

BIG THREE

C.I. - Sunoco. Monday, July 16, 1945.

The conference of the Big Three, which was to have begun ~~today~~, will not start until tomorrow. Marshal Stalin wasn't there today -- not in Berlin yet. So President Truman and Prime Minister Churchill passed the day calling on each other.

There is no certainty about how long Stalin will keep ~~them~~ his confreres waiting. It is reported, however, that he will be there tomorrow -- to meet them at Potsdam. Reporters, as you have heard, are not allowed near the actual scene of the conference. So, the only real information we will be getting from the Conference we will have to glean from official communiques as they are issued.

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A story from London has it that Churchill is going to suggest to Stalin that both British and Russian troops ~~be~~ be withdrawn from Iran, and withdrawn simultaneously. The agreement with the Persian government made at Teheran, was that the soldiers could stay there until six months after the defeat of Germany. The Russians are now interpreting this as

meaning after the defeat of Japan. But the government of Iran wants them both to go, and do it now.

It's a highly delicate matter, this Persian problem. And it has to do with oil. Then, too, the British are not anxious to have Russian influence extend any nearer the borders of India!

ADD BIG THREE

President Truman is reported ~~as being~~ in excellent health and ^{high} spirits after his sea voyage, and anxious to begin the serious work of the Conference. He put in two hours this afternoon, touring the heart of Berlin, seeing for himself what the Allied air forces, and ^{Russian} artillery did to the German capital. Two cars full of secret service men protected the President together with a half-track full of infantry sharpshooters. Secretary of State ~~Mr~~ Byrnes was beside him in the car. ^π When they came to the empty shell that had been Adolf Hitler's Chancellery, he stopped the car. Merriman Smith of the United Press had a chance to talk to him ^{at this point; and as} ~~the~~ the President looked up at the ruins of the balcony from which Hitler used to scream his speeches, Mr. Truman exclaimed: "It's a terrible thing; but they brought it on themselves." Then he continued: "It's just a demonstration of what can happen when a man over-reaches himself."

"I never saw such destruction," he said further,

and then he concluded: "I don't know whether they will learn anything from it or not." As he spoke, he could see crowds of ragged, listless Germans crawling over the rubble in the heart of Berlin; probably not realizing that the President of the United States was in that car. All they did was stare -- listlessly.

There ~~xx~~ in Berlin, the President took ~~the~~ time out ~~xxxxxxx~~ to present a special citation to Company E of the Seventeenth Armored Engineers. A citation for the work done in throwing a bridge across the Rhine in the amazing time of seven hours. As he ^{pinned the} ~~xxxxxxx~~ citation ribbon on the Company colors, President Truman said: "I am only sorry that I didn't get a chance to participate in some way, in this war, myself."

The President saw many grim sights. Long bread lines of women -- women in threadbare clothes. Everywhere ruins, ruins -- the ruins of a once great city -- one of the world's greatest cities, reduced to rubble, because of the folly and the hypnotic powers of an Austrian paperhanger.

GERMANY

The word from Germany is that the Russians have already removed at least half of all the heavy machinery in the big industrial plants of Berlin.

What they have left behind, cannot be used without extensive repairs. Allied officers report that

Berlin today is one of the most completely ~~de-industrialized~~ de-industrialized cities in the whole world.

AIR WAR

Out there in the Far Pacific "Toohey" Spaatz took over today. From now on the air war out there will be run by the man who headed up our Strategic Air Forces in the air war on Germany. "Toohey" promises to put on the mightiest bombing program ever even imagined. And it looks as though ~~xx~~ he'll be able to do just that! Such are his resources he actually will be able to attack any single target, on twenty-four hour notice, with no fewer than three thousand planes. The number of Superfortresses in the Pacific is being doubled.

Spaatz' deputy, Lieutenant General Barney Giles, announces that the aim of our air people out there is to crush the capacity of the Japanese for making war -- and do it in a hurry. "Toohey" Spaatz has been authorized to hit Japan where he thinks it will hurt the most. He's to be in full charge of the crashing air blows that we all hope will hasten the end of the war -- the war that the Japs already have lost.

