

Hugh Gibson - Standard. Thursday, April 23, 1945.
Sunoco.

(Mr. J not on tonight.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Of course the most dramatic and popular part of the news tonight concerns the Battle of Berlin. The Soviet Marshals ~~is~~ Zhukov and Konev, between them, already have two-thirds of the German capital. Stalin ~~broke down tonight~~ and issued two orders of the day, reporting that, in the past two weeks, the First White Russian Army and the First Army of the Ukraine ^{have} ~~has~~ advanced up to a hundred miles, and both of them are fighting inside the city. Zhukov, we now learn, took Frankfurt on the Oder a week ago.

On top of that, the Luxembourg radio declared that the Russians have Berlin completely surrounded. The Nazis themselves report that one of the Red armies has occupied Potsdam, former residence of the Kaisers.

According to dispatches from Moscow, the position

of the Nazi garrison is getting worse every hour, and we may expect to hear of the fall of Berlin at any moment.

The capture of Potsdam makes it certain that such German fighters as are left inside the city have no hope of escaping to the Bavarian redoubt. Red Army columns have reached the Elbe River on a thirty-nine mile front, and are only twenty miles away from the American First, which is close to the River Mulde.

The names of the streets where the Russians are fighting indicates how completely the victorious Russians are in the heart of Berlin. The whole area between Unter den Linden and the Alexander Platz, where police headquarters used to be located, is ~~just~~ ^{of} a sea of flames. As usual, the Red artillery is lined up wheel to wheel. Midget planes are bombing the trapped Germans from almost housetop height. Big hammer and ~~ix~~ sickel flags are flying from many of the big

buildings. Twenty-one of Berlin's metropolitan districts
are in Russian hands. ^{one hundred and twenty - ~~thirty~~ square miles}
~~One unit, composed of veterans~~
~~of Stalingrad and Budapest, is marching on the heart of~~
~~the city. Ahead of them is a group which carries the~~
~~biggest red banner ever made, which they intend to hoist~~
~~over the ruins of Hitler's Chancellery on the~~
~~Wilhelmstrasse.~~

~~But that is not the complete story of the Soviet~~
~~advance Zhukov's columns have also captured Frankfurt~~
~~on the Oder, captured it a week ago.~~

Further south, Konev's armor is only eleven miles
away from Dresden. According to the Paris radio, the
advance guards have already broken into the suburbs.
They have seized Mühlberg on the Elbe River, and the
probability is that the Russians have already joined up
with the United States First Army by this time.

Dispatches from Stockholm bring tales of rioting

in Berlin, with foreign workers revolting, even some Berlin civilians. One story told of their having stormed an arsenal, taken all the weapons they could find, and seizing an industrial district in the south of Berlin, with the police making no attempt to keep order. The firemen have long since given up any effort to check the flames. Three passengers who escaped on the last plane to Stockholm reported they left behind a ^{state} ~~xxx~~ of complete chaos, with mobs hunting down members of the Gestapo.

The Hamburg Radio, the only big one still under Nazi control, claims that Adolf Hitler is in personal command of the one hundred thousand S S Elite troops left in Berlin. ~~Other stories~~

WESTERN FRONT

So much for the Battle of Berlin, but far

more important for the future is the feat accomplished

by George Patton's armor in the south. (Once again ^{Patton has} ~~he~~)

completely fooled the Germans. He was apparently aiming

for Chemnitz. But that was a feint. He suddenly sent

his tanks wheeling southeast toward the Bavarian redoubt,

crashing through bewildered German towns and villages.

~~The~~ is within a short distance of effecting a

junction with the Russians and ^{shutting} ~~shutting~~ off ~~all~~ the

entire German garrison in Czechoslovakia. The Eleventh

armored division of Patton's army forced the ^{Noab} ~~Naab~~ River

at two places and drove on southeast, by-passing

Regensburg and approaching the Russians.

