

<sup>P.J. - Standard. Sunday, Sept. 10, 1944.</sup>  
Good Eve. Everybody! Here's  
~~SUBSTITUTE LEAD WESTERN FRONT~~  
a headline that really is  
big: - Tonight's latest from Europe looks as if it

might be decisive. ~~Here it is~~ <sup>It's</sup> a United Press dispatch  
from Allied Headquarters: "The American First Army,"  
<sup>says</sup> the bulletin, ~~says~~ "today smashed the main outer belt  
of the Siegfried Line east of Aachen, and has broken  
out into open country."

In other words, The Siegfried Line has been  
cracked open in a mere five days of fighting. And  
here's more late news, good news -- American casualties  
are light.

Earlier in the day there was a dispatch from  
the Headquarters of General Hodges' First Army. It  
explains a lot, stating: "The Siegfried Line is proving  
obsolete."

The historic city which the Germans call  
Aachen, and which, in the traditional use of English  
is Aix-La-Chapelle, has been surrounded and is under  
siege. The biggest breakthrough is in that sector, but  
all along a front of a hundred miles American forces  
are driving into the much vaunted fortifications, and

cracking them.

*From* ~~The~~ United Press correspondent John F. Frankish, we have the following: "That part of the Siegfried Line which we have seen is obsolete," he cables. "It is in disrepair. The artillery techniques for smashing concrete has been greatly developed since the line was built," says he.

~~Along with this, etc. etc.~~

may occur at any time - a surrounded city usually being as good as a captured city.

More important is the fact that the American drive is, at several places, deep in the Siegfried Line, and about this we hear the following from United Press correspondent John F. Frankish: "The part of the Siegfried Line which we have seen", he cables, "is obsolete. It is in disrepair. The artillery technique for smashing concrete has been greatly developed since the line was built".

Along with this we have a British statement that the Americans are using new secret weapons against the out-dated fortifications.

~~That~~ is the human element in the Sigfried Line any more formidable. The ~~Max~~ U. P. correspondent writes: "It is manned by a fantastic force of German convalescent wounded, four-efs, the signalmen and weedy recruits. The prisoners we are taking", he goes on, "typify the quality of men defending this sector. Most of them are in bad physical shape.

Some have been pulled out of hospitals with old wounds unhealed. Some have lost an eye. At one point a sizeable group of Germans, several hundred, were all deaf - <sup>and</sup> their officers had abandoned them. Some prisoners seem almost untrained, and say they have been in ~~in~~ uniform only two weeks.

Another correspondent, Henry ~~B~~ Gorrell, tells us that days ago all Nazi officials fled from Aachen, now surrounded. They knew the Siegfried Line would ~~not~~ be broken - and so they got out.

What are we to make of the surprise, the disclosure of the apparent futility of the fortification that everyone believed would be so terrifying to storm? Will the break of the Siegfried Line mean a rapid sweep into the heart of Germany? The answer may perhaps be found in another news flash from the battlefield, which states that the Germans apparently are planning to retreat to the line of the Rhine. That's a broad river, the historic and romantic Rhine, and perhaps the Nazis may find a better defense in the width of water.

Along the Moselle ~~(accent on last syllable)~~  
General Patton's Third Army today captured the city  
of Nancy, which fell without resistance - hardly  
a shot fired. And Patton has Likewise taken Epinal  
and Thionville, and is now prepared to storm the  
great city of Metz. Nancy having fallen, Metz  
remains. And when that city falls, the whole German  
line along the Moselle will be gone.

Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker  
is here in the studio tonight. And  
those names: Nancy, Epinal, Metz,  
and the Moselle can't help but bring  
a flood of memories to him.  
The walled city of Toul is only a  
few miles from Nancy which the  
Allies took today. And the first time  
I saw Capt. R - during World War I,  
his famous Hat-in-the-Ring Squadron  
was just outside Toul, and <sup>Rick</sup> was  
fighting air battles over the same  
region where the Yanks were  
fighting today - 27 yrs. later.

## FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

We have a new and different word about the attitude of the German people toward the American troops who are smashing their way into Germany. The first Americans to cross the border reported the people sullen and hostile. But now there seems to be a change.

"The German people", cables United Press Correspondent Henry ~~R~~ Gorrell, "are gradually emerging from their hypnotic state under the Nazis, and their initial hostility toward the invading Americans has given way to a genuine feeling of gladness".

Gorrell tells of numerous acts of friendship by the German population toward the Americans, and explains that now they've lost their fear of Nazi retaliation. They ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> realizing that the war is approaching an end, and believe it will not last another six weeks at the most.

