RUSSIA

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Sunoco.

Again tonight the most exciting news comes from Russia. The Red Army today started to pour into the main part of Germany. That is, the First Army of the Ukraine, under Marshal Konev, crossed the border of Upper Silesia, one of the Reich's most important industrial areas. We have this not only from Moscow, but from Berlin.

The Red armies have already covered one-quarter of the distance between the point at which the drive began and Berlin. Tonight they are two hundred and forty-six miles southeast of Hitler's capital. At the frontier of Silesia there is no natural barrier to stop those new giant tanks of the Reds. One report has it that the Soviet tanks were met by units of the Upper Silesian Home Guard, instead of the regular Germany army, they have to use units which really belong in their third line of defense.

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From Berlin also comes the admission that the southern wing of Konev's army is now in the outskirts of Krakov, ancient capital of Poland.

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Berlin is explaining the Russian capture of Warsaw by saying that it was abandoned because the Russians, with overwhelming numbers, were swarming into it. An excellent reason.

Moscow is claiming that there are wide gaps in the German defense lines and that all central and northwestern Poland is wide open to attack.

There are no fewer than three huge Red armies advancing on Germany along a four hundred and fifty mile front, and so far, in this first week of the new Russian drive nothing has happened to stop them. In fact, the Russians claim that they have surrounded many divisions of German troops that were

left behind. Also that a fourth Red army is pouring over the northern borders of Czechoslovakia. The Germans admit this too.

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In northwestern Poland alone, the First White Russian Army captured more than a thousand towns and villages in its approach to East Prussia and Danzig. One Moscow dispatch says that the German forces are dissolving into chaos, while German commanders radio frantically for help and instructions.

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Marshal Stalin in the past few hours issued no fewer than three orders-of-the-day announcing the capture of important cities:- one twenty-three miles southeast of Lodz, another nineteen miles northwest of Warsaw, and another within seventeen miles of the southern borders of East Prussia.

ADD RUSSIA

Moscow also reports important progress in the Battle of Hungary. That The Red armies have wiped out all the Germans in ~~Pest~~ the eastern half of Budapest.

divisions of the enemy. The four being the Forty-Fifth, Seventy-Ninth, Forty-Fourth and the Hundredth,

CASUALTIES

~~War~~ Secretary of War Stimson today gave out revised figures of American casualties along the Western Front for December. The total, for ground forces alone, is seventy-five thousand, seven hundred and eighty-eight, of which more than ten thousand were killed, more than twenty thousand missing. German losses in the same month were between a hundred and ten thousand and a hundred and thirty thousand. Of those, fifty thousand at least were captured.

One of our divisions, the Hundred and Sixth, suffered the loss of more than half its entire strength. The men of this division, he explained, as well as of others not so heavily hit, helped to check and drive back the enemy.

The over-all casualties in all theatres of war, in all branches of the service, are now six hundred and sixty-three thousand, eight hundred and fifty-nine. That does not include the forty thousand lost in the Ardennes break-through.

CHURCHILL

The Battle of the Ardennes Forest has become another famous American victory, and Winston Churchill believes that it is more likely to shorten this war than to lengthen it. The British Prime Minister said this to the Commons today. ~~in one of his rip snorting speeches~~

¶ He was in good form in spite of a cold, and on the subject of the Balkans he also spoke frankly and virtually dared his opponents ~~on the Left~~ to criticize him.

He also turned thumbs down on Italy. The British will positively not accept that country as a partner in the United Nations. On the subject of Spain, he produced a bit of a surprise. Only a few months ago he was being ~~ever so~~ friendly; ~~blasting at people who ran Franco down.~~ while today he tempered that. ~~declared that Great Britain has no need of Spain~~

Then he went on to acknowledge that he and Stalin, late last year in Moscow, had agreed on a joint

policy for Jugoslavia, that is, for the government of Jugoslavia. No questions of division of territory had come up, but he and the Russian dictator agreed then that the plan drawn up by Prime Minister Subasic and Marshal Tito on a regency for Jugoslavia, was the wisest plan. King Peter, he added dryly, had not consented, so everybody went ahead anyway. King Peter has a few days left to change his mind and like it.

Then he proceeded to the vexatious subject of Greece, and he used these words: "Never in my experience has the British government been so maligned and its motives so traduced." He declared that the Left Wing revolutionaries in Greece had executed with knives and axes from twelve hundred to fifteen hundred hostages. And Thousands of others dragged along the roads, and many left to die.

Up spake a Communist member, with a sneer: "Tell me the old, old story, we've heard all these

lies before."

Churchill replied: "I am reading you facts, you don't like them. I am telling you the truth and you fear truth."

The British government's plans for both Greece and Jugoslavia he described in the words of Abraham Lincoln: "A government of the people, by the people, and for the people."

Churchill added that President Roosevelt is in full possession of all the facts.

~~Churchill~~ He also told the Commons that Great Britain now has sixty-seven divisions at the front, between six-hundred-and-seventy thousand and seven-hundred-thousand troops. But that against the Germans, the United States has put twice as many into the field, almost ~~one~~ a million, four-hundred-thousand men. American losses in the Ardennes, ~~show,~~ were sixty to eighty times those of the British, he announced.

One significant part of Churchill's address to the Commons concerned the words "unconditional surrender." The Prime Minister made it clear that he and President Roosevelt have no intention of yielding on this point: Here are ~~Churchill's~~ his words: -

"Unconditional Surrender was proclaimed by President Roosevelt at Casablanca. I endorsed it there and then on behalf of this country." Then he added: "I am sure it was right at the time it was used and I am clear that nothing should induce us to abandon the principle of Unconditional Surrender."

