

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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FRANCE

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Sharp fighting occurred before the Americans were able to push into Laval, and a painful ~~mishap~~ mishap befell the American Commander on the scene - Major Joseph Novellino, of Paterson, New Jersey. He was up in a tree directing the fight. Perched on a branch, he could see things better. Bullets were whizzing and shells were ~~were~~ banging, and the Major had the branch shot out from under him. Ripped off by enemy

fire - and you know what happens when you're up in a tree sitting on a branch and somebody saws it off. The Major took an ignominious tumble; and, then was one of the first to enter Laval for the carnival.

"With bullets flying in all directions, and with German staff cars racing to get away", cables the U. P. Correspondent, "the crowds of cheering French refused to get off the streets. They rushed out with American, French and British flags, and began hugging and kissing every Yank in sight. Because of the crowds, German soldiers were able to escape on foot. Americans ran them down, however, and took several hundred prisoners".

The whole thing is summarized by Captain Charles Freeman of Hackensack, New Jersey. He says: "If it hadn't been for the mob of celebrating French, including some of the g^m prettiest gals I've ever seen, we'd have captured Laval far sooner".

So that apparently is what's happening to the war at some points on the invasion front - the capture

of a town impeded by some of "the prettiest gals" you've ever seen.

This touch of light comedy may be of the utmost importance. It signifies that, in some sectors, at least, the German Army is so broken and demoralized that the whole thing has become a picnic for the Americans. - And that sort of thing may spread. It may be a symptom of a general Nazi collapse in the face of the American drive toward Paris.

The news tells us that, from the captured highway center of Le Mans, the Americans are going right on in the rush that has simply been eating up ground. This news comes from the ~~German~~ German side, with the Nazis describing the latest ~~German~~ American move in the following words: "Forging ahead to the East and southeast".

And from the Germans ~~we~~, we have the statement that American troops are now less than eighty-seven miles from Paris.

Of course, there is bitter and stubborn fighting

in many places - as in the area of Caen, where the Canadians are making their own great drive. But even there, too, Nazi resistance is described as collapsing. The Canadians today were less than six miles from the city of Falaise, which is a dominating highway point. They have been thrusting ahead for miles, and seem to have shattered the German defenses that have been called: "the hinge of the enemy line." The latest is that the Germans seem to be pulling out ^{and} putting up desperate resistance at some points, as part of a general withdrawal.

~~They are withdrawing too at the middle of the front - the point where they launched their dangerous and threatening counter-attacks toward Avranches, trying to split the invasion front in two. The powerful counter-attacks repelled, the German armoured forces now find themselves in a threatening pocket, which may close around them. At last reports they were desperately trying to extricate those Panzer ~~divisions~~ ^{divisions} that made the big counter-attack.~~

The general fact is that the flanks of the whole German Army are now exposed, and the enemy is threatened with a speedy turning movement that might become an encirclement if he doesn't get out.

Presumably the Nazi command will try to establish another front before Paris is reached. But just where they will be, is anybody's guess - as the American drive on Paris becomes, in some places, a comedy of war.

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The latest ~~is~~^s a report that American troops have captured the great port of Nantes at the base of the Breton Peninsula. There is no official confirmation of this, but at Allied Headquarters it was stated ~~the~~ late today that the story is probably true.

ITALY

One of the strangest phases of the war is being seen in Italy -- the battle for Florence.

Allied troops are in one section of the city, while the ~~N~~ Germans hold the other. Does this mean violent and destructive warfare in that historic capital of the fine arts? Newspaper columnist Anne O'Hare McCormick has said it is like a battle in a museum. But it is a battle tuned down to a whisper -- mere occasional skirmishing between patrol parties.

By common consent both sides have refrained from hurling artillery fire among the architectures of Florence -- no shell bursts or shattering bomb explosions among the art treasures. The battle for Florence more and more represents an act of singular homage in this modern war -- homage to the capital of the arts of the Renaissance.