The Seventh Army of General Patch is also driving

toward the Bavarian redoubt. It advanced ten miles on

a hundred mile front. The Seventh is only seventeen miles

away from the French First Army, which has a number of

Germans sewed up in a pocket east of Lake Constance.

The great fact about all these operations in Bavaria, is that they are destroying the German hopes of making a prolonged stand in their much vaunted redoubt.

Meanwhile, in the north a junction between the U.S. Ninth and the Russians is also expected at any moment, may have happened already.

News is being made so fast that the ~~correspondents~~ correspondents are hardly able to keep up with it.

On the North Sea front, British forces are slamming hard at both Hamburg and Bremen. Montgomery's artillery ~~and~~ and Allied bombers have turned Bremen into a furnace. Evidently the Germans are prepared to see their second largest port completely demolished rather than surrender it. The bombing is literally non-stop, night and day. Huge fires light up the horizon. British artillery is shelling the German ships in the Elbe River, while Montgomery's tanks are coming closer and closer to Hamburg.

The Battle of Holland has come to life again.

British forces crossed the Maas River south of Amsterdam, the first activity we've heard about that region since November.

And here is an item which indicates that what is left of the Nazi government begins to realize its doom. It has offered to leave all Allied prisoners of war in prison camps as the Allies advance, and not drag them along in the retreat of the German armies. The War Department in Washington announces that the Government of the United States has accepted the offer. Allied planes tonight dropped leaflets all over Germany, warning German officers in charge of prisoners that they will be held individually responsible for anything that happens to the prisoners. The warning was signed by President Truman, Prime Minister Churchill, and Marshal Stalin.

And now a word from Hugh James for Standard Oil of California.

KOEPENICK

In the minor news from the Western Front today appears the name of a suburb of Berlin which would be unknown to most Americans but for an amusing adventure that happened there in Nineteen Twelve and 'Thirteen, the town of Koepenick. The story of "The Captain of Koepenick" became a classic illustration of one aspect of the German character.

The hero of the story was a criminal who in some manner obtained possession of the uniform of a captain of infantry. Arrayed in this uniform, he strutted down the streets of Koepenick, and a platoon of soldiers led by a non-commissioned officer, gave the customary salute: "Eyes right with goose step heels rapping loudly on the pavement."

The phoney captain halted the platoon, gave them the order, about turn, and marched them down to the city hall. There he ordered them to fix bayonets, marched them inside

into the office of the city treasurer, and in the name of His Imperial Majesty, the Kaiser, grabbed every cent that was in the city treasury. Neither the non-commissioned officer nor the privates ever thought of questions ^{ing} the orders of the man in the captain's uniform. Having acquired possession of the money, he sent the ~~officers~~ ~~and~~ soldiers back to barracks, and then walked off himself.

I've always had a sneaking feeling that the Captain of Koepenick deserved to escape. But unfortunately he did not. The pol~~it~~zei caught up with him, recovered most of the Koepenick city treasure, and deposited the adventurous lad in what we call over here the Big House.

ITALY

The news from the Italian front tonight gives the impression that the Allied Fifth and Eighth Armies have broken the German dam. After the capture of Bologna, the Fifth advanced from twenty to thirty-five miles north and northwest. They are now pushing fast toward the Po River, while the Germans are falling back upon the big industrial cities in northern Italy

In the east, the British Eighth Army is advancing on Ferrara, and early this afternoon was not much more than a mile away.

LABOR

There is a story current in Washington today that the next Secretary of Labor may be Edward F. McGrady, who held the job of Assistant Secretary under Madam Perkins for four years. A prominent veteran in the American Federation of Labor, McGrady at present is in charge of labor relations for the Radio Corporation of America, and on the side gives his services as special Labor Consultant to the Secretary of War. He was once President of the Pressmen's Union.

President Truman is believed to be considering him as a successor to Madam Perkins. Whether that is true or not, stories accumulate in the capital that the Madam will be the first of the Roosevelt Cabinet members to be replaced.

