

The Battle for Germany today turned into a stupendous ~~battle~~ ^{conflict} of armor along a two hundred mile front facing the River Rhine. Everywhere tanks, artillery and infantry were clashing in desperate ~~conflict~~ ^{combat}, with the Germans putting up fanatical resistance and hurling ferocious counter-attacks.

This development of the battle is linked by Allied leaders to a fact revealed today - Hitler in command of the German forces on the Western Front. It is disclosed that Der Fuehrer has assumed the personal direction of the ~~battle~~ ^{defense} and the way things are going ~~there~~ is evidence of the Hitler leadership. That is - German forces are being thrown into the maelstrom with strategies of desperation, tactics of last ditch defense and mad counter-attacks, regardless of losses.

Today, British General Montgomery ~~pointed out~~

made the following statement: "The Allies have a lot to be thankful for that Hitler has taken charge of operations. It means," said the British General, "that the enemy is commanded by a lunatic."

So that is the devilish force of futility seen behind the storming fury of the Germans today, along that battlefront of two hundred miles facing the Rhine. Time and again German armor lunged forward, only to be hurled back -- one hundred Nazi tanks knocked out today. And everywhere German troops were losing frightfully in headlong assaults. ^{TV} Late news tonight places the most critical point of battle at the northern tip of the line, near the Dutch city of Arnhem. That's where American airborne forces landed -- on the other side of the Rhine where they constituted an outflanking threat to the German front along the river. Tonight's latest tells of frenzied German attacks against the

positions of the paratroopers who apparently have
not joined forces with the British. (Today British
units got across the Rhine, but apparently not at the
place where the American paratroopers are. And now
the crisis lies with the question -- will the British
who have got across the Rhine be able to join the
airborne forces in time? Some worry is being expressed
about the perilous position of those American ~~paratroopers~~ ^{air borne}
Fighting men
who are armed with light weapons only.

~~were intending to make a desperate drive to get out.~~
~~In this sector, where the Siegfried Line has been broken,~~
General Hodges's American First Army is pushing its
advance toward the great city of Cologne. ^{And} The focus
of violent conflict is amid the wreck and rubble of the
town of Stolberg, which the Germans are trying to
convert into a second Cassino.

And in this neighborhood we hear of a new and
fearful tactic of war - a novel American method of
subjugating German pill boxes. Bulldozers are rolling
up to the strong points which are half underground,
and are pushing masses of earth over their entrances,
closing the entrances, and thereby entombing the
Germans in the pill boxes, burying them alive.

On the Moselle front, the conflict is equally
terrifying. There General Patton's armor ~~is~~ driving
for the Saar Valley, ~~and~~ is being resisted by a

desperate German defense of thick woods - where the fighting goes on from behind trees, Indian fashion.

H The going is slow - as the Germans here as elsewhere are directed by the military intuitions of Der Fuehrer. Which means for them - terrific fighting, staggering losses, and the eventual disaster which always appears to be the net result of Hitler tactics. →

ADD WESTERN FRONT

The Nazi Luftwaffe struck a vicious blow at the liberated city of Eindhoven, but fortunately there was a curious twist of circumstance -- a strange coincidence. The British entering ~~Eind~~ Eindhoven were greeted with the wildest enthusiasm, and for hours the liberated people danced and sang, and had a jubilant carnival. Never guessing the German air force was preparing to bomb the carnival and hurl high explosive into the crowded rejoicing city -- which has no air raid shelters.

Then a peculiar thing occurred -- a rumor of something else, a wild one about something quite different. The report spread that a German armoured force was moving on the town, and the more the story was told, the bigger it got -- hundreds of German tanks. So the carnival ended and people scattered out of Eindhoven. Then it was that Nazi bombers came over

and hurled their high explosive. But most of the merry-makers were gone. Even so, sixty-five persons were killed. ~~But~~ the holocaust would have been many times greater if it hadn't been for the false rumor about ^{German} tanks that had caused so many people to flee from the liberated town.

RUSSIA

Moscow announces a new offensive, this one in Estonia. It states that Soviet troops have advanced forty-three miles in four days and have captured fifteen hundred towns and villages. This adds a new blow to the beating the Germans are taking in the Baltic States.

~~Their Baltic army, we are told, is being split into three parts, and faces a major disaster with the Russians in sight of the great Baltic port of Riga.~~

And Soviet troops today entered Finland, in accordance with yesterday's armistice, and are now fighting against Nazi forces in the northern Republic.