The issue is being decided outside of the city, where troops of the British Eighth Army today captured a strategic hill. To the east of Florence the river Arno makes a big bend, a loop dominated by

the hill that was captured today. The fate of Florence, it is believed, will be decided in that sector, with the Allied forces driving to isolate the city. The decisive clash of arms was in the river loop, where ~~xxx xxx~~ violent fighting ^{is just now} ~~was~~ reported. ~~today~~

The political news from Italy tells of an alliance between the two parties of the Left -- the Socialists and Communists. Ever since the days of Lenin and Trotsky there was bitter animosity between the Communists, with their allegiance to Moscow, and, the old line Socialist parties. But now there in

Italy have formed an alliance; -- ^{so} ~~this~~ announced ^{today by} ~~by~~ ^{both} Socialist and Communist newspapers. ~~today~~ And there

is talk that the two groups may even merge as one single party. ^{which} ~~But~~ if they did, ~~it~~ would constitute the most powerful single political element in Italy -- far surpassing the party that is now the largest, the Christian Democrats.

And another note from Italy -- Tito was in Rome today, that legended leader of the Partisan

forces in Jugoslavia. Marshal Tito is reputed to be a Communist. He and his partisans have had the support of Moscow all along -- which gives an additional turn of interest to the following:-- The news telling -- that Tito and his staff visited St. Peters in Rome, having a look at the religious monuments in the world's largest Christian church.

More news from Russia and Germany. But first, let's hear a word or two from Stan. of Calif., Roger. —

RUSSIA

On the Eastern Front the Germans are launching last-ditch attacks to defend East Prussia. Along the frontiers of that province, the home of the Junkers, the Soviet Army stands a mere seven miles away, threatening an overwhelming drive onto German soil.

To meet the situation the ~~Nazis~~ Nazis have resorted to a ~~violent~~ violent counter-offensive. They have rushed powerful forces of men and tanks from central Germany.

And these today drove forward. They have been repelled, announces Moscow, ^{— Hitler's} ~~the~~ last-ditch attacks hurled back.

POLAND

Negotiations carried on by the Polish Premier in Moscow have ended -- suspended temporarily, says today's Moscow bulletin. The Premier conferred with Stalin who is said to have expressed the opinion that the Poles should settle matters among themselves. That is, the exiled Government should come to an agreement with the Polish Committee which the Soviets are backing as the Government of Poland. So the negotiations conducted by the Premier have actually been with that Soviet-sponsored Polish Committee of National Liberation.

Apparently they haven't got anywhere, because the news now is that the Premier is leaving Moscow and ~~returning~~ returning to London, ~~His purpose~~ ~~is~~ to consult with other members of the exiled government, ~~and~~ ~~meanwhile~~ ~~the~~ discussions with the Moscow committee are suspended.

~~We are told that the chief point of difference in the discussion was the matter of a~~

HITLER PURGE

Over in London opinion is shaping up on the subject of the Hitler hanging of the high German generals. It may lead to the complete collapse of the German Army in the near future - say Allied Intelligence officers. The reasoning is that the savage vengeance exacted by Der Fuehrer for the plot against him is in the nature of a Hitler attempt to make the German army the scapegoat for German defeats. And this, will not go well with the German officers at the fighting front. They are said to realize that the war is lost, and ^{most of them} ~~they~~ probably sympathized with the conspiracy against Hitler. They are inclined to blame the German defeats on Der Fuehrer's own policy and ~~his~~ strategy, and they'll resent ^{any} ~~a~~ Nazi attempt to pass the buck to the military command -- buck-passing expressed in terms of the hangmans' noose for Field Marshals and Colonel-Generals.

Hence the belief that the collapse of the German fighting fronts may soon occur -- a belief which today's United Press dispatch from London

HITLER PURGE - 2

attributes to Allied military intelligence. And some observers in London think that the morale of the German Army may deteriorate so rapidly as to bring about a final collapse in six or eight weeks.

