

March 16 1945 Friday.

IWO JIMA

The expected triumphant announcement comes from Iwo Jima- the formal announcement of the conquest of the island. Admiral Nimitz, puts it in these words; "the battle of Iwo island has been won."

The bitter conflict ended today when marines wiped out the last desperate remnants of the enemy, the final party of Japs holding out at the northern tip of Iwo.

The proclamation of the triumph has a grim echo- the announcement of total american casualties on Iwo. (The marines lost nineteen thousand, nine hundred and thirty- eight killed, wounded and missing. *on Iwo Jima*)  
The number killed- four thousand one hundred and eighty-nine.

That's the heaviest loss American forces have incurred in any of the island campaigns. (The Jap loss, of course, was far greater- <sup>one</sup> twenty thousand wiped out in their fight to the death on Iwo Jima.

One phase of the bitter struggle is stated by Admiral Nimitz in these fine words; "among the Americans who served on the island, uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Late word from Manila indicates that the southern flank of the Jap line east of Manila has been smashed. Enemy troops are holding a series of defenses in mountainous country. These have been under attack by MacArthur's troops for some days. And now the word -- the southern flank of the Japanese line has collapsed.

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GENERAL PATRICK

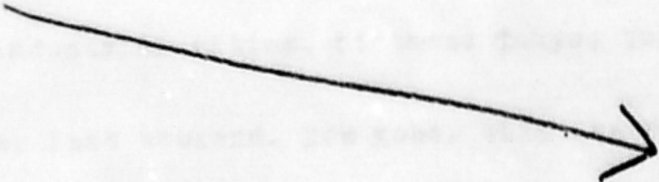
The death of Major General <sup>Edward S.</sup> Patrick in the Philippines provides a dramatic illustration of the unremitting perils that beset the Americans fighting the Japs- an indication of the stealthy ways of the Jap enemy.

General Patrick, commander of the Sixth Infantry division, was on an inspection tour of the front lines east of Manila- where American troops were battling against the Japs in a sector of mountain and jungle. The general was at an advanced position. He was a war-wise veteran and knew how to take care of himself in the face of enemy fire- out there in front. But the enemy fire did not come from out there in front- it came from the rear. A Jap machine gun was hidden there- behind the American lines. As our forces had swept ahead, the Jap machine gunner had sneaked into hiding and waited for his chance. General Patrick was in a fox hole only seventy-five yards away from the hidden enemy gun to the rear when the Jap got in a sneak burst of fire.

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B-29S

Another giant raid against a great Japanese war center- that's the latest important news this evening. The place hit was Kobe, one of Japan's most important areas of transportation and war industry. Three hundred super fortresses dropped twenty-five hundred tons of fire bombs for the fourth huge incendiary raid on Japan within a week.





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The latest tonight pictures the bombing of Kobe as a record breaker -- with the greatest amount of fire bombs ever poured into a given area. The twenty-five hundred tons represent five pounds of unquenchable fire for every inhabitant of the city -- ~~which~~ <sup>a city</sup> ~~has a population~~ of a million <sup>people,</sup> And, in this area of ten square miles, each square mile was hit by a million pounds of incendiaries.

Japan has five great industrial cities. Of these Tokyo, Yokohama and Nagoya were hit over last weekend. Now Kobe. This leaves Kyoto, the one remaining city of Japan's big five that has not yet been bombed with fire.

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JAP BOMBINGS

The ~~most~~ <sup>recent</sup> series of B-29 bombings of Japan ~~over last weekend,~~ have brought to the Japs, apparently, a desperate realization of inevitable disaster. Today Tokyo admitted huge havoc from the fires set by the super fortresses in the industrial centers hit by incendiary assault- especially in Tokyo. Thousands of lives were lost and ~~great sections of~~ <sup>immense</sup> areas ~~of our plants~~ were burned out.

Admitting that, Tokyo says- "the fate of the empire is now at stake." And this merely echoed the words of the Japanese Premier, General Koiso. After an audience with the Mikado, he stated: "the war situation is indeed grave. The empire is at the crossroads of its destiny." and one suspects that the Japanese premier, himself, knows quite well which one of the crossroads the Japanese empire will take- the turnpike leading down to destruction and disaster.


