

P.T. - Standard, Wed., Dec. 20, 1944.
Sunoco.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

On the Western Front, our American lads are fighting ^{one of} the bitterest, ^{one of the} most intensive battle in history. Not merely in the history of the United States, but in all history. ^{Trying to stop} ~~Fighting against~~ the powerful spearhead of men and armor that Field Marshal von Rundstedt ~~has~~ sent plunging through our lines.

Allied headquarters at Paris today revealed for the first time how serious has been the damage inflicted by the Nazis. All the Allied war correspondents had complained bitterly about the news blackout, pointing out that ^{we have} ~~our people had~~ the right to know what ^{has been} ~~was~~ happening. (Today's announcement is that the Germans penetrated our lines at four points; advances that ~~was~~ varied from five to twenty-one miles in depth. And, correspondents report further that there are

indications that the Germans have penetrated even deeper since Monday. Furthermore, they have surrounded American units near St. Vith in Belgium, and near Echternach, on the border of Luxembourg. The Germans themselves say they have captured ten thousand of our men and knocked out from three to four divisions of the First Army -- either wiped them out or damaged them so badly that they are no longer effective. An enemy claim that is not contradicted.

Intelligence officers reported that German prisoners had been inspired with the idea of giving back Aix-la-Chapelle, to the Fuehrer, as a Christmas present. The Nazi troops were further promised that if they did their duty, they would be at Antwerp five days later, and Paris by New Year's Eve. Even Allied officers admitted that the Nazis might be planning to drive all the way through to the North Sea. ~~That~~ That if they should succeed, that could delay Allied victory for six months, or more.

The German panzer commanders are using the daring tank tactics with which General Patton swept through France. German panzer forces are tearing through Belgium well in ~~big~~ advance of the main columns. Their aim is to break up American communications and create confusion behind our lines. In this they are leaving no device unused. Some of their crack soldiers are dressed in civilian clothes. Others are using captured American tanks and trucks that still bear the emblems of the United States on their sides. And -- they are devastating the Belgian countryside with at least three types of V-bombs.

There is no denying the fact that this is the pay-off battle.

Nor is the Allied high command concealing the gravity of the situation from us. **ix**

The Allied high command has thrown a two-pronged counterattack at von Rundstedt's advance divisions.

The brunt of this counterattack is aimed at the points

where the Germans have penetrated most deeply.

One American armored column has fought back into the Belgian town of Stavelot, the most westerly point of Nazi advance. And a second column is attacking the German flank where von Rundstedt's units are most thinly spread out.

As for Radio Berlin, it broadcast the claim today that the German offensive is proceeding according to plan.

Elsewhere on the Western Front, our armies are driving ahead. General Patch's men of the Seventh Army have captured thirty more strong positions in the Siegfried Line, and have penetrated quite a distance into the first belt of the line. Further West, Patton's men of the Third Army are consolidating their gains in the Saar Valley. Airplane pilots now report heavy movements of German traffic in that region.

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Just a few minutes ago a bulletin came in from Paris with ~~an~~ one encouraging note. The Yanks yesterday offset the German success to the extent of taking no fewer than twenty thousand Nazi prisoners.

~~On the other hand,~~ ^{said to be} The power, the fury of the German offensive is ~~actually~~ increasing. Allied Supreme Headquarters warns us to expect news of still further advances by von Rundsted's fifteen divisions, of which six are armored -- meaning, anywhere from one hundred and fifty thousand to two hundred and twenty-five thousand crack, selected Nazi shock troops.

ADD WESTERN FRONT

Military observers in Washington are not so disturbed about the German counter-offensive. They claim that it has not yet seriously interrupted the passage of supplies to the American Ninth and First Armies along the Roer River. Furthermore, it has not stopped the advance of the armies ~~of~~ under Patton and Hatch. *But then all of us,*

including ~~the~~ military observers in Washington, are sitting comfortably ^{over here some} ~~in chairs~~ more than three thousand ~~of~~ miles away from ~~the~~ doughboys ^{at} the front line, fighting through the mud, ^{slugging it out in one of} the most terrific ~~of all~~ battles ~~that have~~ ever ~~been~~ waged.

V-BOMBS

The news of the general offensive has featured the fact that the Nazis are using ~~buzz~~^{robot} bombs in their drive forward - sending swarms of the robot planes against the American lines. And now we have an eyewitness account of this from a newspaper correspondent,

Robert Musel of the United Press, who was riding in a plane while ~~buzz bombs~~^{they} were coming over. He says the robot attack was of greater intensity than the one that hit London last summer and fall - ~~he~~^{and he had} witnessed the robot blitz in London. "This area," he writes, "has taken an even worse plastering. I counted the number of buzz bombs I saw and heard over a stretch of several hours. There were at least as many as hit London in a similar period." And he adds that they were landing in an area smaller than the rambling spaces of London.