ARMY READING

Over in England some American Generals are having a headache -- caused by a question of what soldiers are allowed to read. English newspapers, for example, are banned from American Army Camps. This is because of a clause in the law governing soldier votes. A ~~cl~~^use forbidding the circulation of Presidential election propoganda among the troops.

British newspapers are displaying a lively interest in the forthcoming Americal battle of ballots, and there is no way of telling whether or not they will take sides. ~~An English newspaper may write in favor of President Roosevelt and a fourth term, while another might come out red hot for Dewey -- although thus far we haven't heard about British journalism doing any cheering for going wild over the Dewey-Bricker ticket.~~

So, British newspapers are out. Other publications, however, are permitted to circulate in the Army camps over there -- all this to be arranged in accordance with the preferences of the soldiers themselves. (But how can you find out what the soldiers

prefer -- when the law is so framed that troops on the invasion front are included?

"Some of our men," one Army officer remarked acidly today, "are rather busy in France right now." Too busy, he meant, to take a vote on what publications they want to read.

Among other things in the tangle are American newspapers. The War Department has prescribed that the command over there shall draw up a list of fifteen representative American newspapers for the soldiers to read. And that brings the headache to a climax.

Nobody wants to go on record as naming fifteen American dailies as representative -- and leaving others out. There might be some loud journalistic squawks. Suppose they omitted the ~~Hicktown~~ ^{Hannibal} Missouri,

~~Bladder~~ ^{Bugle} -- imagine the fiery editorial that the ^{Hannibal} ~~Bladder~~ ^{editor} might print.

I don't know what the much harassed officers over there are going to do about it. They might compromise by ^{voting to} abolishing newspapers altogether, ^{and} ~~or~~ --

^{listen to the radio in their odd moments} ~~if they have any odd moments - which I doubt.~~

HOLLYWOOD

~~You may think that all the war in the world is in Europe or across the Pacific, but don't forget that other occasional sort of battlefield called a Hollywood party. Take the party staged at the palatial home of Tommy Dorsey, the band leader, with top-ranking motion picture stars were having a high old time -- when the trouble started.~~

~~Film actor Jon Hall, whose head and face were cut, says that his host walked up to him and asked: "What kind of cigarettes do you smoke?" "Old Golds", replied the film actor.~~

~~"I don't like them," retorted the band leader, and hauled off and socked him.~~

~~Jon Hall utterly denies that the fight started when he hugged the actress wife of band leader Dorsey. "I just patted her on the shoulder," says the actor. In any case, the fight was on and Jon Hall says he was jumped on by what he calls -- "A bunch of persons."~~

~~Another version is related by the Panamanian~~

film actor, Antonio Ismael Icaza. Today in a Hollywood court he filed a lawsuit against band leader Dorsey, a suit demanding forty thousand dollars in damages. Senor Icaza says that Dorsey threw a bottle at him, a bottle that hit him in the ear.

The Panamanian actor says that a free-for-all was going on, in which actor Eddie Norris and Jane Churchill, the blonde singer and society beauty, were tangling with Dorsey, his actress wife and some ~~fix~~ friends. Senor Icaza adds that Eddie Norris and Jane Churchill were getting the worst of the battle when he gallantly intervened. Whereupon, he alleges, Dorsey socked him and threatened him with a knife.

"If I catch you, I'll kill you," the band leader yelled at the senor; -- so alleges the complaintant. Whereupon Senor Icaza tried to escape, but Dorsey chased him, heaved a bottle at him, and hit him on the right ear.

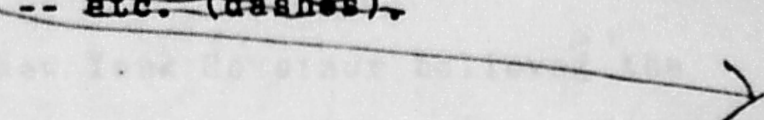
Summarizing the whole thing, I suppose we can use the old phrase -- a good time was had by all.