One German, a baker, is quoted as saying:-

"Now that the Gestapo is gone we are afraid of no one. You Americans have not taken our food. You have

respected our homes. We had been told that some of us would be shot. We haven't been. We are glad", concluded the ~~xxx~~ baker, "that you're here and that the war is nearly over".

All of which raises the continuing wonder -

**How long can Hitler and the Nazis control the masses of the German population, especially now that the Siegfried line, supposed to be impregnable, is breaking wide open?**

## FINLAND

The Finns are now fighting the Nazis. This is the latest in the series of somersaults executed by the ~~sat~~allite nations, Hitler's vassals changing sides.

Finland has yielded to Soviet Russia, and the German troops are supposed to get out. The Germans are not falling in with the plan any too obligingly, and they tried to seize an island in the Gulf of Finland. They demanded the surrender of the Finnish Commander. ~~They~~ <sup>Well, they</sup> were beaten off, except at one place - where the Germans established a beachhead. The Finns kept on fighting, and the latest word is that they have wiped out the Germans who succeeded in getting ashore.

One report is that Finland is likely to declare war on Germany - completing the somersault - the changing of sides.

## RUSSIA

The war news from the Russians tonight features - Warsaw. Soviet troops having captured Praga, the Eastern suburb of the Polish capital - are hurling a huge offensive. Great lines of Soviet cannons are ~~battering~~ <sup>ing</sup> ~~the~~ ~~forces~~ while Red Army troops close in ~~close in~~ for the crisis at Warsaw.

There's great news from the Pacific too. But first Hugh will you give us your brief message.

## PACIFIC

Today's double stroke in the far Pacific is described as the boldest blow against the Japs thus far. And it certainly would seem to be just that -- American forces landing simultaneously in the Palau Islands and in the Halmahera group of the Moluccas. Both of these are in immediate relation to the Philippines, the Palau Islands being less than six hundred miles from Mindanao, the Halmahera group less than three hundred miles.

Tonight a savage battle is on at Palau, the Marines having landed on the key island - Peleliu. The amphibious operation was preceded by a shattering bombardment, Japanese positions smashed by a deluge of shells and bombs. Then the Marines swarmed ashore. The badly battered Japs are fighting back, and tonight's news tells of a savage battle on that island of Peleliu.

This was a stroke by the Navy, a blow launched by Admiral Nimitz. The other was an Army affair, a MacArthur show. For weeks we've been hearing how Army bombers based on New Guinea were smashing Halmahera,

and this is now followed by a landing on the key island of Morotai. At last reports MacArthur's troops were firmly established, the fighting there not too severe.

The meaning of the two-fold blow is clear.

The goal is the Philippines, with two converging thrusts aimed at the island of Mindanao.

ADD PACIFIC

The latest is a flash from General MacArthur's Headquarters -- it's the best of news. It states that all objectives on Morotai Island, in the Halmahera group, have been captured by American troops. Which can only mean that the capture of the island is virtually complete, a highspeed job swiftly done.

## CONFERENCE

The lack of news about the Quebec conference is illustrated by some quibbles with words today. When any large event is shrouded by secrecy, the tendency is always to look for all sorts of meanings in what little news is given out.

Today at Quebec, White House Secretary Steve Early stated that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill would complete their discussions by noon tomorrow, and then he added, as a sort of aftermath, that this would, in Steve Early's words - "Conclude their conferences in Quebec."

Whereupon the news-hungry reporters immediately jumped at the assumption that the conference might be continued somewhere else.

"Does this mean," one reporter asked, "that the Prime Minister will go to Washington for further conferences?"

"I can't answer that," responded the Residential Secretary.

To complete the speculation, it is recalled

~~that~~ After the previous Roosevelt-Churchill conference at Quebec, the Prime Minister <sup>went on</sup> ~~did go~~ to Washington - ~~and this was at the time~~ when Italy was collapsing; ~~and~~ Churchill remained at the White House until the surrender of Italy came about. So the wonder is now - maybe Churchill will go from Quebec to Washington and wait there while some other big new development is shaping up, maybe a big break involving Germany.

ADD CONFERENCE

~~The Quebec news statement will be broken~~

~~tomorrow. We have only informed us that the~~

President and Prime Minister will make public some of the important decisions, ~~this they will do~~ at a news conference tomorrow afternoon.

On the shores of a sub-tropical lake, surrounded by palm trees, with almost perfect spring weather all year round, in a sky filled with fluffy, cottony clouds that would delight an artist, Lt. Col. Lewis runs a flying school, a sort of tropical West Point of the air. After Corps Commander, F. J. Kagle, put his fellow cadets through their paces at an impressive review, I presented the diplomas, and then

*the following*

it was that I heard about young boys. Most of the boys who join up to become combat fliers with the Army Air Forces have never been in the air. And of course, they all have to fill out forms.

