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The situation on the Western Front is briefly this: Along the southern half of the line, where the Germans are still in France, the enemy is in retreat. Farther north, where our troops stand inside of Germany, the resistance is stubborn and bitter.

At the extreme south, the French forces that have pushed to the Rhine have joined up with troops of the American Seventh Army. The Americans captured the City of Sarrebourg, and today the famous French armored division, commanded by General LeClerc, drove forward and effected a junction with the Americans. There is no confirmation of reports that the French, having reached the Rhine, have been able to bridge that big river.

Farther north, General Patton's Third Army is thrusting on - after having captured Metz.

Patton's men

~~They~~ drove forward today for advances of eight miles, and pierced the old Maginot Line at two points. (That most famous and most futile of fortified lines is all the more absurd today. ~~Its mighty defenses were intended to stop Germans from the East, and now Americans are driving through them from the West, the other side.~~

Along ~~the~~ most of the Third Army front the advances are steady, and the word is that for a hundred miles the German army appears to be in a state of collapse. However, the northern wing of Patton's army is meeting with heavy resistance -- the point where it ^{has} pushed into the Saar, ~~to~~ German territory.

~~And~~ The Americans are encountering heavy fire from the Siegfried forts, and the situation conforms to the general picture of enemy retreat along the part of the line that's in France, with stubborn fighting for the Americans who are on German soil.

In the sector of Aachen, in the German Rhineland, Berlin admits that American troops have driven ^{two} ~~one~~ new breaches in the Siegfried Line, smashing forward for a mile at each place. The Germans declare that near Aachen is raging what they call "the greatest material battle of the war." Material meaning -- equipment, armor, tanks, cannon.

WESTERN FRONT

future
We are given some idea tonight of the probable strategy of the battle for Germany. And it is word from headquarters -- from General Eisenhower. He indicates that the Nazi military forces will make their supreme fight west of the Rhine, on this side of the

Gen.
Eisenhower says there is no sign of the German commanders trying to withdraw their armies across the Rhine, with the idea of using the broad stream as a natural defensive barrier. The reason, says the Supreme Commander, is that the Germans probably couldn't get their masses of men and machines back across the Rhine, the bridges of which are subject to Allied air attack.

~~With the American and British holding command of the skies, the Germans can't depend on the bridges -- and therefore are likely to make their last stand with their backs to the river.~~

So indicates General Eisenhower. And he adds that the battle west of the Rhine will be a ~~be~~ bitter last-ditch affair.

And ~~He~~ gives this prescription for winning the

victory: "We've got to fight like hell for it.

Now let's do it." ~~And we've got to do a great share of it on this side of the ocean.~~ Eisenhower says he wants more supplies than he's getting, ~~and he adds: "I think the soldier wants more than he's getting, both now and in the future."~~

All of which means more home production -- and more home financing. We've got to buy more bonds, and work harder.

FIST_FIGHT

Here's one of the extraordinary stories of the war, and you can summon your imagination to get the picture. At the ~~front~~^{battle} front, in a shell blasted forest - a little American G. I. and a burly German Corporal slugging it out with bare fists. No gun, grenade, or trench knife -- just the old primitive way of the fist fight.

And all the while thirteen German soldiers, armed to the teeth, were looking on -- spectators of the pugilistic bout in No Man's Land. Who won? The German did! He was too big and strong for the little G. I., who was only an ambulance man anyway. The German won the fight and then he and his comrades surrendered.

It was all a misunderstanding. The Germans, after battling for days in the horror of shell fire in the forest, were thoroughly fed up with the whole thing. And all they wanted was to see an American and give up.

That was when Private Bob Reynolds, of Johnstown, New York appeared. The German Corporal

approached him, throwing down his pistol and tossing away his helmet. He gesticulated that he wanted to surrender, but the G. I. got the wrong idea. He thought the German wanted him to surrender.

Private Reynolds, as a stretcher bearer, had, according to regulations, not even a pistol. But he's one of the fightingest little guys in the Army. And, as the German Corporal made motions to him, he came up swinging -- and the big Dutchman had the fight of his life on his hands.

As they fought, the German noted that the G. I. had his eye on the pistol the German had thrown on the ground. Later on, the enemy soldier told the story as follows:

"I realized that he hadn't understood me and I knew he was getting ready to pounce on the pistol, so there was nothing to do but fight it out with bare fists. We wrestled and we fought. It was a very good fight", adds the German, "and my men were watching. I was the stronger of the two," he adds, "and finally wore your

man down, and sat on his chest." ^T Then the German was able to convey the correct idea to Private Reynolds and soon the G. I., somewhat bruised and battered, after the fight, was leading the whole German squad to the nearest American position --- as prisoners of war.