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All this about the great job done by our big planes, our Fortresses and super Fortresses brings us to an appropriate message from Stan. of Cal. — and then more news.

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LONDON

There is startling word from London tonight -- about Nazi rockets. British censorship permits it now to be revealed that a wave of terror bombing has been hitting London and southern England and hundreds of people have been killed recently. The new missile is an exaggerated V-2 projectile - a rocket ~~that is~~ larger than the new British super bomb, <sup>the</sup> city buster with which the RAF has been assailing places in Germany <sup>— that</sup> ~~is~~ eleven tonner. The new Nazi V-2 weighs thirteen tons, and is forty-six feet long, nearly twice the length of the RAF super bomb.

Details about this monster weapon are fantastic. The British have been mystified -- by hearing two explosions. For a while they thought there were two bombs hitting in one-two fashion. Then British scientists found the explanation. The stupendous projectile, like other V-2 rockets, goes high into the stratosphere and then comes down faster than the speed of sound. That makes its descent silent, save for the fact that when it comes out of the stratosphere and hits the earth's atmosphere, it gives off a thundering sound. And this is heard in addition to the blast when it hits the ground and explodes.



British censorship does not permit a disclosure of the loss of  
life from this latest terror assault.



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WESTERN FRONT

To the south of the bridgehead on the other side of the Rhine, there is a large area that the enemy still holds on this side of the river. ~~That~~ That great coal mine and industrial district called the Saar. To the north, the Allied forces have swept to the Rhine- and are across it. But the Germans have been holding onto the Saar, and that area was today the scene of the most important action on the western front.

~~The big drive is on to take the remaining territory that the  
Germans hold east of the Rhine.~~


Two American armies are striking along the banks of ~~the Rhine~~ <sup>Rhine</sup> to cut in behind <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ large enemy salient. ~~Patton's~~ Patton's Third Army, ~~today~~ today staged one of its typical stunts of swift advance. That crack outfit, the Fourth Armored Division-<sup>"</sup> the rolling fourth-<sup>"</sup> broke through the enemy lines and drove southward. The going was fast, a sweep of ~~thirty-five~~ <sup>thirty-five</sup> miles today-<sup>"</sup> the rolling fourth<sup>"</sup> rolling on.

At the south of the salient of the Saar is the American Seventh Army commanded by General Patch. And the seventh smashed forward today with a drive cutting into the salient. In the last reports,

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the two American armies were only twenty-one miles apart, and were closing a trap on large German forces, the enemy armies that still remain beyond the Rhine. These will have to get out fast, if they are to get out at all- and the news over the weekend is likely to feature the Third and Seventh armies in a brilliant operation- cutting up the salient, and completing the Allied possession of the west bank of the Rhine.

At the bridgehead, the Americans today drove across the super highway- the great six lane road that parallels the Rhine that has been the number one <sup>objective.</sup> units of the First Army smashed across the super highway at two points. <sup>We control between 1500 and 2000 yds. of it,</sup> Berlin reports a hundred thousand American troops in the bridgehead and states that never before in history has so much military power been massed in such a small space of land.



The latest concerns Coblenz toward which Patton's Third Army troops are pressing. An ultimatum has been issued to the German garrison at Coblenz -- a demand for surrender, as American troops prepare to storm the city.

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**EASTERN FRONT**

The Russians are striking at both ends, northern and southern of their battle line in Germany. At the north they have opened a new offensive against the great seaport of Stettin- on the Baltic. To the south, in Lower Silesia, Soviet forces are driving on a seventy-five mile front- an advance in the direction of Prague, the capital of Czecho Slovakia.

This news is from the German side, with Moscow having little to say today.



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PEACE RUMORS

What about all those rumors about Nazi Germany putting out feelers for peace? That question was asked at the White House today and President Roosevelt replied with a sweeping negative. He stated that our government has no knowledge of any attempt by the Germans to get in contact with the Allies for a discussion of peace. And he added that Washington has checked with London, and the British declare that they have no information about German moves to end the war.