The Finns, themselves, are buckling down to the job of carrying out the armistice terms, though they consider these exceedingly harsh. ~~with the Soviets annexing~~
~~annexing Finland's industrial Province of Karelia and~~
~~taking a fifty year lease on a section of the Finnish~~
~~coast a strategic peninsula just south of~~ Helsinki.

Today's news tells us that the Finns have already begun the evacuation of the people of that peninsula. The Finns understand perfectly well that a fifty-year lease sounds like permanent possession. Moreover, they have got to pay a huge indemnity, the payments of which they are prepared to put on the line - the Finns having a way of putting the money on the line.

Today a prominent Finnish newspaper said:

"The agreement, which is now signed, dismembers our country and deprives us of an essential part of the basis of our economic position. But, after peace has been signed," it goes on, "we must fulfill even the hardest terms loyally."

BULGARIAN MINISTER

Here is the first story that I have seen of an accused war criminal being handed over by a neutral country in which he took refuge. ~~There has been much talk about war criminals who might try to seek neutral protection, and here is a case in point.~~

Today at Istanbul, the former Bulgarian Minister of the Interior, Peter Gabrowski, took a train to return to Bulgaria. He is charged with responsibility in the Nazi killing of Jews and Greeks, and so he fled from his country - when Bulgaria surrendered, and changed sides. He went to Turkey, and there was told by Turkish officials that he would have to go back. As an accused war criminal, Turkey would not grant him refuge. So today he took the train from Istanbul. He was trembling and in tears, states a United Press reporter, to whom he said that he didn't believe he should be punished as a war criminal. "I cannot," he argued,

"be held responsible for any atrocities, because the Germans had the power to run everything their way."

~~The American newspaperman asked him who was going to win the war.~~

~~"The war is already won," responded the accused war criminal. "The Allies have won it."~~

Hugh, let's hear your Stan.
of Calif. story — and then I'll
give you the news from the Pacific

LEANING TOWER

We've heard a lot about dirty Nazi tricks, but today brings a climax - a prize-winner for low cunning and ingenious malice. It is related in a letter from Captain Lemuel Kelley to the home folks at Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Nice melodic rhythm, isn't it - Arkadelphia, Arkansas. But that isn't what the Nazis did.

Captain Kelley states that in Italy, when the American troops entered the ancient city of Pisa, they found the people in a panic - terrified. Why? Because of the Leaning Tower. Of course, that celebrated lopsided, cockeyed monument of medieval architecture was still standing, still leaning, undamaged, untouched by war. But the Nazis, before clearing out, had told the people of Pisa a yarn about what the Americans would do to the Leaning Tower. Blow it up? Tear it down? Not at all. The Nazi lie was far worse than that.

The Germans had told the people that the Americans would straighten ~~up~~ the Leaning Tower! They said that American engineers had made plans to push the Tower upright, perpendicular, ~~and~~ ^{so} it wouldn't lean

LEANING TOWER -2-

any more.

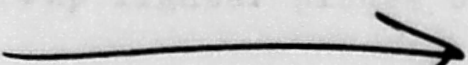
I suppose they explained that the Americans were so full of mechanical-minded efficiency, that they wouldn't stand for a building that leaned over at a crazy angle. Or maybe they said the Americans would do it out of sheer spite. Anyway, the people of Pisa were in a daze and dither, believing that the Americans would straighten up the Leaning Tower.

However, they were quickly reassured. The Americans said that, for all they cared, the Leaning Tower could lean as much as it liked--or even ^{make a} ~~stand on~~ ^{cow with bow} ~~its head~~, if it wanted to. For ~~all~~ ^{all} they wanted was to go back to Philadelphia, Arkansas!

PACIFIC

You can close the book so far as Angaur Island is concerned. Tonight we have a bulletin from Admiral Nimitz, who announces that organized enemy resistance has ended on that bit of land in the Palau group. It took the Wildcat Infantry Division just four days to conquer ^{Angaur} ~~Palau~~. The Japanese garrison on the island was not large, but the terrain was some of the toughest ever ~~encountered~~ - with the Wildcats ~~fighting~~ clawing their way through dense mangrove swamps. Anyone who has ever ~~adventured into~~ the tropical Orient can tell you about that - those thickets along the shore and in the shallows, with mazes of interlaced vegetation, - the dank and obnoxious mangrove swamp.

On the nearby island of Peleliu, the Marines have captured a town, the name of which I ~~will~~ make a probably futile attempt to ^{pro-} ~~ann~~ounce - Ngárdolólók. ^{Instead} ~~of~~ pronouncing, it's more like ~~a matter of~~ clucking.

