

BERLIN

P.I. - Sunoco. Tuesday,

July 3, 1945.

The Americans marched into Berlin today - a belated entrance, nearly two months after the surrender of Nazi Germany and the end of the European war. The delay ~~was~~ has been ~~caused~~ caused by the question of the zones to be occupied by the Russians, British, and Americans. Now, that question has been settled, and today the Americans marched in. They took over the southern suburb of Berlin, the suburb of Zehlendorf. There was little ceremony as sixteen thousand troops and four thousand vehicles traversed the streets of the ruined German capital. It was a wet day, pouring rain. Few Germans were seen, and there was little immediate fraternization between the Americans and the Russians - because of language difficulties, the soldiers of the two nations unable to talk to each other.

POLAND

The Polish Provisional Government in Warsaw has accepted the principle of - free and unfettered elections. The regime sponsored by the Soviets promises to abide by that pledge made at the Yalta Conference. This clears the way for American and British recognition of the Provisional government - and a withdrawal of recognition from the exile Polish regime in London.

The only remaining snag in the Polish dispute has been the absence of a pledge by the Warsaw government~~that~~ that it would ~~will~~ hold free elections, no secret ballot. With that snag removed, American and British recognition is expected to be extended shortly, some time this week, probably.

~~If all this works out, it will mean the solution of the Polish dilemma by a series of compromises. The Yalta agreement made by Premier Stalin with President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill, provided that the Soviet sponsored Provisional Government should be reformed, broadened - so as to take in elements of Democratic, non-communist Poles.~~

## HANGMAN

Here's a story, terrible in details of the dramatic, the diabolical and the absurd. It concerns the death of Heydrich the Hangman, and the murderous reprisals exacted by the Nazis. One reproach was the tragedy of Lidice, the Czechoslovak town that was wiped out. Its inhabitants massacred, because they were suspected of having given aid to the assailants of Hangman Heydrich, the Nazi overlord of Czechoslovakia.

Allied authorities have taken the testimony of eyewitnesses. One is a street car conductor, who saw the attack - Czech patriots shooting and throwing a bomb into the automobile in which the Hangman rode. He saw Heydrich jump out ~~out~~ of the automobile, and hail a truck, which took him to a hospital.

From this point the story is picked up by a Nun, who was a nurse at the hospital. She says that Heydrich walked in, smiling and talking. He had a wound in his back. A surgeon operated and gave a blood transfusion.

The Hangman refused to take blood from

anyone except what he called - "A German who is also a nobleman and an official." <sup>and</sup> That was the height of Nazi absurdity - demanding the blood of a nobleman and an official.

Heydrich actually did not die of the wound inflicted by the Patriots. He was getting well. "He progressed for six days", says the Nun. She states that the Hangman really died of a heart attack.

In spite of this, the Nazis proclaimed ferocious reprisals - unless the Patriots who made the attack were speedily apprehended. The Patriot assailants were, in fact, discovered almost immediately - trapped in a church basement, where they killed themselves. The Nazis, nevertheless, ~~we~~ pretended that they had not been apprehended - and, with that fiction <sup>then</sup> proceeded with the <sup>re</sup>reprisals. Reprisals - that included the annihilation of Lidice.

## TIMBERWOLVES

Another famous fighting outfit came home today, the one hundred and fourth division, the Timberwolves<sup>s</sup>. Many of you will remember Terry Allen, ~~once~~ <sup>once</sup> well known ~~at one time~~ as the General in command of the famous First Division. Terry Allen, after the North African campaign was ordered home to inject his enthusiasm and <sup>his</sup> ~~the~~ many other qualities, ~~that he has,~~ into a new outfit, that was being formed, in the Pacific Northwest. People out around Salt Lake City, and in Oregon, will remember them. As a matter of fact, the other day, in San Francisco, I was ~~in~~ standing beside a girl in a restaurant when she recognized a Timberwolves <sup>shoulder</sup> ~~patch~~ patch. Immediately she starting telling about them, how she had seen them train in Oregon and how even in <sup>oe</sup> ~~maneuvers~~ <sup>maneuvers</sup> it has <sup>d</sup> ~~has~~ taken two other divisions to cope with the Timberwolves.

Led by Major General Terry Allen, the men of the One Hundred and Fourth sailed up the Hudson today, the fighting men who gave a great account of themselves in Belgium, Holland, and Germany. One of their

specialties was night attack. And, they gained a reputation for winning their objectives with a minimum number of casualties in their own ranks.

