

② The Western Front has turned into a battle of rivers. Of course, the immediate objective of the American armies is to drive to the Rhine. But meanwhile the Germans are putting up a desperate defense along two river lines on the way to the Rhine. One on the plain before Cologne -- the Roer River; the other, farther south where General Patton's Third Army has driven into the industrial Saar Valley; - it's the Saar river there.

The conflict is raging with the utmost fury, and the front line dispatches say the fighting is as savage as any of the great battles of the last war, the Marne, ~~and~~ the Argonne, Chateau Thierry. The Germans are making an inch-by-inch defense of their invaded soil.

15 On the plain of Cologne, General Hodges' First Army was forced back by furious German counter-attacks at the northern end of the Rhineland front. But farther south, Hodges' armored forces launched a counter-punch and drove forward below the town of Duren to within a couple of miles of the Roer River.

I was there with the First Army, six weeks ago, when Duren was ^{first taken} under shell fire - an indication of the slowness of progress. in this sector.

16 In the Saar General Patton's ~~Third~~ Third Army smashed forward for two miles today, and reached the Saar River. They ^{pushed} ~~hurled~~ the Nazis beyond that stream, and now stand on the Saar opposite the city of Merzig, one of the big fortresses of the Siegfried Line. Patton men are now ~~xxx~~ within seven and a half miles of the key city of Saarbruchen.

Every dispatch from the front emphasizes the desperation of the German defense, and the slowness of the American going. Progress is counted in yards, and a bulletin states: "A one-mile advance represents a smashing triumph".

16 The main consideration in the fighting now is the weather. ^WWith cloudy skies and snow, the fighter bombers cannot supply air support for our ~~xxx~~ armored columns, and the observation planes - so essential for artillery spotting - cannot fly.

FRENCH GESTAPO

Today in Paris twelve leaders of the French Gestapo went on trial. Witnesses took the stand, and their testimony was of a chamber of horrors.

17 The history of the French Gestapo is typical of the doings of the Nazi conqueror in France. The German Gestapo enlisted the services of the French Underworld, releasing convicts from prison, robbers and murderers, giving them the authority of the police. And these criminals proceeded to form a Gestapo of their own, ~~not~~ cooperating with the Germans by betraying and hunting down French patriot leaders -- *and improving on the cruelty of the original Gestapo.* ~~They did not neglect their own original habits of robbery and murder.~~ In Paris I inspected some of their torture rooms, where "electric treatment" was applied by high tension handcuffs.

The testimony in today's trial gave an account of the torture and murder of two ~~ix~~ women. One ^{was} a wealthy French ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ woman who was supposed to have fifteen million francs in her safe. The French Gestapo trapped her by inviting her to their

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headquarters to see a fur coat, for sale. She went with a woman companion. The two were seized, and the criminals demanded the combination of the safe in which the fifteen million francs were locked away.

~~The wealthy~~ The wealthy woman refused to give it. The two women were tortured and finally murdered.

Today's testimony gave a gruesome picture of how the French Gestapo destroyed the bodies -- by boiling and burning.

The French Gestapo also trapped and seized ~~Genevieve~~ Genevieve de Gaulle, niece of General Charles deGaulle - now head of the French Provisional Government. They turned her over to the Nazis to be deported to Germany, and she hasn't been heard from since.

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ITALY

19 Today in ^{the} London House of Commons, British Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, told why the British government has turned thumbs down on Count Sferza -- that famous anti-Fascist exile ^{who} has been playing a stormy part in the new Italian politics that have followed the downfall of Mussolini. There has been much complaint that he hasn't been given a high position, and the reason he hasn't is -- British opposition.

19 This opposition was explained by Eden today, who said that when he returned to Italy from his exile in the United States, Count Sforza had made certain promises to the Allies. These promises he has not kept. He tried to undercut the Badoglio Government, which took power after the fall of Mussolini. And more recently he has been working against the Cabinet headed by Bonomi -- which has the support of the Allies.

19 Bonomi is meanwhile ^{facing} ~~having~~ a crisis.-- the

50 Italian Premier is trying to form a new Cabinet, ^{and,} ~~which~~
the Left Wing parties refuse to support him.

✓ There was a riot in Rome today between Royalists and Republicans. This happened at a parade of newly equipped Italian soldiers, who were being reviewed by Premier Bonomi and the Regent, Crown Prince Umberto. On top of an ancient Roman statue of Julius Caesar ~~an~~ an Italian ~~fix~~ flag was flying. A crowd of Republicans stormed forward, tore down the Italian flag and put in its place a red flag with hammer and sickle --- Republican apparently meaning Communist in this case. A party of Royalists tried to re-establish the national flag of Italy, and a wild fight broke out -- which had to be suppressed by the police.

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The Russians have captured another big Hungarian railroad center, and have now pushed to within ninety-three miles of the Austrian border.

Moscow describes the enemy defenses in Hungary as -- "crumbling." and Berlin tells of new Red army drives

to get across the Danube, that great barrier stream.

Soviet forces are battling to bridge the Danube at points about sixty miles south of Budapest.

~~Place your thumb over~~

~~As you look at the rest of the news,~~

~~Let's hear for a moment~~

Now while I look over the rest of the news, let's hear for a moment from Hugh James for Standard of California.

