

L.T. --- STANDARD --- Tuesday, June 27, 1944

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

How about the convention today? Well, it was better than ever! I mean the weather. As a matter of fact, the delegates are broiling at the Convention Hall right now. An afternoon session was called in order that the Resolutions Committee might present the Platform. The prospects are that the platform will be adopted with little if any debate on the floor of the convention as all principal differences were ironed out in committee. Of course, there may be a last minute surprise. Maybe Congresswoman Clare Luce or some other Willkite. will get up and make a protest. But that is not expected, from what I heard as I left to come to the studio. You may hear at any moment that the delegates have adopted the platform, and so everything will be ready for the more serious business of choosing the nominees for President and Vice President

Chamber of Commerce:

"American business and American labor," declared Stalin, "have done ^{today} a remarkable job of production for war. American Agriculture also", "he went on," has performed unusually well. American machines of war and American food," said Stalin, "have contributed to the successes of the Red Army in its victories."

All of which is a pat on the back from Stalin.

FRANCE:

The headline from France is the new drive by the British troops at the Eastern end of the invasion front. General Montgomery, the assault-force-Commander, is relying on earth-shaking artillery bombardments, as preparation for infantry advances. That Eastern sector is so near the Coast that the land artillery can be supported by naval guns. So today the ponderous cannon of the British battleship Rodney, the Cruiser's Argonaut, and Diadem, and the heavily gunned Monitor Lord Roberts, hurled naval salvos, to collaborate with massed artillery on land, in creating what an Allied air observer describes as-"a maelstrom of shellfire"

This observer tells of what he noted looking from above: "I could see a huge semi-circle of guns concentrated in one area, and great numbers of our tanks were moving up front, firing with everything they had. Whole sections of the countryside," he adds, "seemed to disappear".

With that kind of artillery support, the British infantry drove forward-and scored a six mile advance that overran eight villages. The purpose is to outflank the city of Caen, which the Germans have been holding so stubbornly. And excellent progress was made, progress according to schedule. Montgomery headquarters puts it in these words:

It is going entirely in our favor. The Allied advance follows the text book prepared long in advance of D-Day."

The German losses thus far in the invasion are now estimated at eighty thousand-killed, wounded and prisoners. The number of prisoners-forty thousand. On the Cherbourg peninsula alone, fifteen thousand have been captured.

The battle for the great port of Cherbourg is now over, save for a few isolated nests of Nazi's, where die-hard ~~Nazis~~ ^{Nazis} are still fighting at an airfield and an arsenal. These are still to be cleaned out, but otherwise the big task at Cherbourg is now one of repair. American salvage experts, ~~have~~ promptly on the job, have begun the huge task of putting the port in useable shape, after the damage done by the German demolition crews.

CHERBOURG SURRENDER FOLLOW FRANCE:

I suppose that the capture of Cherbourg was to be officially marked down as complete when the following episode occurred—one of those striking incidents of war. At one corner of the harbor the Germans had an "E" boat base, and near the base there was a tunnel. This the Germans turned into a strong point, and it was stubbornly defended against the Americans. The attacking forces fought their way forward, and were ready to storm the tunnel.

Then out came a curious figure ^{and} a bit comic:—a German Lieutenant—goose-stepping. And he carried a white flag. American bullets were still flying before the white flag was noticed, but the Lieutenant came on into the fire, goose-stepping as if on parade. The American guns stopped shooting, and the Lieutenant approached the American position. He announced that he had a message from Lieutenant General Karl Wilhelm von Schlieben Commander of the German forces at Cherbourg. Von Schlieben, he said, was ready to surrender.

That was okay, said the Americans, whereupon the Lieutenant went goose-stepping back into the tunnel. And ~~then out~~ came a tall hulking figure, a brawny six-footer with graying hair and silver starred epaulets; Lieutenant General Von Schlieben. With him another officer of high rank—Rear Admiral Walter Hennecke, the German naval Commander at

Cherbourg, and after the two high officers straggled eight hundred Nazi troops-their hands in the air.

The surrender was accepted with the usual formalities, and the enemy General and Admiral were driven to the Post of the American Commander in the Cherbourg area.

There they were taken in to the American General, who sat working in his shirt sleeves. He shook hands with them, and asked Von Schlieben if he was ready to order the surrender of the remaining Germans at Cherbourg.

Von Schlieben replied: "Nein." Himself surrendering, he refused to order his remaining troops to give up. He explained, at first, that this was because he was out of contact with the isolated groups of Germans that were still fighting.

To which the American Commander responded by asking how he could justify his conduct from, what the American called-"The purely moral standpoint." How could he surrender, and permit his men to fight on?