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A late story from Stockholm gives what may be the true explanation of the peace rumors. It states that a German diplomatic delegation has gone to Stockholm and there has been talking about peace possibilities with Swedish officials -- the idea being presumably to try and procure some sort of Swedish mediation.

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**BULGARIA**

There is more grim news from Bulgaria, more death sentences imposed by the Bulgarian peoples' court on officials who are blamed because Bulgaria tied up with Nazi Germany. The latest is- nine generals and twenty other officers condemned to death- as Bulgaria, now under the control of Soviet Russia, imposes a policy of unrelenting reprisals.

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BLUE BEARD

The authorities in Paris issued a pessimistic report today in the case of that fantastic Blue Beard, the sinister physician Dr Petiot, who is said to have murdered sixty-three persons. They are not making much progress in preparing a case against him.

The Blue Beard sensation in Paris broke more than a year ago while the Nazis still occupied France, the story of how the diabolical doctor had lured victim after victim to his luxurious villa, for a series of weird murders. When Paris was liberated, the police of the new French government began an investigation of the sensational affair- and soon they arrested Dr Petiot.

That was months ago and ever since they have been trying to establish legal evidence against him- with a strange lack of success. And today we are informed that it may be another year before enough testimony can be gathered to bring the medical-mass-murderer to trial.

One thing is this- after the months of investigation the Parisian police have been unable to find one single witness who knows anything directly connected with the murders. The best they have ~~is~~ <sup>far</sup> is a line on an alleged witness, but he is said to be in South



America- the Argentine.

So they have no real legal testimony- beyond that given by Dr Petiot himself. <sup>The Doc</sup> admits that he killed people in subtle ways of medical science, though he says his victims numbered only thirty, his defense is that he was a member of the French underground, a patriot and that the victims were pro-Nazi collaborators and spies. This introduction of a political element, the patriotic underground, makes the whole thing exceedingly obfuscating, things being as they are in France.

The Parisian police, not altogether persuaded by the patriotic protestations of the wholesale killer, are looking into the matter of money, gold and jewels. They have information to indicate that the victims, when they were lured to the doctor's villa, had in their possession wealth amounting to a total of a million dollars, and this is supposed to be hidden somewhere.

The word is that the treasure was concealed at the villa, in the basement of which Dr Petiot had his horror chamber for scientific murder. The police are still searching the villa and its grounds,

thus far without success. They haven't recovered a penny of the wealth that is known to have been in the personal possession of the victims.

The most common belief in Paris is that Dr Petiot is a homicidal maniac, a psychopathic fiend. However, in prison, the physician defends himself with coolness and skill- a clever blue beard.

Today the examining magistrate in the case declared: "If he really is crazy, he is the most remarkable mental case I have ever met.

He defends himself perfectly, <sup>and</sup> it may be many months before we are able to bring him to trial," ~~said~~<sup>said</sup> the magistrate.

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The strike leader at Hollywood defies the President of the AF of L -- and refuses to call off the walkout of the seventeen thousand studio craftsmen. AF of L president Green wired him today that the Union action was in direct violation of the war-time "no strike" pledge. To this the Hollywood labor leader replied: "the strike goes on."

The union directing the walkout is an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor, and has been using the name of the AF of L on its strike notices. AF of L president Green said ~~now~~ that should be stopped. But once again the strike leader utters defiance in the five-day walkout that has virtually tied up the great studios of Hollywood -- all because of a dispute between two unions.

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WINDSOR

Last night's announcement of the resignation of the Duke of Windsor created little stir in Britain today. London newspapers printed the news that the former Edward the Eighth was stepping out as governor of the Bahamas, but took the attitude that this was merely to have been expected- since he was approaching the end of a normal term of office. ~~He had served the usual length of time, almost, and so he was quitting.~~

One London newspaper states that the duke would like to take on another job as Governor- at some other place in the West Indies or maybe in Africa; "because of his interest in racial problems," says the London paper. ~~Other British comment is that the duke and duchess of Windsor may go to live in France.~~



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FOLLOW DUKE OF WINDSOR

In a news dispatch tonight from Nassau, the Duke of Windsor is reported as saying he intends to pay a visit to the United States towards the end of next month. "I have large personal interests," says the Duke, "in the United States, Canada and Europe." And he adds, "I'm a great traveler, and this is the longest time I have spent in one place."