ADD AIR WAR

This was the forty-second day of the continued strategic air attack on Japan. Four fleets of Superforts went out. Altogether, there were between four hundred and fifty and five hundred of them. They poured more than two thousand five hundred tons of fire bombs on three cities in Honshu, the cities of Namazu, Hiratsuka and Kuwana, and also on the city of Oita on the northeast tip of Kyushu. This was the first raid of the B-29s under the command of Toughy Spaatz.

Each one of those four cities is a tinder box affair, built mostly of wood and parchment. That makes a total of forty-three B-29 raids on Japan. In thirty-nine of them, they destroyed a total of almost a hundred and thirty-six square miles. Sixteen cities are reported as more than fifty per cent destroyed.

And General MacArthur reports that bombers under his command raided Formosa, creating great explosions on

factories and railroad yards on that island. Also tunnels and other military installations. MacArthur said his planes had also destroyed or damaged forty-two enemy ships and small craft.

CHINA

Tonight it looks as though three more Chinese cities will soon fall into Allied hands, all ^{useful} ~~of them~~

~~United States~~ air bases. The Chinese are besieging.

they are on the way Paoting; ~~xxxxxxx~~ to Kweilin, and the Japanese have

virtually withdrawn from Kanhsien.

all This is a part of the strategy to bottle up the Japanese in southeastern Asia. The Japanese tenure of that corridor from north to south becomes weaker every day. Four columns are marching on Kweilin, which is the last of the four places ^{that our air men are} ~~which the U.S. formerly held.~~

~~bases.~~

JAPAN

In Japan itself, things have reached the stage where the generals are now criticizing each other. A once high ranking officer of the Army, now retired, is calling upon the Mikado's high command to cut out politics and concentrate on fighting.

When such criticism is permitted in Tokyo, that in itself is a clear sign of confusion and dissention. That same retired and exceedingly outspoken Japanese general wants even more. He demands freedom of the press, freedom of public opinion, freedom of association. And he calls for the Emperor Hirohito to take a more active part in the administration.

And, here's another sign: A Tokyo newspaper publishing an editorial clamoring for the war lords to take a ~~xxxxx~~ realistic view of the war.

The Japanese are all talking about the coming invasion of their home islands.

COMPARISON

How do the Japs compare with the Germans as fighters? Here is an opinion of an infantry lieutenant recently in Europe, now in the Philippines. Lieutenant Eugene L. Demick of Madison, South Dakota, served two years with the First Rangers in Europe, and he says, I QUOTE, "The Japs are not as good soldiers as the Germans, but they have that last ditch fanaticism which the krauts lacked." And he continues: "Living and fighting conditions are much worse in the Pacific."

Lieutenant Demick says further: "Wide open mechanized warfare, such as we had in Europe, is almost a pleasure compared with this in the Pacific theatre. And," he declares, "this business of a monkeyman lurking behind every leaf and up every tree with rats' nests of them in every cave, really starts gnawing on your nerves." Demick is glad he was in North Africa when lots of those guys were in New Guinea, says he,

BRETTON WOODS.

The Senators today began work on the Bretton Woods plan. It looks as though there might be a tough fight ahead. Some Republican Senators are opposing it, although Governor Dewey of New York, titular head of the Republican Party, is openly supporting it.

Senator Wagner of New York opened the ~~show~~ ^{proceedings} asking his colleagues to pass the bill. Senator Taft picked up the cudgels for the other side. He said the Bretton Woods proposals meant pouring six billion dollars down a rat hole. ~~and~~ he urged that it should be postponed for a year, until things are more settled. He and ~~the~~ Republicans who are with him, want to hold off until there has been a general economic conference to establish what the economic condition of the whole world really is.

However, Republican Senator Tobey of New Hampshire ~~spoke up for Bretton Woods.~~ ^{— and Bretton Woods is in New Hampshire.} He took the position that it's ~~is~~ important that the cooperation of the United Nations during the war should be carried over into the peace.

