

As darkness fell tonight on the Western^N Front, an American armored column drove through the streets of Cologne, right on through the heart of the city.

The tanks rumbled past the great Cathedral, with its Gothic^{architecture} and towering twin spires. The American armored column kept on going, until it came to the river - the Rhine.

That's the picture for tonight's announcement by American First Army Commander General Hodges:-

Cologne has been taken!

The First Americansⁱⁿ report that the great Cathedral appears to be undamaged, but otherwise the center of the city is a shambles of wreckage - after the violent Allied air bombings ~~with~~ that hit Cologne.

And that's a tribute to the accuracy of Allied bombsights. - We were told all along that the war-plane-crews were instructed not to bomb that monument of the

Today's report states
Middle Ages, the Cathedral. ~~We were told~~ moreover,
that handsome residential sections on the outskirts
appear to be undamaged - so that Cologne, Germany's
fourth city, becomes ^{an} all the more valuable prize of war.

American officers express their surprise at the
ease and speed with which the city fell. There was none
of the bitter house-to-house fighting that had been
expected. Sporadic resistance was encountered, but the
German garrison, for the most part, put up no stubborn
resistance - got out, trying to escape to the south
along a highway ~~wrecked~~ ^{raked} by shell fire.

The Number Two spotlight is on General
Patton's Third Army, which made one of those Patton
dashes today. The goal, ~~is~~ the important city of
Coblenz, which is on the Rhine south of Cologne.
Third Army troops, after a break-through in the
Moselle Valley, went speeding through the German

Rhineland, and tonight ~~are~~ only twenty miles from Coblenz and the Rhine. Opposition in the Moselle sector, as at Cologne, was feeble, and Third Army troops went ahead at top speed. ~~Now~~ The Nazis apparently have given up for lost one of the wealthiest of their provinces - a hive of the industries of war.

CHURCHILL - WESTERN FRONT

Prime Minister Winston Churchill sent a message to Hitler, but he wanted to do more than that. The Churchill greeting to Der Fuehrer was, in fact, in the nature of a compromise.

Britain's war leader has been on a visit to Germany. That is - to a sector of the Western Front inside of Germany. Going over to France, Churchill had a conference with General Eisenhower, and then proceeded to the Rhineland - where he had a look at Siegfried Line fortifications, shattered by the Allied breakthrough. ^H He wanted to go on, go on to the Rhine - right into the fighting line where British and American armies are battling along that river of legend. He was told - No, not at all. Churchill was escorted by high officers, including the British Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery and American Lieutenant General Simpson, commander of the Ninth Army.

They were responsible for his safety, and they said
No - they weren't going to take a chance with the
Prime Minister among the bullets and shells. Churchill
has plenty of authority, as the head of Britain's war
government, and in addition ~~he~~ he wore the uniform of
a full colonel of the Fifth Battalion of ^{the} ~~the~~ Sussex
Regiment. *as a brass hat* However, [^] he was out-ranked by the field
marshals and lieutenant generals.

So all he could get was a compromise. They
allowed him to fire a cannon, ~~just~~ the largest type on
the Canadian front. And the Prime Minister did what
many a British tommy or American G.I. has done - he
wrote a message on the shell. On it he scrawled:
"For Hitler, personally" - and then pulled the lanyard
that made the cannon roar and sent the shell flying ~~into~~
into the Nazi lines.

OFFICER - WESTERN FRONT

From the Western Front comes a dark and deeply emotional story. ~~His~~ Related by United Press Correspondent Anne Stringer, who tells how in a captured German town, she was talking to a young American officer - a prepossessing pleasant young fellow, but war worn and embittered.

He told the newspaper woman how just an hour previously he had seen one of his closest buddies fall and die, hit by a sneak shot of a German sniper. Two days before, moreover, they had found another of his pals lying in the middle of a road with knife stabs in his back and neck.

"I hate these Germans," he cried. "I hate them- every single one, the civilians, as well as the soldiers

As he spoke, a German woman came along with two small children, a boy and a girl. She was on her way to a house nearby, a house that had been taken over by American officers. Germans were forbidden to approach it, and the young officer went striding to the mother and two children. "You can't go there," he barked at them. "Get away, get out of here, beat it."

The little boy started to cry. The mother tried to explain -- the house had been their home, and she wanted to get something. The young officer wouldn't listen, he kept on shouting, "get away, beat it".

The woman stood helplessly, the small boy wailing.

But the little girl broke away and walked coolly to the house, the young American officer watching helplessly. The girl ^(went) ~~xxxxxx~~ up ~~xxx~~ the front steps to the porch, and in a moment reappeared, wheeling a doll buggy. Whereupon the German woman and the two children trudged away - the girl pushing the buggy.

The young American officer returned to the newspaper woman, and apologized bitterly. "A year ago," he muttered, "you wouldn't have seen a Yank do anything like that. I wouldn't have permitted one of my own men to do it. But after what we've been through, ~~xxxxxxx~~ what else can I do - but hate them."