Yes, he has spent a good deal more time as governor at Nassau than he did on <sup>the</sup> throne of England.

And now Dave, there's a little more time here. Will you take over.

(Taken from early bc.)

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## POLES

An appeal in behalf of Poland was made to the senate in Washington today. A protest was presented in behalf of the Polish American congress, a protest denouncing the agreement of the Big Three at Yalta. That settlement of course gives to Soviet Russia about half of pre-war Polish territory and tosses the exiled Polish government in London into the discard- one result being that Poland will not be represented as one of the United Nations at the forthcoming San Francisco conference. The Polish-American Congress charges that the Yalta agreement was, in the words of the protest- "an arbitrary mutilation of Poland's historic territory." And it adds; "Poland, our ally, was not even accorded a criminal's traditional right to a word in his own defense."

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CUBA

From Cuba there is word of a conspiracy against the Havana Government. The bulletin is brief and not at all clear about what happened. We are told that the plot was put down and eighty persons arrested.

One of these is said to be an army officer who was chief of the Cuban police during the time when Colonel Batista was president. Batista, as we know, was for a long time the strong man of Cuba. Then, in the latest Cuban election, the party opposed to Batista's own party, was voted into office.

Another twist is this:—Today's news of the suppression of the conspiracy follows a thing that happened yesterday—when a personal friend of the former president and strong man, Batista, was found dead, apparently murdered.

The impression that we get is one of obscure and sinister goings-on down there in Cuba.

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**FOOD RELIEF**

We have a White House defence of the policy of sending American food to feed foreign nations in need. President Roosevelt today stated that the administration policy of sending food relief to suffering countries abroad is a matter of common decency. He admitted that there was in this country some opposition- some argument that the use of American food to feed other nations would cause the people in this country to go hungry. The president denied this, contending that, if we cut our own consumption of certain items of food by ten percent we would still go on living- and the ten percent might save people overseas. And that was the decent thing to do, said he.





March 16, 1945.

Unless you happen to be a Harvard man, you are likely to find this appalling - the job of writing biographies of ~~the~~ Harvard graduates since Harvard began in sixteen forty-two. In three hundred and three years there have been more than eighty-eight thousand graduates and today we are told about the project to write a life history of each. The job has already been started, has been going on, in fact, for years.

It was begun by John Langdon Sibley, one time librarian of Harvard. During his lifetime he wrote biographies of all Harvard graduates from sixteen <sup>the year</sup> forty-two to sixteen eighty-nine. And, when he died, he left a will bequeathing a hundred-and-fifty-thousand dollars to complete the task - which was thereupon taken up by Clifford Shipton <sup>who</sup> ~~has~~ has been working at it for fifteen years and has got it far as <sup>the year</sup> seventeen twenty-five. He says he hopes to live long enough to bring the biographies down to eighteen hundred. He has collected more than a million words of notes on more than a thousand Harvard graduates, and turns out from forty to sixty-five biographies a year - which vary in length from thirty-five lines to thirty-five pages.

This prodigious Boswell of Harvard takes as his model the original Boswell, who wrote the life of Dr. Johnson and who revealed his hero's weaknesses as cheerfully as he did the old doctor's virtues. Today the Harvard Boswell stated: "Graduates who were hanged are just as important as the ones who were ordained to the ministry."

Well, I never heard of a Harvard graduate being hanged, but maybe a few of them were. In any case, the Harvard Boswell is tolerant about such matters - except in one case, in which he was nearly stumped. That was when he wrote the biography of a Harvard man - who became President of Yale. I suppose he considers that the same old traditional ~~progression from bad to worse,~~ progression from bad to worse, from being hanged to being President of Yale. Anyway, that would seem to be <sup>the</sup> Harvard view.

Now Hugh how about a weekend thought from you?