RUSSIA

The Russians are renewing their offensive in the Baltic states, with Moscow telling of the capture of a big island in the Gulf of Riga. And, at the same time, Berlin reports that Soviet troops are on the march again in Czechoslovakia, driving a bridgehead across the Tisza River, near the town of Tokay -- the place where they produce that famous Hungarian wine, Tokay.

AIR WAR

A monster air blow was struck at Nazi Germany today, and hit at that vital spot -- oil. ^{A mighty} ~~some~~ ~~air~~ ~~armada~~ of two thousand, three hundred and fifty planes bombed huge synthetic oil plants, particularly the one at Marseburg -- one of Germany's greatest. ~~Three weeks ago that same synthetic oil plant was blasted, and the bombing raid resulted in the greatest air battle of the European war -- five hundred Nazi planes attacking and one hundred and eighty three shot down.~~

Today the bombers, twelve hundred and fifty of them, were escorted by the greatest force of fighters ever put into the air-- one thousand, one hundred Mustangs, Thunderbolts and Lightnings. The previous record was nine hundred and fifty. -- ~~Now~~ ^{Now} eleven hundred. ~~This indicates the kind of opposition that, was expected at the great synthetic oil plant of Marseburg. Clouds covered the target, and the bombing~~ ~~had to~~ ~~be done by instrument.~~ We have not ^{yet heard about} ~~heard~~ ~~losses incurred on both sides in this latest slash at~~ ~~Nazi oil,~~

FOLLOW AIR WAR

Anti-aircraft fire was intense, and violent, ^{air} battles were fought at great altitude and bitter cold - forty-three below up toward the stratosphere.

Seventy-nine German planes were destroyed in the air and on the ground. Forty bombers and seventeen fighters of ^{our} ~~the~~ huge sky fleet failed to return.

Hugh, tell us about Stan. & Calif., and then I'll tell about the latest developments in the Pacific War.

SUPERFORTS

The big Omura airplane works on the Japanese home island of Kyushu, hit again by B-29s, the Superforts. And some of them struck at Japanese bases in China, Nanking and Shanghai. That was because of bad weather, which kept some of the Superforts from going all the way to Japan. So they diverted their bombs -- to targets in China.

In the murky skies over Japan, the B-29s assailing the Omura airplane plant, aimed their explosives by instrument -- the targets being hidden by clouds.

There was opposition -- a lot of it, fighter opposition. The army states that today the Jap air force put forth its heaviest opposition against the B-29s thus far. Big air battles were fought, and the Japs claim that fourteen of the superforts were shot down. The real figure for our ^{losses} ~~XXXXX~~ if any, has not come in -- the data having not yet been collected after the long flight.

PHILIPPINES

A report from the battle front in the Philippines reads as follows: "The real news is the weather, which is simply bogging the whole battle area down in a sea of mud." And once again the word is -- typhoon. Since the first invasion landings on Leyte Island, the Philippines have been swept by a series of those tropical tempests, and now another one is raging, turning streams into rivers, flooding roads, and making the jungle and mountain country a nightmare of mud.

The principal action ^{today} was against that Japanese regiment which has been trapped near the town of Limon. The Japs there ^{were} ~~are being slowly~~ hammered by artillery fire -- the guns roaring all day long in the roar of the typhoon.

FOLLOW PHILIPPINES

The latest is a dispatch from Leyte, which states that the resistance of the Japs in the Limon pocket, is nearing what the dispatch calls - "the breaking point." The enemy is trying to hold the pocket and reinforce it, but the net is closing in - the ring of fire around the encircled Japanese division.

One important feature of the Philippine invasion is disclosed in today's war bulletin from MacArthur, which reveals that American heavy bombers are now flying from the airfields of Leyte. ~~These~~

Of major importance to put those airfields into operation, and after desperate labor they were made available for fighter planes. Now, heavy bombers - with MacArthur telling how these, flying from Leyte, have hit Jap supply centers and sunk ships in a raid against an important harbor.

JAP CASUALTIES

The Navy tonight gives a figure for Jap casualties in the Palau and Mariana Islands. In the American seizure of those two groups, the Japs lost sixty-three thousand, three hundred and eighty-eight killed [—] and, three thousand, two hundred and sixty-seven captured. ~~The disparity of the figures, the disproportion of the number killed and the number captured, is another reflection of the Jap method of fighting to the death.~~ The **M**ost prisoners were captured on Saipan, two thousand and sixty-eight. On the other hand, the battle for Guam cost the Japs more than seventeen thousand killed and a mere four hundred and sixty-three made prisoner.

Figuring the general average, our troops have had to kill twenty Japs for each one captured - which gives an idea of the kind of bitter-end fighting it took to seize the strategic atolls in the Mid-Pacific.