Then he said further: "But the President and I have repeatedly declared the enforcement of unconditional surrender on an ~~enemy~~ xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx enemy in no way relieved the victorious powers of their obligations to humanity or their duties as civilized Christian nations."

PHILIPPINES ~~(drop entire afternoon story)~~

On the island of Luzon, General Kreuger's men of the Sixth Army are now inside Rosario, south west of Baguio, the summer capital of the Philippines and only fourteen miles away. They walked into the outskirts of Rosario with the help of a terrific bombardment from the heavy guns of the warships standing out in the Gulf of Lingayen. For the first time since they landed on Lingayen the men of the Sixth are meeting with strong ~~mf~~ opposition from the Japanese. Rosario is only about ~~not much more than~~ five miles ~~away~~ ~~xf~~ from the coast.

MacArthur's forces ~~The Yanks~~ are now thirty-seven miles inland and pushing towards Clark Field, the big air~~drome~~ base ~~only~~ forty-six miles ~~away~~ from Manila. TP Krueger's tanks have been fanning out over the highways that connect the mountains with the central Luzon plain. They've taken Urdaneta where several highways meet, ~~It lies~~ directly on the North-South highway between Manila and the summer capital of Baguio. The Japs

have been counter attacking ~~by~~ but have made no ~~headway~~ headway. ~~The Yanks have captured Paniqui ten miles East of Camiling. Paniqui is thirteen miles north of Tarlac and only thirty three miles away from Clark Field.~~

The Japs, we hear, have been trying to move armour and transport into position ~~so as to stop~~ in the hope of checking the American advance. ~~but in that~~ But General Kenny's airmen, of the Fifth Air Force, have ~~checked them. They~~ spoiled that idea. Our flyers are now operating from Lingayen Air Field. ~~They have wrecked several locomotives and motor vehicles.~~ General Kreuger today told newspapermen that the Luzon situation was quite satisfactory. He says he did not know what the Jap was trying to do and was not worrying about it. Let the enemy worry about what he's trying to do, said ~~the~~ General Kreuger.

PACIFIC

Our submarines in the Pacific have made another fine bag of 24 Japanese vessels, ~~twenty-four~~ this time. ~~That~~ Brings the~~ir~~ total for the war to nine-hundred-and-fifty-eight. ~~This is important, because it hits the Mikado's people where they are weakest.~~ The latest list includes four smaller warships, one destroyer, and three escort vessels. The rest were transports, tankers and small or larger cargo vessels.

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The Japanese are expecting a major ground attack on the Asiatic mainland. That's the Tokyo explanation for the big American aerial attack that they report, an aerial attack apparently by carrier based planes. The Third Fleet of Admiral Halsey still observes radio silence. So it's from the Mikado's capital that we learn of air raids along an arc of a thousand miles, American planes bombed Japanese defenses all the way from the island of Hainan to

Shanghai. ~~The~~ Planes of the Third Fleet ~~were~~ backed up by bombers of the Fourteenth Air Force based on China; and, also B-29s from several secret bases. In the air our men have ~~The tanks~~ attacked Hong Kong from three directions.

~~Major~~ General Chennault also gave out a communique reporting that his bombers, escorted by fighters, had swept the entire area of China from Hong Kong to Shanghai. One force of P-51 Mustangs caught the Japanese by surprise yesterday and destroyed sixty-eight of their planes on the ground. ~~Those were~~ twenty-seven fighters and forty-one bombers. Altogether, the Fourteenth destroyed or damaged a hundred and thirty-five planes, plus twenty-six locomotives, and thousands of tons of shipping.

The Tokyo radio broadcast one significant sentence. "These air attacks prove that it is really possible for American forces to cross the Pacific and wage battle on the China continent."

JAPAN

The Japanese propaganda bureau today again boasted about a number of new secret weapons soon to be used against us. For one they say they have developed a plane three times as large as the B-29, from which they will be able to direct the manoeuvers of pilotless planes laden with explosives, and also robot torpedo boats.

They say they also have a new radio detection device with which Tokyo will be able to tell just ~~xxxx~~ when the B-29s leave Saipan and also just where and what our submarines are up to. Also, a new ~~xx~~ chemical which spread through the air will immobilize the engines of all our planes.

Finally, and this one is the pay-off, they say they have a mystery ray with which they can blow up ~~the~~ whole cities, in the twinkling of an eye.

MOYNE

In Cairo, five judges delivered a sentence of death for the two young men who assassinated Lord Moyne, the British Ambassador to the Middle East. The sentence has to be approved by the Prime Minister of Egypt. If he does not change it, their counsel will appeal to have it commuted to imprisonment for life.

Their trial lasted eight days, and all the time the young men flatly refused to tell any details of the secret organization that is believed to have sponsored the assassination.

WRECK

At Rouen, there has been one of those devastating railroad accidents which the French have had from time to time. A train crashed through a barricade and plunged into the street. It killed a hundred and twenty and injured more than two hundred.

LUCE

In Congress today, Representative Claire Luce went to bat for Uncle Sam's soldiers in the front lines. She said it was unfair and unsound to leave whole divisions almost continuously in the front lines, without rest. Duty at the front too long sustained, said she, threatened demoralization to the average soldier and his family. For one illustration she cited the fact that the Thirty-Fourth Division of General Clark's Fifth Army has had more than four hundred combat days. She suggested that the Army should apply to ground troops the same policy now in use in the Air Corps. Ground soldiers should be given a rest at stated intervals. I think we all agree with Claire Luce on that. What say, Hedy? ~~Highly extremely important. Jon Hugh~~