LAKELAND - EMPIE

All primary training in Army ~~xxxx~~ aviation has been, and still is, at civilian fields, under veteran civilian instructors, with Army supervision. At one of the most famous of these, on my recent trip <sup>South</sup> I heard something you might like to hear. ~~It was at the Lodwick School of Aeronautics, at Lakeland, Florida "The Citrus Capital of America."~~

On the shores of a sub-tropical lake, surrounded by palm trees, with almost perfect flying weather all year round, in a sky filled with fluffy cumulous clouds that would delight an artist, Al Lodwick runs a flying school, a sort of tropical West Point of the air. After Corps Commander, R. Y. Empie, put his fellow cadets through their paces at an impressive review, I presented the diplomas, and then <sup>the following</sup> it was that I heard about young Empie.

Most of the boys who join up to become combat fliers with the Army Air Forces have never been in the air. <sup>And,</sup>

Of course, they all have to fill out forms.

Well, when Cadet Empie came before the Officer quizzing the Cadets, he was asked such questions as: "Are you sure you want to enter this class?" "Yes sir."

"You have no hesitation about learning to fly?"

"No sir," answered the Cadet.

"Do you think <sup>that</sup> after a little while you will be able to fly one of these planes?" - pointing to one of the <sup>sturdy, slow</sup> ships they use in Primary.

"Yes sir, I think so," said the cadet.

And then came the question: "What did you do before joining the Air Force?"

To which Cadet Empie replied: <sup>"I was an</sup> ~~the~~ airline pilot, sir."

<sup>anecdote</sup> After I heard this, I asked the young Corps Commander what airline? He reply was that he had had <sup>as a co-pilot</sup> about seven hundred hours with Eastern Air Lines.

I then remarked that I might be seeing his former chief, Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, President of the Eastern Air, when I came north. <sup>well,</sup>

→ ~~Before leaving Lakeland,~~ <sup>I left</sup> Cadet Empie came up to me rather hesitatingly and said: "Sir, if you do happen to see Captain Rickenbacker would you mind telling him that one of his pilots is down here training to be a combat flier? And that after the war I'd like very much to have my old job back?"

Captain Rickenbacker is sitting beside me tonight. We are making plans for a ball game between The Nine Old Men and a team of Air Force Officers at the Pawling Air Force Rehabilitation Center.

Eddie, I've delivered the message. ~~And quite a story it is, too,~~

— o —  
Capt. R.:— Sounds just like one of our Eastern Air lads, Lowell. And I hope he doesn't forget to look me up when the War is over. I'll be looking for him.

CAPTAIN RICKENBACKER

*Editor* *Don delivered the message.*

Capt. R.: Sounds just like one of our Eastern

Air ~~lads~~ <sup>*Levee Boys*</sup> Lowell. And I hope he doesn't forget to  
look me up when the War is over. <sup>*which I hope will be soon*</sup> You'll be looking  
for him.

Private Wilbur Dick of Kansas City was in an  
American unit advancing on Paris, and he wrote a letter  
home in which he used the following phrase: "I bought  
mother and Eifel Tower base perfume," he wrote. "Eifel  
Tower", that certainly sounded like it was some  
kind of information that his unit was approaching Paris.

Wilbur was called upon to explain. "So you  
bought some perfume for the Eifel Tower?"

Wilbur said yes, although he knew that sounded  
silly. The ladies of Paris love to use perfume - but  
not the Eifel Tower.

Wilbur explained <sup>*that*</sup> it was his  
sister-in-law. His brother's wife in Kansas City is  
named Eifel Tower Dick.

The officers laughed, but found it was true.

## SOLDIER IN FRANCE

Word from France tells of an American soldier, charged with trying to sneak out vital military information -- a grave accusation. He wrote a letter in which he employed what appeared to be a kind of code for transmitting a military secret.

Private Wilbur Sisk of Kansas City was in an American unit advancing on Paris, and he wrote a letter home in which he used the following phrase: "I bought Mother and Eifel Tower some perfume," he wrote. "Eifel Tower", that certainly sounded as if he were conveying the information that his outfit was approaching Paris.

Wilbur was called upon to explain. "So you bought some perfume for the Eifel Tower?"

Wilbur said yes, although he knew that sounded silly. The ladies of Paris love to use perfume - but not the Eifel Tower.

Wilbur explained doggedly -- <sup>that</sup> it was his sister-in-law. His brother's wife in Kansas City is named Eifel Tower Sisk.

The officers gulped, but found it was true.

And hereafter Wilbur can say whatever he likes about Eifel Tower without incurring the suspicion of being a spy.

And now from Eifel Tower  
Sisla lets turn to Announcer  
Hugh James.