Von Schlieben replied by referring to experiences he had had in the war in Russia. There he had learned, he said, that valuable delaying action could be accomplished by small groups of die-hards fighting to the end.

A little later, the captured German General and Admiral, having washed up, sat down with the American Commander for a bite to eat.

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As a sequence to this, we may note that the German Naval Commander who surrendered, Rear Admiral Walter Hennecke, had just been decorated by Hitler-just as the German Commander who surrendered at Stalingrad was promoted. Hennecke gets a medal, according to the Berlin account, for what he did in blowing up the harbor works at Cherbourg-in the effort to make the port useless to the Allies as long as possible.

ROCKETS:

Still another novelty in the rocket bomb warfare—a new type of robot plane. This appears, as the Germans go into a new spurt of activity with the Doodlebugs, ^{- the robots} The weather is bad for flying, and that is handicapping fighter planes—which have been shooting down plenty of rocket ^{those} ~~planes~~ ^{planes} over the English Channel. And the Germans have taken advantage of this to hurl increasing numbers of rockets—some of these of a new type, as the people of Southern England have noticed.

The difference between older and newer kinds is this: The more familiar type ~~gives out~~ gives out a roaring, rushing noise, and then is silent as its motive power stops—whereupon it plunges for an explosion. The interval of silence between the rushing noise and the blast is from ten to fifteen seconds, and that has been giving the British a chance to duck. When you hear the sound of the flying rocket, stop! throw yourself down!

The newer type, we hear, cuts that interval of silence between ^{the} rushing sound and explosion to as little as one second, ^{less} time to duck.

~~and~~ This rocket war provides something else decidedly novel—something you would hardly expect. We have been hearing plenty about ^{the robots} ~~planes~~ destroyed by speedy and nimble fighter planes, which chase and shoot

then down. But how about a heavy bomber, a giant of the sky like a flying fortress or Liberator? You can scarcely imagine one of those battleships in the sky getting into the game of shooting down the streaking rockets.

And yet it happened, as we hear from England today. The word comes of a Liberator four-motored bomber bagging a rocket. The story is related by Sergeant Jack D. Barren of Des Moines, Iowa, who scored the ~~victory~~ victory at twilight last evening. The Liberator, was flying over the English Channel, and here is what happened, as the Sergeant related it:

"I saw what I thought were two fighter planes coming right at us," says the Sergeant. "Then I saw that flame was shooting out behind the nearer one, and realized it was a doodlebug." *That's what they call them.* "It looked like a torpedo with little wings." *said he. And then he went on:-* "When the flying bomb was about six hundred yards away, ~~he goes on~~ I could see that it would pass behind and above us. It was coming so fast that, by the time I had my trigger-switch-on, it was two hundred feet above us and about three hundred yards back. I started firing, and " the Sergeant concludes: "I shot it down with a few bursts."

So that's how a heavy bomber sent a ~~doodlebug~~ *rocket* plunging into

RUSSIA:

Moscow announces the capture of another important city-Orsha, a railroad center. This, following the fall of the Nazi stronghold of Vitebsk, ^{is} another sign of the collapse of the German front in Central Russia -unless the signs really mean that the Germans are making a methodical withdrawal, getting out while the getting out is good.

The fall of Orsha, with its key situation on vital railroads, indicates the early likelihood that the Russian's may be able to open an important line of rail running North and South.. All along, the strategies in Russia have been governed by railroads lying behind-and feeding-military fronts. Orsha was taken by a flanking movement, which trapped a large Nazi garrison.

Another Russian story concerns the Soviet attitude toward the United States. It wasn't so long ago when it appeared that the Stalin people were short of appreciation of the aid that this country was giving to the Red Army in its long and desperate fight. So what do we have today? We hear Stalin speaking some very complimentary words.

They were addressed to Eric Johnston, President of the United States Chamber of Commerce, who is on a visit to Russia and who had a two and a half hour conference with Stalin in the Kremlin. And here is what the Soviet war leader had to say to the head of the United States

FINLAND:

A flash from Finland this afternoon announces that the Northern Republic has decided to remain in the war, and has asked for German help.

This follows and confirms earlier statements from the Nazi side-which declared that Hitler's foreign minister, Von Ribbentrop, had flown to Helsinki, and there the leaders of the Finland government presented to him a request for military assistance from Nazi Germany. To which the Germans replied-yes, they would send military help to the Finns.

All of which seems to put a quietus on repeated series of new attempts by Finland to ^{get} out of the war and make peace with Soviet Russia. That's all out, apparently-with today's flash from Helsinki stating that Finland has decided to remain in the war and has asked for help from Nazi Germany.

