

In the Philippines the bitterest kind of fighting is going on in South Manila - where trapped Japanese are making their last stand, a stand to the death.

Tonight's dispatch from General MacArthur tells how American troops forced crossings of the Pasig River, the stream that divides Manila into two sections. They got across in alligators, amphibious tanks, and ferries of pontoons, and quickly established a bridgehead. From there they drove on.

Cooperating with their push, ~~an~~ American troops stormed up from the south -- the column that had advanced on Manila from that direction. So the Japs are in a vise -- between two forces ~~driving~~ driving from the north and from the south. The MacArthur dispatch describes the fighting as being from house to house, from street to street.

To the south of Manila the Japs made a sudden attempt against the line of advance of the southern American forces. Two counter-attacks hit the

line of march at a point thirty-two and a half miles from the city -- both were beaten off.

And there is action on historic Bataan - with American troops moving southward to occupy that peninsula. They are going much faster and having much less trouble than the Japs had when MacArthur's heroes were defending Bataan.

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## PHILIPPINE PRISONER

At Manila an amazing story was disclosed today - the story of one of the liberated prisoners. His identity was revealed - after it had been concealed from the Japs for three years - ~~it~~ concealed because the Japs would have executed him if they ever found out who he was.

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Chiang Kai-shek, the leader of nationalist China.

This ~~was~~ because Chiang had ordered the Young Marshal to make war against the Chinese communists. There was a famous reconciliation between the two and in this

William Henry Donald acted as mediator. We are told

how ~~that~~ he convinced Chiang Kai-Shek that his proper

policy was to unite China in opposition to the Japs - the policy that eventually resulted in the China war.

After that, William Henry Donald stayed on with Chiang Kai-Shek, as confidential advisor - "the evil spirit of China", snarled the Japs.

~~When they call~~ We are not told how when the Far Eastern war broke out, he was picked up by the Japs and interned. We are only informed that William Henry Donald was held in a Manila prison for three years, along with other internees. And he was there under an assumed name.

All the while, the Japs were hunting for him in China, determined to execute him the moment they found him.

The Allies knew that he was a prisoner



PHILIPPINE PRISONER - 3

in Manila, and did everything they could ~~to~~ to hide that fact. His name never appeared on lists of prisoners. Australia imposed a blanket censorship on any mention of his name. His relatives were warned to say nothing about him - and not try to communicate with him.

Once he came close to death, when a Japanese investigator questioned him. The prisoner was asked his age. He gave it correctly - sixty-nine years old. He looked that age. And the Jap could not suspect that anyone so old could be particularly dangerous - nothing like that anti-Japanese paladin whom they called - "The evil spirit of China".

Manchukoo.

## WAINWRIGHT

With the continuing news about released prisoners of war, here's something about captives who are farther from release than ever - Lieutenant General Wainwright, who commanded the heroes of Bataan after the departure of MacArthur, he and one hundred seventy six other Army and Navy officers. Until now they were kept by the Japs at Formosa. But the word today is that they've been removed -- to Manchukuo, the city of Mukden. It looks as if the Japs were trying to get General Wainwright and the others officers as far as possible from American rescue. Apparently they figure Formosa might be next on MacArthur's schedule, and so wainwright and his companions are now in Manchukuo.

## MACARTHUR MESSAGE

We all know that in writing to a soldier overseas we are supposed to give his army post office and serial number. Tonight we have a surprising instance of this. Last Saturday a telegraph message was sent to the Philippines. It was returned because it had no A P O and serial number, and today it had to be refiled through the Adjutant General's Office.

The message was sent by two C I O unions and the management of a company. It was a message of congratulation on the fall of Manila. Who was it addressed to? Without Army Post office or serial number? You guessed it --General MacArthur! And back it came.

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Let's hear from our sponsor for a minute -  
and then back to the news.



## CONFERENCE

Moscow indicates that the conference between Marshal Stalin, Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt will probably be extended on into next week - they've that many important things to discuss.

Moscow also suggests that the meeting of the big three may be an amphibious affair, on a warship. That is, Stalin meeting with Churchill and Roosevelt aboard ship, while the Foreign Ministers and the military staffs gather on a nearby shore - at a resort on the Russian Black Sea Coast.