EASTERN FRONT

The Russians have reached the Bay of Stettin. Meaning - in their drive to isolate the German Baltic province of Pomerania, they have smashed all the way to the sea. Moscow tells of a twenty-five mile advance that ripped through the last German defenses along the estuary of the River Oder - at the mouth of which lies the big Baltic port of Stettin. At last reports, Russian guns ^d~~have~~ opened a violent bombardment of the city, and everywhere Red Army troops are closing in on Pomerania and ^{the}~~have~~ trapped ~~the~~ Nazi forces there.

Berlin reports eloquent signs of ^a~~new~~ Russian drive straight at the German capital, saying that Marshal Zhukov has concentrated five infantry armies and two tank armies in the sector along the Oder.

There the Russians are nearest to Berlin - a little

more than thirty miles away. The Germans expect a new Soviet drive on Berlin at any time now.

NAZI PLANS

(More reports about what the Nazis intend to do when the Russians and the Western Allies crash through. Again we hear that the desperate Hitlerites plan to make a final stand in the mountains of southern Germany - the Bavarian Alps. - and this time ~~we hear of~~ ~~is mentioned~~ ^{JP} ~~another sector as well~~) A story from London states

that the Nazis intend to make their last stand on two fronts, the southern German mountains - and Norway.

This is based on word that Norwegian authorities in London say they have:- word that the Germans, in their present desperation, continue to retain their large forces in Norway. Also, they have concentrated ~~a~~ ^{there} submarine fleet along the Norwegian coast, and there are signs that they intend to take the remnants of their surface navy into a fjord in southern Norway, and operate it from there.

Now Hugh, a word from you. Then

back
to the
news.

~~The London~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~Norwegians believe~~

drop
the Nazis could hold out for a considerable time
in Norway - the country being so mountainous and
difficult. The Nazis could operate their V- weapons
from Norwegian bases, and continue a nuisance war -
in their desperate hope of tiring out the Allies.)

ITALY

A violent political crisis has developed in Italy-
after the escape yesterday of ^{the} former Fascist chief of
staff, General Roatta. He was being held in a
political trial investigating crimes of the Mussolini
regime, and was in a military hospital, - ~~when he got~~
~~away.~~

~~General Roatta has been denounced by the Yugoslav~~
~~government of Marshal Tito as a war criminal, because~~
~~of things that happened when he commanded the Italian~~
~~forces in the Balkans.)~~ The former chief of staff
escaped with the aid of his wife, who ~~visited him at~~
~~the hospital and~~ gave drugged cigarettes to the
guards. They had a few puffs, and passed out - asleep.

~~(Nobody knows where he is - some surmising that he~~
~~may have escaped by plane to Portugal, others that,~~
~~he has sought sanctuary in the Vatican.)~~

This has caused an outbreak of anger, and today

violence flared - in a riot in front of the Quirinal Palace.

Fifty thousand workers left their jobs in a turbulent demonstration. The mob in front of the palace ~~shouting~~ shouted menacing threats against the King who has retired and against the Regent, Crown Prince Umberto.

And -
They demanded the resignation of the government of Premier Bonomi. It wasn't all shouting, either - two bombs were thrown, and then the police charged the mob. One rioter was killed, and a number of others wounded. *There is a grave political crisis tonight.*

IWO JIMA

The Battle on Iwo Jima is playing out to a nightmare conclusion. Today's late bulletin tells of mad attacks made by Japs who are crazed by thirst.

All along we have known that the powerful enemy force at the northern end of the island was short of water, and desperate to get it. Now the Japs are not making any more banzai suicide charges - ~~xxs~~ rushing into destruction with wild yells. They are attacking, attacking all the time - but silently. Their ~~xxxx~~ tactics have a purpose, and it isn't - banzai. They try to infiltrate, try to break through - to get water.

A nightmare conclusion - as the marines, after their heavy losses, close in to complete the conquest of Iwo Jima.

FOLLOW_IWO_JIMA_

The latest tonight tells of a general offensive by the Marines, after what is described as the most violent artillery bombardment of the invasion thus far. Massed batteries of guns on the ground were joined by the Naval cannon of warships lying off the coast, in a barrage that made the Jap hill positions look like an erupting volcano. Yet the enemy fights on. Tonight's bulletin from Admiral Nimitz states that the Japs are putting up what ^{it calls} ~~is called~~ "very stiff resistance."

PHILIPPINES

General MacArthur reports that his troops on Luzon are -- regrouping. That is, the American Commander is rearranging his forces for the final campaign against the Japs -- an estimated eighty thousand. These are not one army, but are divided into four segments, in four widely separated areas of Luzon. The largest group is in the northern part of the island. Another is in the mountains east of Manila, while two other Jap forces are in the South. Fighting today was limited -- the Americans regrouping.

MEXICO CONFERENCE

(In Mexico City today, a ringing call was issued for the freedom of the press, radio and other forms of information. The Inter-American Conference voted for the elimination of all ~~forms of~~ censorship and other restrictions on freedom of expression, as soon as the war is over. The resolution was passed with loud applause.)

SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE

The State Department in Washington issued a statement tonight concerning the refusal of France to participate as a sponsor of the forthcoming conference of the United Nations at San Francisco. The DeGaulle regime was invited to do so, but refused. France will be ~~xxx~~ represented at San Francisco as a member of the United Nations -- but not as a sponsor of the conference.