PACIFIC

Admiral Nimitz tells us tonight that warships and carrier based planes of the Pacific fleet have been battering Japanese positions on Okinawa for five days running.. The Tokyo radio claimed that Japanese suicide planes had inflicted heavy losses on the Pacific Fleet. Nimitz admits they did some damage and sank one small vessel. On the other hand, the Nipponese lost one hundred and twenty six more of their planes.

Our three United States Army divisions on Okinawa are up against the strongest defenses they have yet faced in the Pacific war. The American drive has definitely been slowed up, but the Yanks recaptured the village which they lost over the weekend when Japanese troops slipped through our lines in the darkness of Saturday night. The Seventh, Twenty-Seventh, and Ninety-Sixth Divisions are still facing some sixty thousand Japanese troops.

PHILIPPINES

General MacArthur reports ~~xx~~ tonight that his infantry on Mindanao have cut the Japanese forces in two, captured an important road junction and are well on the way to Davao, the principal city of the island.

BUTLER

In the West as in the East, the resignation of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler as President of Columbia University is an event in the history of American education. He quits at the age of eighty three after forty four years of service as President of Columbia, the most famous living person in the field of education. He is also an outstanding figure in politics, having ~~xxxxxxx~~ been candidate for Vice President of the United States in Nineteen Thirteen and a candidate for the Presidential Nomination in Nineteen Twenty. In the evil days of prohibition Nicholas Murray Butler was the only college President who ^{openly} ~~had the courage to~~ oppose ~~it~~ and denounce ~~it~~.

PEACE

San Francisco is ~~already~~ all ready for the great conference. Most of the delegates of the United Nations are already there working for the big event to begin Wednesday. But up to a late hour this evening the Foreign Ministers of the big three, United States Great Britain and Russia were still in Washington. They are still trying to reach an agreement about Poland. Both Washington and San Francisco are rife with questions and guesses about the discussions among the Big Three. Stettinius Anthony Eden and Molotov are expected to arrive in San Francisco tomorrow night.

27 A bulletin came in from Washington less than an hour ago that the Foreign Ministers of the Big Three had been unable to agree. They broke off their discussions for the time being and called in T. V. Soong, the Foreign Minister of China. ~~Then~~ By taking in Soong the Big Three became the Big Four and set about drafting plans for the machinery and

procedure of the San Francisco Conference.

The White House announces that the discussion of the Polish question will be resumed at the Golden Gate. That will give Molotov time to get fresh instructions from ~~himself~~ in the Kremlin.

LEISURE

Here is the story of a scientist who believes that one of the approaching menaces to civilization is too much leisure. Dr. Lucas Kyrides of the staff of a large chemical company says that many people who need the attention of psychiatrists get that way because they use their leisure time unwisely. Too many people talk of retiring at an early age, little realizing that only a healthy mind and a sound body can preserve us from boredom. Idleness, he points out, is good for chickens and many other animals, because it improves the flavor of their meat. The same process applied to man brings about fatty degeneration of both mind and body. In other words, a good dose of hard work is a human necessity.

Now we'll hear from a man who does plenty of hard work, Hugh James ~~speaking~~ ^{speaking} with a message from ~~Success~~

Standard of California -

Taken from early bc.

COAL

Tonight it looks as though our worries over coal might be over for the time being at any rate. The War Labor Board has approved the contract, which will increase the pay of the workers about a dollar and thirty cents a day.

Before Economic Stabilizer William H. Davis can make a ^{final} decision, he will have to have a report ~~from~~ from O.P.A., estimating how much the increase in wages will boost the price of coal.

7
The Congressional Medal of Honor is shortly to be conferred upon a newspaperman for the first time in history, that newspaperman being, of course, the late Ernie Pyle. The medal will be awarded ~~posthumously~~ posthumously. Bills have been introduced in both the House and the Senate to this end. Republican ~~Representative~~ Representative Raymond Springer of Indiana is one of the sponsors for the bill in the lower House. He said today that Pyle left an indelible impression on the hearts of the American people, and that is one statement by a Congressman which nobody will dispute.