the Premier of the exiled government is being released. She was in Poland doing Red Cross work and was arrested by the Lublin people--as they announced last week. London made representations to Moscow about this, and now the Russians respond that the exiled premier's wife is being set free.

At the same time, we are told that the Russians have arrested and deported Prinze Radzwill, a leader of the Polish Conservative Party. He played a brave part in the patriotic Polish resistance

to the Nazis--and now goes into exile.

The British Foreign Secretary in the House of Commons today defended the agreement to give part of East Prussia to the Soviets, including the city of Koenigsberg. Eden stated flatly that the Atlantic Charter does not apply to enemy territory. Apparently the Charter, with its guarantee of rights, is solely for the benefit of the winners.

And now ^{end} Michael Wayne, —
from Washington, D. C., with a
message for Stan. of Cal., and
then I have more news.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD, IWO JIMA-

The latest tonight from Iwo tells of a general attack by the marines. They advanced at some points, but at others no progress was made--so desperate is the last ditch fight of the Japs. Today's battle resulted in little better than a stalemate against fanatical enemy troops entrenched in a maze of fortified caves, etc.

IWO JIMA

~~The word from Iwo Jima is that the Marines made little progress today--so desperate is the last ditch fight of the Japs. They are making their final stand in a maze of fortified caves and pill boxes--their only alternatives being death in battle or suicide plunges from the cliffs into the sea.~~

The marines today were supported by continuing bombardments from war ships at sea and swarms of planes in the sky, but the Japs were still able to pour a violent fire of mortars, field guns and small weapons. In some areas, the leathernecks made gains measured in yards, and in others no gains at all--as the Jap on Iwo fights his last fight.

End

ADD IWO JIMA

Tonight we are told that the savage battle on Iwo has been tougher than the American command figured--and they expected from the start that it would be tough. This is stated by Major General Harry Smith, commander of the fifth marine amphibious corps at the scene of the virtual stalemate on Iwo today. He describes the island as what the dispatch calls, "the most heavily defended spot of its size ever known to combat. This is no smack-bang campaign," says General Smith. "it is a matter of slowly crowding them out of their holes one by one and killing them one by one. The Japanese," he added, "have made a skillful defense."

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Substitute Philippines.

General MacArthur reports tonight that American troops have driven to the southern shore of the island of Luzon, capturing two towns on Balayan Bay. That is just across from the island of Mindoro, the new advance represents a smash through Jap defense lines in southern Luzon.

In the north American troops today launched a push against the Jap stronghold of Baguio--the one-time philippine summer resort. And this assault was regarded as the beginning of Macarthur's all-out drive to clean up the remaining Japs on Luzon.

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JAP ATROCITIES

From the Philippines comes news of what is described as the worst Jap atrocity of all--crimes committed by trapped enemy troops in Manila, before they were wiped out. Crazy by defeat and doom, the Japs in Manila's ancient walled city classified virtually all male filipino civilians as--guerrillas. And, as American troops closed in to wipe them out, the Japs massacred twenty-five hundred before they themselves were killed.

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MAIL

A couple of months ago, Mrs Joseph F. Hattan of Cleveland received word from the navy that her sailor husband had been lost in the sinking of the destroyer Johnson in action off the Philippines. And shortly thereafter she began to receive letters, a steady stream of them--letters that she had sent to him. He never got them--and now they are being returned to her, letters that she sent him during the whole time he was away in the war--and she wrote often. To date, the number returned to her is some three hundred⁷--and, fourteen packages of gifts. So now she speaks out in bitter protest.

She got a few letters from her sailor husband in the war, and in one of these he said: "The boys got mail today, and I thought I would have some too. But I guess maybe the next time I will. It sure makes a fellow feel' bad," he went on, "when others get letters and you don't--but there is always a next time to hope for."

When last seen, sailor Hattan was at his battle-station on the destroyer firing his gun as the ship went down. And today his wife said: "I just hope he wasn't thinking at that time that it

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didn't make any difference what happened to him, since none of us at home seemed to care any more."

There has been much talk about mail for service men, and this is the climax of heartbreak--the story of the sailor's wife in Cleveland.

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EXECUTION

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A strange flare-up of popular emotion is reported in Briton where an American paratrooper is awaiting execution-- hanging. He was convicted, together with an eighteen year old English girl, a strip tease dancer, for the murder of a London cab driver. A sentence of death pronounced against the strip tease girl was commuted to life imprisonment, because the jury recommended mercy. But the American paratrooper is doomed to be hanged at eight o'clock tomorrow morning, London time-- which is only a few hours from now.

Today there was a deluge of protests from the British public declaring that the American paratrooper should not be hanged. Exotic Britishers argued that the strip tease girl is just as guilty as the American soldier. And, if she gets mercy, ~~also~~ so should he.