"From what I could see," the U.P. man goes on,

"the Germans have not made any particular improvement in

the ^{robot} ~~buzz~~ bomb since they first used it against London.

It still does about the same amount of damage, moves at about the same speed, and still is as vulnerable to attack by fighters."

How much are the Germans accomplishing by using the robot bomb as a weapon in their big offensive?

"Only military experts," writes the newspaper man, "are able to say, ~~whether this apparent teaming of ground and its buzz bomb offensives is working out in practice.~~ But he adds that many of the robots were landing and exploding in open fields.

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Now H - will you take the Mike while I take a look at the rest of the news?

GREECE

In Athens, the British Commander, General Scobie, issued an ultimatum to the Left Wing insurgents today. He threatened them with an all-out British drive.

This comes after a series of reverses to the British, a series of defeats at the hands of the ELAS. The latest is the loss of R.A.F. headquarters, ten miles outside of Athens. Last night we heard that this was being attacked by the Left Wingers, and today the word is that it has been overrun - R.A.F. headquarters seized by the ELAS insurgents. ~~ixfxix~~ After a twenty-four hour bombardment by ELAS guns, it was captured by a thousand assailants armed with handgrenades - assailants who are described as men, women, boys and girls. The British tank column, which was moving to the relief of R.A.F. headquarters, ~~xxxxx~~ arrived on the scene as the ELAS grenade throwers were swarming into the building. The tanks opened fire on

them, and many of the Elas people were killed.

British prisoners, taken by the insurgents, were rescued.

The ultimatum issued by the British commander is in drastic terms: "Every rebel gun firing in the city or suburbs," announces General Scobie, "will immediately be hit by all means in my power (field and naval artillery, strafing, rockets and bombs. The assault will continue until the guns are destroyed.)"

The deadline, ~~is~~ nine o'clock tomorrow morning, when the all-out British attack will open - if the Elas guns continue shooting.

CHURCHILL

In London, Winston Churchill admitted today that there were disagreements between the Big Three - points of dispute between Great Britain, the United States and Soviet Russia, in the matter of policies pursued in the liberated countries. Churchill was facing the House of Commons in a debate on the question of British intervention in the Greek civil war, and he stated: "The three great powers are in entire agreement upon the general aims which bind our alliance." Then he qualified the broad statement: "Whether there is complete agreement on every aspect of these matters is another question," said he.

Churchill was asked about the division of Europe and the spheres of influence - how did that square with the Atlantic Charter and the Dumbarton Oaks proposals for world security? He refused to answer. He said this was no time to discuss the topic of the spheres of influence.

As for Greece, he declared that the burden of the Greek civil war had, in his words, "fallen on Britain." And he conceded that his government has not been able to handle the matter without stirring up all sorts of criticism.

Churchill was followed by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, who was asked - What would happen to the Left Wing Elsas if its people laid down their weapons? Would they be protected against the Right Wing elements?

"We should take every precaution in that respect" replied Eden. "It is not our desire that there should be victimization, either on one side or the other."

Eden refused to admit that the British intervention in Greece was wrong in any sense of the word. Quite to the contrary - he declared that Britain might well be criticized for not taking action against the Elsas Left Wingers, ~~at an earlier date.~~

And the Foreign Secretary made a suggestion for

improving the liaison between the Big Three - better inter-communication to prevent disagreements. He proposed that there be regular meetings of the Foreign Ministers of the United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia, periodical conferences four times a year.

PHILIPPINES

From the Philippines, ^{may} at least we have good news. Just half an hour ago, word came from General Douglas MacArthur that all organized resistance by the Japanese on Leyte has come to an end. This does ^{it} not mean that ~~there~~ there are no more fighting Japs on the island, but they are only isolated pockets.

So the battle for Leyte is won, sixty-two days after the Yanks first landed there.

The formidable Yamashita Line ~~is~~ broken,

~~The~~ The remnants of the Japs have run away into the hills. And there they will have ^{their troubles} ~~a hard time~~ ^{with the} ~~from~~ Filipino guerrillas who know ~~just~~ how to deal with them.