A startling thing happened in Canada today -- startling when you consider the normal attitude of Army officers toward the civil government. At Vancouver the major commanders of the Sixth Canadian Division issued a declaration against an official policy of the Dominion Government. The policy concerns that much debated question of -- conscription for overseas duty. ~~As things stand now in Canada, soldiers who are drafted cannot be sent to fight abroad. All Canadian troops in the battles overseas are volunteers.~~

There's been a huge lot of controversy about this, with much demand that Canada draft soldiers for the war -- as the United States does. ~~Recently the Minister of Defense, Colonel Ralston, resigned as a protest against the refusal of the Mackenzie King ~~XXXX~~ government to conscript men for service overseas. His place was taken by General A. G. L. McNaughton, who advocates the present system of not drafting men~~ for war. ^{TR} The whole thing has been scheduled to come

up for an official debate, and now in the middle of the crisis comes the action of high-ranking Canadian army officers. ^RIn Canada, as in this country, ~~they~~ ^{military} ~~men~~ ^{men} are supposed to take no part in political

~~discussions, (are required to keep silent on political issues. So it was utterly without precedent when today the major commanders of the Sixth Canadian Division held a news conference at Vancouver, and declared that the policy of the MacKenzie King Cabinet is wrong and that there must be conscription for overseas. They stated that a campaign for volunteers would not succeed, and added that men in the home army have been asked to volunteer for war, but have refused. Brigadier G. A. MacArthur stated: "The men have been urged about ten times to go. Their stock answer is 'If the Government wants us, they'll send us'". And the officers add that the men will fight okay -- if sent,~~

The Canadian word is that the action of the commanders is calculated to bring the crisis to the

breaking point. There may have to be a general election
in the Dominion to decide the conscription issue. Mean^{while}
there is talk of an official inquiry, and even the
possibility of court^smartial~~ing~~^{— aa a} result of the stand
taken by the high Canadian army commanders.

C.I.O.

In Chicago the C.I.O. today reaffirmed its pledge of -- no strike in war time. At the Union Convention C.I.O. President Philip Murray called the promise -- "a sacred obligation." And the action that was then taken was unanimous -- reaffirming the C.I.O. "no strike" pledge.

STRIKE

Tonight in Washington, the Ohio Telephone Union refused to call off a strike that has crippled long distance telephone communication throughout the state; ~~and~~ the walkout that threatens to turn into a nationwide telephone strike. ^{It} *Here's the*

latest: - The Labor Board answer to the rejection is an ultimatum - ordering the Ohio strikers to return to work immediately or the government will seize the tied-up telephone system. The Union Officers are given a deadline of ten o'clock tomorrow morning - to call off the walkout.

PETRILLO

The middle name of James C. Petrillo is -- Caesar. And the head of the Musicians Union certainly has some of the dauntless qualities of his namesake of a couple of thousand years ago. We may recall how Petrillo defied the War Labor Board, and rejected an appeal by President Roosevelt -- in the matter of musical ^{transcriptions.} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ And he won out, when last week ~~is~~ two leading recording companies came to terms to the tune of four million dollars *for the coffers of the union.*

The ancient Caesar said: "I came, I saw, I conquered." And I doubt whether ~~that~~ ^{the} victory thus announced was worth more than four million -- or how many Roman sesterces would that be?

The new Caesar, of the Musicians, now goes on! -- new worlds to conquer. That, of course, is reminiscent of Alexander the Great, who might have thought twice about tackling -- ^{United States} the ~~Marines~~. But Petrillo goes right after the Leathernecks, and today demands that ^{something} be done about members of the Marine Corps Band who give music lessons.

The Marine Band, of course, is famous for the blaring of the brasses and the booming of the drums. *And* ~~the~~ musicians are ~~of course~~ *artists* on the clarinet, the big horn, and the piccolo. And some of them, during hours off duty, have been picking up some extra money by giving lessons. *TF* This led to a protest by certain music teachers in Washington, who complained that the Marine Band music lessons deprived them of pupils. They appealed to Petrillo, and their plea is not in vain. ~~It was learned today that~~ Petrillo ~~now~~ demanded that music lessons given by members of the Marine band ~~must~~ be stopped.

At Marine Corps headquarters they admit they *have heard from Petrillo* ~~received the letters~~ and say the legal department is making a study of the case. I suppose that when the original Caesar said a thing or two at one time or another, the *ancient* Romans also consulted the legal department, but it ~~didn't~~ didn't do much good.

RABBITS

In the pages of English literature you will find a familiar crusty character - the retired British Army officer, grumpy and snorting. And today he rises to a new climax -- in the person of Major C. C. Adams, who served in India years ago and now is making life hard for the officials in charge of London Parks.

Major C. C. Adams, like most retired British officers, likes to take his daily walk, and does it in Hyde Park. In times before the war, Hyde Park had a lot of rabbits -- wild rabbits, which dashed hither and yon. And the Major, taking his daily constitutional liked to watch the scurrying of the rabbits, wild and wary.