The conquest of Pelelieu is proceeding relentlessly. The remaining Japs are fighting bitterly, entrenched in coral caves, and we hear of two mystery cannon. Our forces on the eastern side of Pelelieu have wiped out all the enemy artillery that can be spotted, but two Jap guns continue to fire. Nobody can tell where they are. ~~but~~ ^{It} is believed that this remnant of Japanese artillery is in a deep concealed cave - with the Japs running the guns ^{to} ~~through~~ the opening of the cave and taking a shot, and then pulling them back. 

FOLLOW PACIFIC

The situation of the Palau Islands is well-known by now -- so near to the Philippines. ~~And~~ the Japs know it too. ~~and~~ ^{the} Today/Tokyo radio stated that an Allied invasion of the Philippines was likely to happen soon. ^{that} As if to emphasize/Japanese opinion, there is late word tonight from General MacArthur's headquarters, news of another heavy air blow against the Japs on Mindanao. Long-range bombers hit the enemy air base at Davao. There was no resistance -- either by Jap fighter planes or by anti-aircraft guns.

AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion Convention in Chicago ended today with the election of a new Commander. He is Edward N. Scheiberling of Albany, New York. Earlier in the day the Legion went on record in favor of American participation in an international force to preserve the peace.

DEWEY

Today a battered railroad train rattled ~~along~~,
~~proceeding~~ southward along the Pacific coast. The Dewey
Campaign Special - on its way from Portland to
San Francisco. Campaign trains are usually smart and
well equipped, but the Dewey Special is tattered and
torn - after yesterday's wreck.

They say it was a miracle that the railroad
had been able to get the campaign train into working
order at all - after it ran smack into another train
yesterday. The Dewey party, after the crack-up at
Castle Rock, Washington, proceeded to Portland by
automobile, and were decidedly uncertain about whether
they would ever see that campaign train again - the
way it had been smashed up. The car ~~is~~ ^{were} a shambles of
wreckage. But today ^{the train} ~~it~~ reappeared, pulling into
Portland, and taking aboard the Dewey party. All the
coaches were there, except the baggage car, which in

yesterday's wreck had climbed on top of the locomotive, and was too far gone. The others have been patched up and painted in a fast overnight job, ~~though such equipment as the campaign radio communications, were missing, smashed to pieces in the wreck.~~

Candidate Dewey circulated among the many newspaper people who are reporting his tour and who, most of them, had been bruised and battered a bit in yesterday's crash. He found them okay today, and then went to work on his next speech, the one propounding a philosophy of American government, which he will give tomorrow night in San Francisco.

ADD DEWEY

This afternoon the Republican candidate made a platform speech to a crowd at Eugene, Oregon, and that had ~~the~~ turn of novelty. I suppose it was the first time that a presidential candidate ever made a speech surrounded by bruises and bandages.

But there was Tom Dewey on the platform of the rear coach, ~~and~~ around him were his own aids and a

number of newspaper people covering his campaign, —

some of whom
~~and a number of the~~ had been banged up considerably

in yesterday's train wreck. They still showed their

~~contusions~~ bumps and bandages. — *black eyes,*
swollen lips, and game legs.

In that interesting setting Dewey told the

people of Eugene, ~~that~~ that what this country

needs is -- "the most complete housecleaning in its history."

DORSEY

7
Today in Hollywood a Grand Jury handed down indictments against Band Leader Tommy Dorsey, his wife, the beautiful Pat Dane, and Sportsman Allen Smiley, who was already facing horse race charges of bookmaking. And along with the news of the indictment, we have the official story told by Movie Actor Jon Hall, who nearly had the tip of his classic nose cut off -- at the Tommy Dorsey party.

(The Jon Hall testimony follows previous accounts pretty closely, but gives a new climax worthy of the most exciting scene ever filmed in a blood and thunder movie. He tells how it all started when he patted Pat Dane on the back. There's been much dispute about just what kind of ~~pat it was that~~ ^{he gave Pat} ~~he gave~~ ^{he gave} the shapely ~~back~~ ^{what kind of Pat he gave Pat.} In any case, the lady's husband took umbrage.)

TP There was an exchange of words and Dorsey hit Hall on the head with a bottle. After which he hit Hall again between the eyes with the bottle. So says the Jon Hall story today, and adds that the Band Leader

thereupon tried to throw the movie actor over an apartment balcony, which would have tossed him for a fall to a courtyard five stories down. So the actor grabbed the maestro by the head to keep from being hurled over.