## EASTERN FRONT

The Russians have ~~opened~~ opened a new big offensive against Breslau - that key city on the Oder in lower Silesia. The Germans describe it as a stupendous affair, ~~the~~ the Russians driving with all their power to take Breslau and open the way into Southern Germany.

Along the Oder nearest to Berlin, the stubborn rage of battle still centers around the two fortress cities of Frankfurt and Kuestrin. Moscow announces that Frankfurt is now under siege.

And The twin fortress of Kuestrin is ~~completely encircled, - though Berlin claims that the Nazis have reestablished communication through a narrow corridor. The Russians are assailing Kuestrin, with massive power, and the culminating battle is on.~~ The fall of Frankfurt and Kuestrin will open the road to Berlin - hence the desperation of German resistance. ~~in the obstinate conflict that has been going on for days.~~

Berlin announces another headline

execution. The Mayor of a town called Koenigsberg, but not the capital of East Prussia; ~~but~~ a place along the

Oder. - <sup>And, he</sup> <sup>was</sup> a decorated war hero, <sup>a</sup> holder of the <sup>German</sup> <sup>military</sup> cross of honor. The Nazis have hanged him because "he left his post without authorization," they say. He got out of his threatened town, apparently. The purpose of the execution, which is loudly broadcast in ~~Germany~~ Germany, was to compel everybody to stay at posts of defense.

four hours. The Canadians for the first time drove across the border of Germany.

The Canadian advance today presented weird sights of war. Division troops drove through the Reichswald - a deep and gloomy forest. It was raining, and they plodded on through deep mud between the trees and a winter forest gloom. German resistance was ineffective. In the forest of the Reichswald the

Canadians encountered no powerful fortifications - but were old-fashioned trenches hidden with masses of brushwood. At last reports, however, heavy opposition was



~~Tonight's bulletin from~~ <sup>On</sup> the Western Front ~~states that~~ the big push is on. And ~~"big"~~ <sup>is the word</sup> a push all the way from the northern tip of the line in Holland to the border of Switzerland

~~Let's begin with the northernmost sector,~~  
~~which produced a big headline today - a Canadian~~  
~~headline.~~ In Holland, the Canadian First Army launching a powerful offensive that resulted in the capture of fourteen towns and gains of six miles in its first twenty-four hours. The Canadians for the first time drove across the border of Germany.

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increasing - as you'd expect it would. Because today's Canadian drive across the border into Germany is aimed at the Ruhr Valley, that heart of German war industry.

To the South of the Canadians, the American First Army <sup>(thrust</sup> ~~thrust~~ deeper into the Siegfried Line fortifications in the sector of the Roer River. ~~They drove beyond the key fortifications of Schmidt, <sup>several</sup> captured several towns.~~

~~General Patton's Third Army struck for a bold success today forcing a crossing of the Pruen River. This is a triumph because, in crossing the river, Patton's men cut an important north to south highway - a road to Cologne.~~

Third Army troops are threatening the encirclement of the fortress town of Pruem. They are on two sides of <sup>it</sup> ~~that town, right~~ now.

Further south, in Alsace, the battle of the Colmar pocket was ended today - with a victory for American and French troops.

The elimination of the pocket means that the Americans and French now hold the Rhine all the way from Switzerland to the section north of Strasbourg.

*That's* ~~That's a quick summary of events on the Western Front today, events described as the beginning of the big push.~~



## FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

Later word ~~from the fighting lines~~

indicates another of those memorable stands by a party of troops cut off. On General Patton's Third Army front advance elements got across the Sure River, then were isolated -- more by flood than by the Germans. Patton's forces are being handicapped by swollen streams, and the swift waters of the Sure River made it almost impossible to get supplies across to the troops on the other ~~rm~~ bank. So today provisions were sent to them by air.

Low-flying Thunderbolts braved the perils of German fire and bad weather, and dropped containers of food and munitions to the isolated Americans. It is hoped that this will enable them to hold out until reinforcements can get to them across the swirling river.