STANDARD OF CALIFORNIA
Friday, December 1, 1944

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(MIDDLE)

ANNOUNCER

Remember, Dick, in your knee-pants days, when your mother cooked a big stack of wheat cakes on a nippy morning, how you'd sometimes have to warm up the molasses before it would pour? Sure, you remember that ... but a lot of motorists don't remember that oil acts very much like molasses on cold mornings. Right now, in many parts of the west, plenty of motorists are wasting gas and running down batteries on hard starts -- all because their car's motor oil isn't right for the season. Here are two things to do about that: First, make sure you've got the right grade of motor oil for winter. Second, be sure you get RPM Motor Oil. RPM flows more easily than most oils, makes cold weather starting easier. So, to make it a safe winter for your car -- stop at the service station or garage that features RPM Motor Oil. Now, Dick, time for more news.

TREGASKIS

(NEWS)

PHILIPPINES

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In spite of tropical rains American forces drove on ^{today} ~~tonight~~ in the battle for the Island of Leyte. The troops of the thirty-second Infantry plowed ~~on~~ through the mud for an advance of half a mile toward the Japanese base at Ormoc. Two towns were captured, and American forces are now within seventeen and a half miles of Ormoc. Today's American advances were scored after American infantry ~~had~~ had repelled a series of suicide assaults by the Japs.

The emphasis in the news is still on enemy reinforcement, with American planes ^{keeping} ~~XXXXXXXX~~ a constant lookout for Japanese vessels bringing troops. General MacArthur now estimates that the Japs have lost twenty six thousand men in trying to convoy soldiers to Leyte.. ^{II} There is still no confirmation of a Japanese invasion of Morotai Island -- though Tokyo keeps on telling of a fierce battle on that bit of tropical earth, ^{South of the Philippines.} The only word from our side is a statement by a spokesman for General MacArthur

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headquarters, ^{The spokesman says} ~~who states~~ that the Tokyo story may pertain to a few barge loads of enemy troops that were landed ^{at} ~~in~~ the northern tip of Morotai some weeks ago. Maybe the Japs have been able to get more men ashore, observed the spokesman, but that sort of thing, said he, in no way endangers American positions on the island.

24

In the war of the air, tonight's word tells of new American air blows against the Bonin and Volcano Islands -- which lie between the island of Japan, and the American ^{B-29} ~~air~~ base at Saipan. Japanese positions in the Bonin and Volcanos were hit hard by Liberator bombers, and word from Pearl Harbor is that these air assaults are designed to clear the path to Tokyo for the B-29s -- by knocking out air bases from which the Japs might send ~~fix~~ fighter planes against the super-fortresses as they fly to Tokyo.

PEARL HARBOR

25
It was announced late this afternoon that there will be no Pearl Harbor courts martial -- this on the basis of reports by the Army and Navy boards that have been investigating the disaster. The War and Navy Departments issued a statement to the effect that the investigation could find no reason for court martialing either Major General Short, or Rear Admiral Kimmel, the Army and Navy commanders at Pearl Harbor on December Seventh. Moreover, the findings ^{do} ~~are~~ not warrant court martial for anybody else.

In ~~the~~ statements by Secretary of War, Stimson and Secretary of Navy Forrestal, ^{it} ~~is~~ disclosed that errors of judgement are considered to have been made, errors of judgement not only at Pearl Harbor, but also in Washington. Mere mistakes, however, do not call for military trials, *is the way they explain it!*

26
The ~~Secretaries~~ secretaries ~~went~~ on to say that the findings of the two boards will not be made public until after the war is over, and we won't be given their version of the Pearl Harbor story till then. ~~Meanwhile~~

LADY ASTOR

The retirement is announced of one of the most interesting and sprightly of political figures -- Lady Astor. Today, after celebrating her twenty-fifth anniversary in Parliament, she states that she will not seek re-election. The assumption is that Great Britain will choose a new Parliament within a year -- ~~upon~~^{at} the end of the European War. Lady Astor will remain in the House of Commons until that time -- then retirement.

26 For twenty-five years American born Nancy Astor has been one of the personalities of Parliament -- lively -- smartly styled, keen of wit and sharp of tongue. The stories of her verbal clashes in the House of Commons are endless. And any M P had better think twice before ~~is~~ exchanging stinging remarks with Lady Astor.

27 Always she has been the individualist, the emancipated woman, independent, often defiant. Yet now her retirement is announced with a deeply sympathetic suggestion of traditional domestic loyalty,

the bond between husband and wife. Her statement is made jointly with her husband -- Lord Astor -- who is sixty-five, and who retired from ~~the~~ political life ~~in~~ a month ago. Lady Astor will not stand for Parliament again, because Lord Astor will not be able to help her in the election.

"Last winter" says the letter, "Lord Astor informed Lady Astor that he did not feel at his age physically able to go through another contested election. Lady Astor and he fought seven elections together, and supported ~~each~~ each other actively in the political arena for thirty-five years.

(And how Hugo James)

CANADA

28

In Canada it was admitted today that the plan to draft sixteen thousand troops for overseas war duty is only a beginner. In the Dominion House of Commons the MacKenzie King Cabinet made a promise that, in addition to the sixteen thousand, more of the Canadian Home Defense Army will be drafted for war. "For future reinforcement, if and when necessary" was the phraseology used.

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And now Hugh James