Today Hall put it in these exciting words: "I'm holding Dorsey by the head to keep from going over, and now I'm trying to dodge Mrs. Dorsey, waving a knife or a bottle." It was at this juncture, said he, that Mrs. Dorsey slashed the end of his nose and gashed the back of his neck.

By now the whole thing was a free-for-all among the various guests, with screaming, punching, hair-pulling and clothes ripping -- until finally Hall got clear of the balcony and the five-story drop, and all he had to do was get his cut nose and slashed neck patched up -- which took forty-eight stitches.

The motion picture screen has shown some lively parties, but never anything like that social event in Hollywood.

And now Hollywood to Hugh!

TRIAL IN ROME

Today in Rome, they proceeded with a trial that had been interrupted by a lynching - the trial of a former police official with the musical name of Caruso. This Caruso is charged with having turned over to Nazi executioners fifty hostages, who were murdered ~~by the Nazis~~ in one of the ancient Roman caves - Rome being famous for its caverns and catacombs. One of the witnesses at the trial was to have been the ~~one-time~~ ^{former} keeper of the prison from which the hostages were taken, but this prison official was lynched - as we heard ~~the~~ night before last. A raging mob seized him in court, and killed him in an orgy of frenzied violence.

Today the court proceedings were resumed under heavy guard and with no disorder - no lynch mob. And the former Fascist Chief of Police, Caruso, ~~was permitted to make his defense. He came into court on crutches, having sustained a broken leg in an automobile~~

~~accident while attempting to escape from Rome. He denied~~
~~that he had helped the Nazis in the massacre of the~~
~~hostages in the cave. He~~ claimed that, while appearing
to serve the Germans, he had really been aiding the
anti-Nazi patriots. And his defense reiterated the
contention that, as for other things he had done, they
were only what he had been ordered to do.

~~United Press Correspondent Eleanor Packard~~
~~reports the trial judge as saying that, no matter what~~
~~the evidence is, the public will insist upon the~~
~~execution of the former Police Chief, he being a~~
~~symbol of murderous Nazi oppression.~~

that the Hitler military methods had previously been encountered early in the Battle of France - at the time of the great break-through in Normandy. The Germans then pinned their hopes on a wild lunge to cut the Allied army in two, a counter-attack that was beaten off and resulted eventually in the German collapse in France. Montgomery stated today that this disastrous operation was reckless and badly planned, and had been undertaken at the personal order of Der Fuehrer. It was typical of the Hitler brand of strategy, wild assaults and disordered violence, which ~~led Montgomery to~~ made the following statement, ~~today~~:

"The Allies have a lot to be thankful for that Hitler has taken charge of operations. It means," said the British General, "that the enemy is commanded by a lunatic."

So that is the devilish force of futility seen behind the storming fury of the Germans today, along that

battlefront of two hundred miles facing the Rhine.

Time and again Germany armor lunged forward, only to be hurled back - one hundred Nazi tanks knocked out today. And everywhere the German troops ~~were~~^{were} losing frightfully in tactics of fanaticism.

At the northern end of the line, the British have joined forces with the American airborne troops that ~~had~~ landed on the other side of the Rhine. The British ground forces have crossed the river, and now the northern Allied spearhead is in position to flank the whole line of the Rhine - this as we not~~iced~~^{ed} yesterday. The isolation of some seventy thousand German troops in western Holland is being completed, and these are fighting frantically to get out of the closing trap.

~~In the area of Aachen, the battle continues for that city - Aix-la-Chapelle of old. There, explosions indicate Nazi demolitions, as if the German garrison~~

LETTER

It can be embarrassing when you write the wrong thing to the wrong person. I recall that I once, in writing to a lady of the radio audience, finished the letter with a traditional salutation that I had learned over in Arabia - "May your shadow never grow less." To which I got an indignant response, with the lady saying that I had cast an aspersion on her weight, poundage, avoirdupois, she tipping the beam at something like three hundred pounds, "May your shadow never grow less", - she was insulted.

So I can sympathize with the Democratic National Committee for a mistake in sending a letter soliciting a campaign contribution. Somehow or other, the Democrats managed to get on their mailing list, the name of the Republican Governor of New Jersey, Governor Edge, ^{who} ~~and he~~ received a letter asking him to make a contribution for the reelection of President Roosevelt to a Fourth Term. You can guess what happened. A blunder like that always opens an opportunity for a sharp retort, a devastating crack. And that, says the news today, was

what Governor Edge sent back - in lieu of a campaign contribution. He wrote: "The Democratic Party must be in dire financial straits to have to solicit funds from a Republican Governor."

Well, ^{they} ~~all I can say is -- the boys~~ were asking for it and got it.