## SOLDIERS

And ~~thought~~<sup>A</sup> we have a story of two American soldiers who hid for twenty-three days behind the enemy line - Sargeant Warren Maue of Dayton, Ohio, and Private Richard Hartman of Lancaster, New York. Their outfit was engulfed in the surge of that Nazi offensive which was so much in the news a month or so ago, and the two soldiers found themselves in a village swarming with Germans.

How they avoided capture was one of those freaks of war, but they managed to get to a barn behind a farmhouse, and there they hid in the hayloft - digging deep into the hay and concealing themselves. The barnyard was a haunt for enemy soldiers, and a German tank took a position up against one side of the barn, while a German machine gun was posted at the other. Yet the two American soldiers in the hayloft remained ~~undiscovered~~<sup>A</sup> ~~undiscovered~~<sup>A</sup> for twenty-three days - nearly one month of harrowing ordeal.

American planes bombed and strafed the Germans in the village, and shell fragments and bullets ripped into the hayloft. But the worst was the gunfire

of the Germans - whose shooting had nothing to do with hostilities. Every day Nazi soldiers would procure their dinner from among the abundant chickens of the barnyard. The chickens being chased, would hop onto the door of the hayloft, and the Germans would bring them down with rifle shots - and bullets went ripping into the walls and into the hay where the two American soldiers were hidden.

They ~~was~~ were never touched, but the state of their nerves was something awful, in addition to which they had nothing to eat or drink except snow that drifted in through holes left by bullets and shell fragments. That is - until they found some stale prunes and a jug of prune wine.

After twenty-three days, the two soldiers in the hayloft heard some sounds that were different - not German sounds at all. They recognized something strangely familiar - a couple of American G. I's were having a loud argument, almost coming to blows, and



bawling each other out with some choice Army lingo.

And that was like music to the ears of the two soldiers hidden in the hay. They climbed down, crawled out, -weak and feeble - but overjoyed to discover that the Germans had evacuated the village, and Americans had moved in.

## MEETING

On General Eisenhower's staff one member ■■ is Colonel Samuel Greason. ~~of Garden City, Long Island~~  
The Colonel has a son, Lieutenant Craig Greason of the Air Forces - a member of the crew of a Flying Fortress. The Colonel had a day off, and thought he'd take advantage of this to visit the boy. He went to the Flying Fortress base in ~~Ex~~ England, where his son was stationed, and found that the Lieutenant was not in. He was very much out, in fact - with his Fortress on a great bombing assault on Berlin, which was being staged that day.

"Guess I'll wait around for him", said Colonel Greason - and went to a control tower.

Soon the Fortresses were coming back from Berlin - flying in one after another. The Colonel kept on waiting. The whole squadron checked in - except one. That one Fortress was missing, and it was the plane in which Lieutenant Greason had flown.

The Eisenhower staff officer had a face of stone as he left the control tower. He said nothing. The irony of his visit to see his son was too bitter

for words.

The next day the news came, the Fortress in which Lieutenant Greason had flown had, because of damaged motors, made a forced landing - a landing in friendly territory. And a few hours later, an army transport plane brought its crew back to base - including Lieutenant Greason, who hurried over to greet his father.

The Colonel said: "Son, it's great to see ~~xxxx~~ you again". Simple words, but more heartfelt words were never spoken.



## BLIZZARD

One blizzard after another this winter, and now the shivery climax for New England and New York -- from twelve to seventeen inches of snow in the latest downfall of frosty white - on top of what we already had. Enormous snow banks piled up by a raging wind, traffic tied up all over the place, power and light lines knocked out.

The heaviest snowfall was recorded at Milton, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston - seventeen inches there. At Boston snow is raising havoc with city traffic. Thousands of persons were marooned today. Hosts of commuters spent last night in public buildings, theatres and hotel lobbies. Night shift war workers were snow-bound. Today only a few were able to get to armament plants, by plowing their way through enormous drifts. Buildings collapsed from the weight of snow piled on their roofs. At Springfield, Massachusetts, a steel and brick warehouse full of sheet metal, caved in. Damage - twenty-five thousand dollars. The Boston and Main railroad has applied to the Army for soldiers to