SNYDER

The new Director of War Mobilization and ~~Reconversion~~

Reconversion will be John W. Snyder, a banker from

~~St. Louis, Missouri, President Truman's home state. He went~~
another Missourian

The nomination ^{went} ~~to~~ to the Senate today. Snyder will succeed

Fred Vinson, who becomes Secretary of the Treasury.

The Senate received ^{the} Vinson nomination earlier

in the day, and it was expected it would be confirmed

unanimously. ^{However} ~~But for some reason~~ the Senators decided

to postpone ^{confirmation} ~~it~~ until tomorrow. ^{Both are} ~~It is~~ a foregone

conclusion, ~~that Snyder will be confirmed as Director of~~

~~War Mobilization.~~

LABOR

The other day William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, declared that there was a lot of unrest in the country. The industrial picture today certainly shows it. In New York, the strike of newspaper deliverers continues, with the publishers making plans to break it. In Jersey City and Bayonne, New Jersey, printers are out. At Jenkins, Kentucky, two thousand, two hundred coal miners and store clerks are on the second week of a strike. Near Charleston, West Virginia, fifteen hundred gas, coal and chemical workers of a metallurgical plant are idle. At Warren, Ohio, a hundred and twenty telephone operators walked out, with the Labor Board ordering them to go back to work.

At Newcastle, Pennsylvania, near Pittsburg, seven hundred employees struck for a somewhat unusual reason. One of the workers there is a part time preacher. For the last twenty years he has been taking three days

off every year to attend a meeting of his church. This year the foreman refused to allow it. The preacher took counsel with himself, and prayed for guidance. Evidently the guidance was to go to the church meeting, and that's what he did. When he returned, he was fired. Thereupon seven hundred of his mates walked out.

The bright spot in the labor picture is that the rubber makers went back to work at Dayton, Ohio.

At Minneapolis, the Executive Board of the Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Machinery Workers' Union is considering a drastic move. The question is whether or not to revoke the "no strike" pledge made by labor at the beginning of the war. This is a C.I.O. union, and there is considerable feeling among its members in favor of cancelling that pledge.

CARS

When the new motor cars are made, only those who drive on essential business will be permitted to buy them. So Washington announced today. There are eight groups of essential drivers - fire fighting officials, law officers and public health officers, mail carriers, physicians and surgeons, veterinarians, preachers, members of the armed forces, or the State Guard, taxicab owners.

O.P.A. today released the six thousand Nineteen Forty-Two cars which have been frozen in dealers' showrooms for three years. Beginning Wednesday, they can be sold without restrictions.

CAT

~~Now~~ Here's a story ^{on} ~~about~~ which I have my fingers crossed; but, it's too good to ignore. A newspaper in Sheffield, England, claims to have found a cat with wings. ~~Now~~ ^{generally,} the English are not given to facetiousness in their news reports. ~~Still - Oh, well, let's get on with it.~~
The ^{we are told,} cat is known around Sheffield as Wingie, and has a front pair of wings with a fourteen inch span and a pair in the rear six inches from tip to tip. ^{Pussy} can jump, so the story goes, ^{jump} ten feet from a sitting position.

~~That is not all.~~ ^{goes on the yarn,} Six years ago there was another similar winged cat around Sheffield. ^{and} The suggestion is that Wingie ^{probably is an} ~~may be the~~ offspring of the other one.

^{says he} A Sheffield man saw Wingie on the streets last Friday night. He was rather startled, ^{and no wonder.} ~~and~~ rubbed his eyes, and ^{couldn't believe what he saw.} ~~began to wonder.~~ However, ~~he reflected that the~~
~~kind of beer and liquor you get in England today wouldn't~~

^{But}
~~make anybody see anything he shouldn't.~~ So he picked

Wingie up and took him to the nearest police station. ^{And}

That brings the Bobbies in ^{to} ~~on~~ the story. ^{And} They describe

Wingie's wings as somewhat like those of a flying

squirrel. ~~The police turned the animal over to the~~

~~local S.P.C.A. I shall feel more comfortable about this~~

~~story when I see Wingie in the newsreel.~~

And how are you feeling
tonight, Hugh?