And now, to use another old phrase ✓

San Off Sponsor, Stan. of Calif.
Let's hear from me

HOLLYWOOD

The Hollywood District Attorney would like to have a discussion with those that attended the big party that turned into a free-for-all. ~~It happened at~~ ^{at} the home of Tommy Dorsey, the band master. Faces were banged and the beautiful actress, Pat Dane had her clothes torn by another beauty, who says she's a relative of the Prime Minister of Great Britain.

There are some discrepancies about how the trouble started. Film actor Jon Hall whose head and face were cut says -- ~~etc. (dashes)~~ 

DEWEY

Governor Thomas E. Dewey believes that the United States must work with other nations in establishing an international organization powerful enough to "stamp out" any future threat to world peace, it was disclosed tonight.

"The Republican presidential candidate's interpretation of "international peace forces" as set forth in the G O P National Platform was revealed tonight by Governor ~~Walter E.~~ Edge of New Jersey/ Edge, who conferred with Dewey at length on international affairs, said the New York Governor believed^s the foreign plank of the platform was "all inclusive".

^{"Dewey"}
~~The Governor~~ feels that the expression 'peace ~~forces~~ forces' is all inclusive. That it embraces

everything from an editorial to a sixteen inch gun," said

^{Gov. Edge.}
In short, Governor Dewey["] is determined that effective means be brought into being to assure that any future threat to the peace of the world will be promptly stamped out by international action".

^{He}
~~The Governor~~ feels that ~~there are~~ there are

two aspects to this problem, political and economic. On the political side, he is in favor of a strong organization equipped to deal with any future threat to world peace and to summon into action every force needed to preserve peace".

The New Jersey chief executive ^{then went on to say!} ~~said~~ "We must not again face the tragedy of a self-willed President who strives to ignore the Congress and write a personal ~~pe~~ peace plan".

"The greatest hope of the world for an effective peace settlement, ^{continued Gov. Edge,} is that America will have in the presidency a man who has the confidence of the people and of the Congress". ~~Governor Edge continued.~~ And then he concluded:- "That can only be achieved by electing Governor Dewey to the presidency this year".

NELSON

Washington tells us that the War Production Chief has called upon ^{the} military High Command to determine whether there can be a reduction of war supplies. Donald Nelson has asked the Army and Navy heads to make a new survey of their needs, and see if there can't be reductions. This is regarded as being evidence that the head of the War Production Board is pushing his policies of reconversion.

Donald Nelson favors prompt switch over from war-time to peace-time production -- in cases where this will not affect the manufacture of materials that are needed for war.

~~NOTE TO MR. THOMAS: KILL THE STORY ABOUT FRANCE
FROM THE PARAGRAPH BEGINNING "THEY'RE WITHDRAWING
TOO, ETC."~~

The latest is a bulletin from Allied ~~Head~~ Headquarters which states that the Canadians in the sector of Falaise are separated by only about sixty miles from the American vanguard which is thundering on from Le Mans. In other words, the whole German army is now in a pocket, the opening of which is only sixty miles across. This threatens the destruction of the entire enemy force unless the Germans beat the speediest kind of retreat. So ~~No~~ wonder officers of Allied Headquarters tonight spoke jubilantly of what they are calling -- The Battle for Paris.

Another bulletin tells us of important cities captured today -- Le Mans, of course. Also Saint Malo, that romantic harbor on the coast of Brittany, the traditional harbor of the Breton fisherman. And - Nantes, the great port at the base of the Breton peninsula.

CHINA

After conflicting rumors during the past twenty four hours, it would appear that the Japanese have at last captured the city of Henyang. ^{TP} That bitterly defended place has been the scene of supreme Chinese heroism, the garrison isolated and without help for weeks. Yesterday Tokio announced the capture of Henyang; but, the Chinese refused to concede this. Tonight, however, news from China indicates that Chungking has lost contact with Henyang, and undoubtedly the city has fallen.