The last time I saw them they were on the Mulde River, the nearest American outfit ~~th~~ at that time to the Russian armies, that junction we were all waiting for. They had just captured the city of Halle where they had had their picturesque encounter with Count Felix Von Luckner, the Sea Devil who helped arrange matters so that Halle would not be bombarded and demolished. I was with them when

*they blasted their last German objective, near Bitterfeld, on the Mulde.*

Whether the Timberwolves are going over to take a crack at the Japs has not been announced.

## HOPKINS

Harry Hopkins retires. The intimate adviser to President Roosevelt has resigned from his government post. He was scheduled to have accompanied President ~~R~~ Truman to the forthcoming conference of the Big Three, just as he accompanied President Roosevelt to meetings with Premier Stalin and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. But Hopkins won't go. In a letter to the President, he gives his reason - he needs a rest. Harry Hopkins has been in bad health for some time, and so steps out.

During the Roosevelt administration, he was one of the most powerful of the figures ~~which~~ <sup>around</sup> ~~surrounded~~ the President. He was successively national league administrator, Secretary of Commerce, Lend-Lease administrator, and then special Presidential assistant. After the death of President Roosevelt, the new Chief Executive sent Hopkins to Moscow on a personal mission to Stalin, to straighten out questions of controversy. Hopkin's mission was rated a success. Now, though, the one-time social worker <sup>has</sup> retired from affairs of state, and is back in private life.

## BYRNES

There was a mixture of ceremony and easy informality today in the swearing in of the new Secretary of State - Byrnes of South Carolina.

The oath was to have been administered in President Truman's office in the White House, but the crowd was too big. It included almost the entire Senate, and many members of the House of Representatives - a vivid indication of the Congressional attitude toward the Truman administration and toward Jimmy Byrnes, an old-time colleague, formerly a Senator. Yesterday the Senate voted to confirm Jimmy as Secretary of State without even the usual formality of Committee hearings.

Well, the crowd today in President Truman's office was such a jam that the President adjourned the ceremony to the great outdoors, the White House rose garden.

Stately formality was the note as the oath was administered. Then things became breezy, as the President turned to his old friend, who was holding



the Bible on which he had taken the oath.

"Kiss the book, Jimmy", said the President.

Jimmy did, and then handed the Bible to the Chief Executive, "you <sup>do</sup> miss it too" said he.

The President obeyed - ample homage was paid to the good book today.

The President then turned to the crowd, and said: "Keep quiet, ~~and~~ the new Secretary wants to make a speech". The new Secretary did - announcing that he would ~~initiate~~ initiate no basic change in the foreign policy of the United States.

What about changes among the officials of the State Department? There have been a lot of rumors that, under the new Secretary, various Assistant Secretaries would be replaced. Byrnes declared ~~that~~ today that there would be no changes until the budget director has made a study of the entire structure of the State Department. And that fits in with reports that Secretary Byrnes is going to reconstruct and modernize the Department that handles the Foreign Affairs of this nation.

## CHARTER

The first attack in the Senate against the charter of the United Nations was made today, by Senator Bushfield of South Dakota. (A Republican, Senator Bushfield stated that he would vote for the charter, although he objects to a series of faults in it. These center around the charge that the charter involves a possible declaration of war, when only the United States Senate has the right to declare war. Also, <sup>He</sup> claims the Senator, it destroys the Monroe Doctrine.

After making these criticisms, he said that the charter might fail, but that we must consider it worthy of a trial.

## BOMBING

Another stupendous assault against Japan by the B-29s. Four task forces of sky giants, consisting of between four-hundred-and-fifty and five hundred Superfortresses, hurled three thousand tons of incendiary bombs on four centers of Japanese war industry. The targets hit were new - all bombed for the first time. Three on Honshu, the main Japanese island. The other on the island of Shikoku which lies off Honshu. It was the first time Shikoku has been assailed. All of the targets were typical Jap cities built of wood and cardboard - and they were swept by tempests of flame.

This latest great offensive by the B-29s occurred today - or rather tomorrow. All of which is a part of the paradox of time changes around the world. Headquarters out there states that the assault was a celebration of Independence Day, the planes taking off at dawn on the Fourth of July - the glorious Fourth having broken out there hours ago.