The ^{American} ~~XXXXXX~~ forces on ~~the island of~~ Mindoro are also ^{crushing} the Japs; ^a only ~~one~~ hundred and fifty miles ~~is~~ to the south of Manila. American and Australian engineers completed a new mile and a half

air field four days after landing on ^{Mindoro.} ~~that island~~
Jap planes tried to break it up but ~~an~~ American
motor ~~an~~ torpedo boats and anti-aircraft batteries
shot down nine enemy aircraft.

Also, a patrol bomber spotted and attacked an
enemy convoy in the China Sea three hundred miles
west of Manila. This is a ~~sign~~ the Japs are trying
to reinforce their garrisons on Luzon. The patrol
bomber damaged one large ~~Japanese~~ freighter transport.

SUPERFORTS

In Tokyo they are getting no rest from those attacks by our B-29s. The latest tactic of the Twentieth Bomber Command has been to send them over in small formations. One appeared over the Mikado's capital early today and started big fires in the manufacturing part of the city. Nine minutes later, a second arrived and started thirteen more fires. Altogether twenty-four separate and distinct fires.

Later, a third B-29 appeared and soon found itself in a jam. The bomb-bay doors were stuck, so the pilot turned home. Some twenty or thirty Jap fighter planes came after it, shooting phosphorus bombs. At that moment, the unlucky superfortress's guns went dead. Nevertheless, the big bomber got back to base.

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The fleet of two-hundred-and-fifty American planes that attacked Hankow on Monday did terrific damage there. This airmada included Liberators, Mitchells and a fighter escort, as well as B-29s.

Reconnaissance planes, since the raid, have brought back evidence of damage so serious that this one raid may hamper the Jap divisions advancing in central and southern China to such an extent that the danger from that enemy attack in the south may be checked for the time being.

CHAPLIN

Charlie Chaplin, ~~had another tough day~~ on the witness stand out in Hollywood, ^{was} ~~Sued by Joan Barry,~~ ~~who claims he is the father of her child, he was~~ hammered with a series of questions that made him grip the arms of the witness chair "until his knuckles stood out white against the dark wood", says a news dispatch.

Today, under insistent questioning, he admitted that he had told Joan Barry that he would spend his entire fortune to blacken her name if she pressed suit against him.

Joan Barry's lawyer asked: "Did you say you would bring up the name of every man she ever knew if she went on with the suit?" demanded the lawyer.

"Yes," said Charlie Chaplin, "in substance I might have said that."

SURGERY

The story of how, over in France, a man saved the lives of four soldiers by the use of one strand of his wife's hair, is one of those thrillers of the medical side of warfare that too often are not recognized. William Such, a Londoner, was working in a French hospital, when ~~four~~ four soldier patients were brought in - each suffering from head wounds that had cut vital nerves. The Surgeons ^{said that the} ~~diagnosed and said the~~ only way to save their lives ^{would be} ~~was~~ to sew their nerves.-

But that was impossible: They had neither the fine type of needle for so delicate an operation or the kind of thread needed to splice a nerve - the kind of fine delicate suture.

Then William Such spoke up, and said he could ~~make~~ ^{make} the needles. He had, in peacetime, been a worker on miniature watches - trained with the skill of repairing tiny time pieces. So he made the delicate

needles. But what about the thread, the sutures for the splicing of the nerve? ~~Silk, he says, was far~~ *Even silk would be* too thick, and anyway silk would irritate the nerves. So it had to be human hair, ~~he adds.~~ *he adds.* There were nurses in the hospital with long hair - but not the right kind. Strands of their hair were measured and found too thin.

And that seemed to leave things in desperate state for the poor soldiers. Then William Such happened to remember - he had a lock of his ^{own} wife's hair. She had long black tresses. He took a strand and measured it - just the right size.

And now the delicate operation could be undertaken, and the lives of the four soldiers were saved - because William Such of London always carried around with him a lock of his wife's hair.

Saved by a hair - a woman's hair.
~~This story he wrote home to her, and concluded,~~
And now - here's H. to the rescue.
~~Will bet you are thrilled!~~

"Thrilled to bits," was her comment today.

SABOTAGE

~~Extra~~

You may recall those eight Nazi saboteurs who landed on Long Island from a submarine in Nineteen Forty-Two. They have long since been disposed of, but the F.B.I. has never ceased trying to follow up evidence obtained from examining their effects. On the handkerchief of one ~~of them~~ they found a name written in invisible ink. The result of all this was that J. Edgar Hoover's men today arrested a ^{60 yr. old} former Lutheran Pastor, ~~sixty years old~~, named Carl Emil Ludwig Krepper. They found him at Newark, employed as a club steward. He is charged with sabotage, sending messages intended for the enemies of the United States, and other wartime offenses. Krepper was a naturalized citizen, born in Germany.