One of the most curious flares of protests was in Glasgow, Scotland, today--where five girl factory workers served notice that they and their fellow women workers would call a strike if the british government does not call off the sentence of hanging against the American paratrooper. If he doesn't

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get same consideration that has been give to the London strip
tease girl, The women will go on strike.

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RABBIT

~~You'd think the army would have enough trouble in the ordinary course of a war, without getting into a controversy~~

~~about rabbits. But no--not content with the battles on hand, the~~

here comes the
~~Army Information Bureau has to invite~~ *ing* a new clash, by declaring

that a rabbit can run faster up hill than downhill. This is

stated in a sort of military quiz that has been sent to soldiers

overseas. The G I's at war fronts are informed that a rabbit can

proceed more rapidly uphill, because his hind legs tend to give

bunny too much propulsion, and he'd go head over heels, turning

somersaults, if he tried to go *extra* ~~too~~ fast downhill.

This army rabbit philosophy became public today, and the argument immediately began--among civilians here at home. At the Bronx Zoo, the head curator said--no, a rabbit can travel much faster downhill than uphill.

On the other hand, a Fish and Game official in California insists: "I've seen rabbits run faster uphill." And he explains: "When they go downhill they have a tendency to put on the brakes. When they go uphill they use their hind legs to full advantage."

Another zoological official stated that the whole thing was something like what he called "the sidehill cow. You know," he explained, "the cow that has long legs on the downhill side and shorter legs on the uphill side--so she can stay level while eating grass." The uphill rabbit and the downhill cow--it all gets very complicated.

~~With the brewing of the storm, army information headquarters is waiting with fear and trembling for the deluge of letters that may be expected from soldiers in the front lines--about the up-hill rabbit.~~

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FLOODS

The Ohio River floods went surging along today--with inundations all the way from Pittsburgh to Cairo, Illinois. Millions of acres of farm lands are flooded, and water is rushing through streets in hundreds of cities and towns.

At Portsmouth, Ohio, they are getting ready to evacuate thirty-two thousand people. There, the mounting crest of the flood is pushing against the dike that protects the town--and the dike is weakening rapidly. Hundreds of workers are trying to save it, but it looks as if the dike might go.

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MRS R.

In Washington today there was a discussion of the subject of--gifts for the First Lady. At her press conference, Mrs Roosevelt was asked about a mink coat presented to her by Canadian Fur Growers--a coat said to be worth eight thousand dollars. She replied that she had been tempted to give the coat to charity, but thought that would be ungracious to the Canadian fur people--so she decided to keep it.

Whereupon the First Lady went on to other gifts that she has received--a jeweled crown, for example. It was presented during the Casablanca Conference, given to the President, for her. Today she said that she has kept the jeweled crown--but, she assured the press conference, she does not wear it. No, the First Lady does not go around in the White House with a jeweled crown on her head.

On the other hand, I wonder whether she wears the gift she got from IBN Saud, that mighty monarch of the desert sand? We've heard a good deal about the exotic splendors that attended the meeting of President Roosevelt and Ibn Saud during the time when F D R was on his way home from the Yalta conference. It was a

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sort of Arabian Nights affair, and here is another detail to add to the colorful oddities.

The mighty potentate of Bedouin tribes presented to the President a sumptuous gift for Mrs Roosevelt. What was it? A harem dress! Ibn Saud, like any King of the East, has a harem and he supposed that the President of the United States had one also.

In courtesies between oriental potentates, nothing is more gracious, apparently, than for one to present to the other a harem dress for his favorite wife. So Ibn Saud, who is reputed to have had a hundred wives, had his attendants bring forth something really spectacular, gorgeous raiment--with a Mohammedan veil and all. That, I suppose he figured, would really look well in the harem of the President of the United States.

Mrs Roosevelt stated today that she has the harem dress, but she didn't say whether or not she has been wearing it around the White House.

*Michael Wayne, how about a closing
And now, ~~Hughes~~ a final ~~parental~~
salaam from you.*

In Washington two Senate Committees will be asked to investigate the question of American tanks--this following complaints of American soldiers on the Western Front. The soldiers have been making protests, declaring that the American tanks were no good.

Senator Ferguson of Michigan stated today that the complaints about tanks should be looked into--"if," said he, "reports from the front show that they are not working."

From the war department comes word about a new armored monster, the T-26, which the war department calls "the American answer to the German Tiger." This ponderous tank is now in production, but we are not told whether it has been used in battle as yet.

Under-Secretary of War Patterson is quoted as saying that American armor is, in his words, "superior to any tank offered by anybody in this war."

All of which appears to be a bit contradictory, and the Under-Secretary is quoted as saying that it was a strange thing about tanks ⁻⁻⁻ some folks like one and some another. "One army," said
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he, "will be very well satisfied with one type, while another
army in practically the same area, will be dissatisfied."

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