## BORNEO

In Borneo, Australians have captured two big airfields near Balikpapan. And one column of Aussies has driven over a series of jungle ridges to within three-fourths of a mile of the great Balikpapan gasoline refineries. They have only one more ridge to cross to get to the refineries.

The whole story of the Borneo campaign is one of oil. The major objectives are the petroleum deposits of the great island of the East Indies, and advancing soldiers are pushing through a country soaked with oil. One news dispatch today states:-

"A thick layer of oil covers the beach-head water, glistening black beneath the sun and rolling up with the surf to coat the smooth, sandy beach. Black oil moves sluggishly in ditches and streams ashore. It floats on the surface of water in shell ~~holes~~ holes and bomb craters. It smears <sup>y</sup> keeps, ducks and tanks. The smell of oil fills the nostrils of soldiers. It seems, "the news story goes on, "as if Balikpapan were a huge oil-soaked sponge".

## BOOGIE BIRD

Out in Borneo they have a remarkable fowl the soldiers out there are calling - the Boogie Bird. It has black and white feathers, and a talent for mimicking sounds. Mortar sounds, especially.

There are two sounds that mean all the difference in the world. Mortar shells fired by your side, out-going shells, give off a sort of sighing swoosh. Jap ~~mx~~ mortar shells, in-coming, have a different sound - a sort of whistling - ffsst. So what does the Boogie Bird do?

An example is given by U.P. Correspondent Richard Harris: "This morning, he writes Bob Nelson of the Melbourne Australian Sun and I were walking near the beachhead, listening to the friendly swoosh of the out-going mortars. Then he continues came that other sound, the unfriendly mortar sound - that whistling ffsst. We hit the dirt, took a dive into a shell hole full of water and oil.

"We waited" he relates, for the explosion of the Jap mortar shell, but nothing happened, we

climbed out, and then again that whistling - ffsst. Once more we hit the dirt, and once more nothing happened.

"Then we saw the reason - a Boogie Bird. That miserable chicken was giving its imitation of the Jap mortar sound - ffsst."

We all know the beauty and poetry of the songs of birds, but the highest ambition of the troops in Borneo is to wring the neck of a Boogie Bird.

I wonder if it's a Borneo mina? The mina is common all over that part of the world. It has no song of its own; but it does imitate nearly every song that it hears - including human speech. Remember Raffles, the mina we had on the air last summer. I'm sure Raffles could imitate the sound of a Jap mortar just as he imitated a squeaky door. And Raffles would be insulted if you called him a Boogie Bird.

## CORPORAL

I hope this story turns out to be as good as it sounds today. If it does, and ends in a happy fashion, it certainly will be a boost for that familiar institution - home, and mother's home cooking.

Yesterday they took Corporal Jim Newman home to die. He is a survivor of the horrors of Bataan, and the brutalities of Japanese captivity. He was a two hundred ~~px~~ pound six-footer, when the Japs captured him. When liberated, he weighed ninety-two pounds - dying of malnutrition and that wasting tropical disease, ~~Beri-Beri~~.

The Army doctors tried to save him - with the best hospital care. But Corporal Jim grew no better, put on no weight. He was slowly dying, and the Doctors said he would last only a few days more. Jim murmured - well, in that case he might as well go home. His mother wanted him home. The Doctors nodded - yes, he might as well die at home.

So they sent him - back to Fort Worth, Texas to his mother's house there. Yesterday she put him in

his old familiar bed. She remembered the things he liked to eat as a boy. In tears, she worked in the kitchen - fixing the vituals as she never fixed them before.

The thin and wasted <sup>beri-beri ridden</sup> Corporal ate with an appetite. Last night he slept better than he had in a long time. Today he had more of that home cookery. And the latest news from ~~Fort~~ Fort Worth is - Jim sitting up in bed, laughing.

"What's this," He grins, "About coming home to die? I'm getting well at home."

The Doctors are skeptical, but the latest ~~from Fort Worth states that Corporal Jim is full of~~ faith that he'll be cured by Mother's home cooked meals. ~~from Fort Worth states that Corporal Jim is full of~~

If it should turn out ~~in~~ that way, what a boost for the old favorite - Home Sweet Home ~~and~~ the meals that Mother used to cook.

And now Hugh - before you start for Home Sweet Home to try ~~that~~ those sizzling hot dogs your wife has waiting for you - -