ITALY:

In Italy, the American^s continue their steady advance up the West Coast of the peninsula. Today they pushed on for six miles more, and now are within thirty miles of their next objective-the important port of Leghorn.

Farther inland, the going is not so easy, with British eight army troops, facing a flare-up of enemy resistance. The drive northward from the old Umbrian city of Perugia has been tough going-particularly along the shores of Lake Trasimeno. And today comes word of what is called some of the fiercest tank and infantry battles of the Italian campaign. These occur as the Eighth Army drives in an attempt for encirclement of its next objective-the ancient city of Siena .

The battle for Saipan is approaching a show-down crisis, ~~that~~

likely to be a desperate affair. Today's bulletin from that Island in the Pacific reports that Japanese resistance has stiffened all along the line, and the belief is expressed that the Army troops and Marines have reached the line along which the Japs intend to make their decisive stand.

The enemy has masses of infantry on Saipan, and until now has contented himself with delaying actions, small bitter-end-battles fought by suicide squads amid the rugged mazes of mountains and jungle. The main force of the Japs is intact and a savage all-out conflict is expected to begin at any time. American forces, after their landings and advances, now control about one-half of Saipan. (The present line between the two forces extends from one coast to the other, and divides the island in half.

The news from Saipan continues to feature caves, the use of deep rock caverns in the strategy of war. Last night we heard how a battle of cannon-versus-caves figured largely in the American conquest of the tall mountain, Tapotchau. And today's ~~account~~ ^{which} reveals another episode ~~that~~ might have turned out to be one of the cataclysmic events of this war - only it didn't happen that way.

American soldiers spotted some Japs moving guns and ammunition

through a stretch of underbrush-and pounced on them in a surprise attack. They killed some Japs and drove the others away-and then noted a trail that led to an opening in a rocky ridge-another cave.

The routine tactics out there would have been to bring up field artillery and hurl shells into the cave to knock out the defenders inside. However, it turned out that the Japs outside had really been the defenders of the cave. So the American's were able to take the cavern without resistance-and what did they find inside?

There was a great outer room, a hundred feet long, thirty feet wide, and forty feet high, and it was filled with hundred pound bombs, hand grenades, land mines, rifle and machine gun ammunition. Further on there was an inner cavern room in which ordnance men found stacks of thousands and five thousand pound bombs.

If they had started firing artillery shells into that cavern, you can guess what would have happened. It was as one artillery expert said: "I am glad we didn't blow it up because it might have tossed the whole ridge into the sea."

CONVENTION:

The comment here in Chicago is that ~~conservative~~ Republicans have ~~had their way~~ in drafting ^{the} a platform ~~as placed today in committee.~~ ^{they put in a} The foreign policy plank call^{ing} for American participation in a post-war international system. "Cooperative organization," says the plank. But it's against any participation in a World state.

~~In all this the convention seems to have paid little attention to Wendell Wilkie, the 1940 G.O.P. candidate, who last night directed some thundering criticism at the proposed platform. He said its foreign policy plank was--ambiguous. And he spoke of--"Phoney phrases"~~

~~The committee attitude seemed to be that it didn't care what Wilkie said or did.~~

Earlier today permanent Chairman Joe Martin of Massachusetts made a blistering speech against the New Deal and called for a union of Republicans and anti-Fourth term Democrats. He said the election was a battle between what he called "two eternally hostile ideologies". The New Deal which wants a regimented society, and the Republican party which advocates a free society--said he.

Meanwhile the certainty that Dewey will be the nominee becomes more complete--although the newer figures were not needed to banish any possible doubt. There wasn't any. The count of delegates certain to go for Dewey

has climbed to seven hundred and ninety-three. The number of sure votes for Bricker and Stassen is now reckoned at eighty-five and thirty-six respectively,--that many expected to stand out against Dewey's seven hundred and ninety-three.

The word comes to Chicago here that at Albany today Governor Dewey went to work on his acceptance speech. He still hasn't stated that he will accept the Republican nomination--which he never made a move to get. But, today he was drafting the speech that he will give in accepting the nomination that will be offered to him tomorrow.

One convention item is this--Whoever called Chicago the Windy City? I, to be sure, have felt whistling gales blow along Michigan Boulevard on previous occasions, in the cold winter time mostly.

But Today the Windy City didn't live up to its name by producing even

~~the slight breeze.~~ ^a But it was a hot wind like the Hamseer that sweeps over the Sahara. India never was hotter.

CONVENTION

Ex-President Hoover has just arrived here in Chicago all primed with the speech he is to deliver at tonight's session. According ~~to~~ to all forecasts the Ex-President will mince no words and will tear the hide off the New Deal. We'll hear President Hoover in a little while. In the meantime let's listen to Vice President Hugh James.