During the ~~war~~^{war}-years the rabbits disappeared, Whereupon the Major complained to the Ministry. His daily walk was being spoiled because -- no rabbits.

~~The Ministry replied that the disappearance of the wild bunnies was just one of those things in wartime -- the Nazi blitz, ~~or maybe the cats~~. Or maybe some Londoners, in the food shortage, had gone rabbit~~

~~hunting in Hyde Park~~

The doughty Major was so crusty about it, that the Ministry finally said: "Oh go ahead and put some rabbits in the Park again." ^R They couldn't get wild ones in wartime, so tame ones had to do, ~~and some tame rabbits were put in Hyde Park.~~

You'd think that Major C. C. Adams would have been satisfied. But no. Today the London Park authorities were trembling under the impact of a new blast.

They received the following communication from the irate Major: "Those are silly, fat, old rabbits," he growls. "They're tame, and just sit there eating cabbage leaves. Wild rabbits gave me the illusion of being in the country, while these animals," he snorts, "give me the illusion of being in a zoo."

The London Government, in the middle of fighting a war, doesn't quite know what to do about it -- wild rabbits being impossible to obtain, even to pacify a retired army officer *who has mumps and snorts.*

Well, a great secret was revealed this evening - the mystery of what President Roosevelt said in the polling booth on Election Day. At the White House late this afternoon, ~~he said~~ ^{he declared} it was a four letter word beginning with d and ending with n. But he didn't use any other word before it, didn't violate the Second Commandment, ~~didn't take the name of the Lord in vain~~

The excitement began when a magazine reported that, when the President went to vote for himself at Hyde Park, something ~~was~~ wrong with the voting machine and he exclaimed, "the so-and-so thing won't work."

~~I can't tell you what the two words, the so and so, stand for, because that would be violating the Second Commandment.~~
The result was a protest from Ministers of the Gospel far and wide, who were scandalized to hear that the President had used such language. ~~The Ministerial Association at Glendale, California,~~

~~demanded a public White House apology.~~

The true version, as disclosed at the White House, is as follows: The President says that when he entered the voting booth to try the machine, it was locked. He tried it twice, but it wouldn't budge, whereupon he called to the election clerk, and told him, using a four-letter word, but not violating the Second Commandment - that the machine wouldn't work.

So the story of the presidential cuss word as it appeared in print, was a ~~doggone hell damn~~ blankety blank lie.

— o —
And now the gospel truth from Hugh James.

WASHINGTON

Here's a report on a new disease. It's called -- Washington Foot. The distressing malady is an epidemic ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ the national capital, but no doubt it occurs elsewhere. Washington Foot is caused by the amount of standing ~~ix~~ in line that people have to do ~~at~~ in the city on the banks of the Potomac. For example, in that ^{huge} and bewildering labyrinth called the Pentagon Building, thousands of employees stand in line for blocks to collect their pay checks. They line up again to cash them. Then they line up to spend the money. ^R Washingtonians get in line to board a bus or get into an elevator or a restaurant or a dancehall. And of late something new has been added -- lining up in front of cigarette vending machines.

^R The clinical report on Washington Foot comes from United Press correspondent Frederick Othman, who describes the symptoms as follows: "Fallen arches, bunions, corns, soured dispositions, domestic ^{troubles} ~~troubles~~, increase in the ^{divorce} ~~divorce~~ rate, and unsolved murders."

The newspaperman says he has the scientific facts
 from his ^{chiro}chiropractist, who treated ~~his own~~ ^{the} journalistic
 case of Washington Foot. And he adds that he wanted
 to give the doctor's name as his authority. But the
 chiropractist said -- No. He explained that he would like
 to see his name in the papers, but he's afraid that
 if he got the publicity, the line-up of ^{patients} ~~XXXXXX~~ in front
 of his office would be so great that it would add to
 the severity of the epidemic of Washington Foot. *And*

s-l-u-t-m : _____

~~And now it will be hot feet it
 over here to the misdeeds~~

PREJUDICE

In the news tonight something is being said that deserves quotation. It concerns the American principle of tolerance, and is contained in a letter written by Joseph N. Pew, Jr., Vice President of the Sun Oil Company, to Congressman Anderson, Chairman of the House Campaign Expenditures Committee.

Joseph N. Pew denounces what he calls -- "appeals for any cause based upon religious or racial prejudices."

He states: "To me such tactics are despicable and un-American and deserve universal condemnation. They are utterly foreign to my faith ⁱⁿ ~~and~~ our Constitution and institutions, ~~and~~ the preservation of which has been my only reason for taking an active part in politics. The freedom of worship, freedom of the press, and racial tolerance," J. N. Pew goes on, "are the keystones of American liberty, which I have ^{striven} ~~striven~~ to defend. When they are destroyed," he adds, "the whole structure of our freedom falls."