This follows a series of diplomatic disagreements -- France not being invited to the conference of the Big Three at Yalta and DeGaulle thereupon refusing to meet President Roosevelt at Algiers. DeGaulle's people have been giving the impression that the unpleasantness has been the fault of the Americans, and now our own State Department speaks out -- obviously annoyed by the French attitude.

Washington ~~xxx~~ explains that France, invited to San Francisco as a sponsor, replied by laying down a condition, -- the DeGaulle Government

stating that it would not be bound by the ~~security~~
~~proposal~~ of the Dumbarton Oaks agreements. This
condition was turned down.

The report in Washington is that the rejection was
issued by Moscow -- the Soviet government saying no.

The French seem to think that only the
United States should have done the rejecting or
accepting, ^{but} ~~xxx~~ Washington tonight declares that
the DeGaulle government was clearly informed ~~about~~ that
the question would be submitted to the chief United
Nations.

EXPLOSION

Vancouver harbor had a spectacular explosion, when a ship loaded with munitions blew up today. That kind of accident can be a catastrophe -- as has been the case times before, when a munitions ship has exploded in the port of a large city. And today, a number of the crew of the ill-fated vessel lost their lives. ^P For the city of Vancouver it was a startling experience. Spectacular fountains of red flame burst from the ship -- four times, four separate explosions, and the bridge of the vessel was ~~blown~~ blown one hundred feet into the air. Office buildings blocks from the harbor were shaken in such fashion that office workers said that buildings rocked like cradles. Windows were shattered for miles around, giving Vancouver a lively scare.

FLOODS

(The news from the Middlewest tells of the threatening misbehavior of that old bad actor - the Ohio River. Floods are reported in many sections, the stream going over its banks in low lying country. And the waters of the Ohio continue to rise hourly. The authorities fear the worst flood conditions since the disastrous innundation of Nineteen Thirty-Seven.

~~It isn't~~

~~It isn't hard to guess why the Ohio is acting up. We have only to remember that the past few months were a winter of heavy snows. These are melting, an early thaw - and there have been heavy rains too. And leave it to the Ohio to respond to such conditions.)~~

SPRINGFIELD PLAN

At Springfield, Massachusetts, they have been having an experiment in racial tolerance - called the Springfield Plan. A concerted effort has been made to teach the public to understand other races and peoples. They have special courses in the ~~public~~ schools - all designed to inculcate racial tolerance.

Last year, the War Relocation Authority, which has to do with Japanese-Americans taken away from the Pacific Coast, made a plan for Springfield - with its program of understanding other races. They thought that Springfield would be a place to establish a center in the resettlement of Japanese Americans. As a sort of starter, five Japanese-American girls were sent there, where they were placed as maids in homes. ^R Today they left - saying the experiment was a failure. They had found things dreary and hostile. They were left severely alone, could make no social contacts - because of the public hatred for Japanese.

What decided them to leave was a bitter attack last night on the plan to make Springfield a center in the resettlement of Japanese-Americans. A Union official stated: "We will have a Japanese mayor in Springfield in fifteen years if those people are allowed to come here."

ARIZONA

Here's a weather report with drama, ~ irony, surprise. *The* meteorological bulletin has to do with a bitter quarrel that has arisen between those two great commonwealths, Texas and Arizona. They are at odds because of a Hollywood motion picture that is being made. ~~And~~ ^{IF} The film feature is based on a book called, "A Duel in the Sun", and the scene of the story is laid in Texas -- which has an abundance of sunlight and has ^{plenty of} had duels of one sort or another in times past. The catch is that the Hollywood director, in the filming of the picture has gone to Arizona - to Tucson, ~~There~~ ^{he} established his cameras and his movie stars for the filming of the Texas Duel in the Sun, by the light of the Arizona sun. And Texans are infuriated.

(Editor Gene Howe demands in his Amarillo Texas newspaper: "Why shouldn't the picture be filmed in Texas?" And he charged the Hollywood movie director with treason, ~~And~~ [^] the director, King Vidor is a native of Houston, Texas.) In the Texas legislature, a blister
ing

resolution has been introduced, providing that the Texas story filmed in Arizona shall be banned forever from the motion picture theatres of the Lone Star State.

Arizona replies ~~th~~ with equal anger and scorn. In the State legislature a burning harangue was delivered, and ^{the} ~~a~~ statement was made that "Duel in the Sun" ~~should~~ not be filmed in Texas, because, thundered an Arizona lawmaker, "the dust ^{there} would hide the sun."

So what do we have now? A weather report from Arizona ^{that} today ~~that~~ Tucson was hit by a raging blizzard -- the place virtually snowed under, ^{the inhabitants on skis, among the} if the news report be not exaggerated. And we are told that the Hollywood movie actors just sat around and shivered -- ^{and} watched the snow storm.

Over in Texas - the sun was ~~shining~~ shining brightly.

And now, ~~Heugh~~, how about a few rays of light from ~~the sun~~ Stan. of Cal.?