

The word tonight is that the job of delivering the major blow against the German salient in Luxembourg and Belgium has been given General Patton. His Third Army, just south of the Nazi break-through, was in a position to hit at the southern flank of the enemy wedge -- if it could muster the strength and the strategy. Apparently Patton can muster both -- because tonight the news is that ^{his} ~~Patton's~~ troops have gouged deeply into the southern flank of the German advance.

In particular, they've broadened the ~~whorl~~ hole they smashed in the German line when yesterday they relieved a large force of G.I.s trapped at Bastogne. That was one of the most dramatic incidents of the war, and it is now revealed that Third Army troops fought their way ahead through twenty-two miles of stubborn ~~German~~ German defense -- in getting to the encircled force.

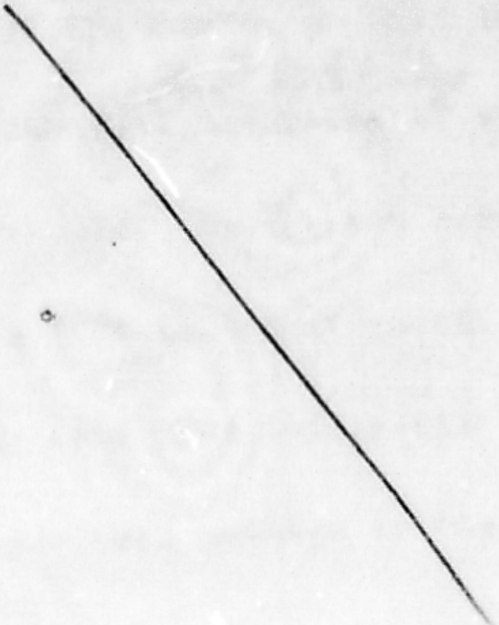
Today those G.I.s, so recently saved from threatening doom, were chipper and cocky -- almost ~~resenting~~ resenting the fact that they had been relieved, because they had been doing so well in beating off German attacks.

And the latest tells of their Divisional Commander hurrying to join them. He was in Washington, on a mission, when von Rundstedt's offensive trapped his men. Upon hearing this, Major General Maxwell D. Taylor immediately flew the Atlantic, and rejoined his division in the final phase of their heroic battle.

With Patton driving at the German flank from the South, the Americans were likewise striking at the northern edge of the enemy salient. Going over to the attack American troops today captured the important road junction of Grandmenil, taken after a violent battle.

At the extreme tip of the salient the Germans sustained a reverse today. The tip was nipped off when American troops cut around for an advance of three miles. They encircled a German armored force which was at the forward point of enemy advance. And the latest tells of a thousand prisoners taken when the forward angle of the salient was chopped off.

There was a swift interplay of news today about the town of Echternach. ~~Allied headquarters~~

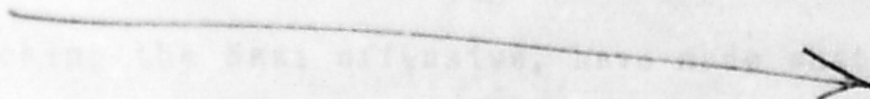


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~~There is a swift interplay of news about the town of Echternach on Patton's Third Army front.~~ Allied headquarters gave out the word that the Germans had captured Echternach, and immediately thereafter the Germans announced that the Americans had captured Echternach. The explanation of the mix-up is that the Allied command is still delaying news, ^{still telling} ~~and telling~~ of events thirty-six to forty-eight hours old. The German reports are later - and so we have the fact that Echternach, taken by the Germans something more than thirty-six or forty-eight hours ago, has since been retaken by the Americans.

All along the borders of the salient, the Germans are described as digging in with ^{frantic} ~~mighty~~ haste,

and a Berlin dispatch speaks of - going on the defensive. The picture today shows the Germans in the salient being held at all points, and cut down at some ~~points~~. However, we will have to wait to see what the future developments will be.




FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

The situation ^{there} on the Western Front was summed up today by Secretary of War Stimson, whose account covers the past two days, and brings us down to the state of affairs as of this afternoon. He stated that the American forces, bucking the Nazi offensive, have made what he calls - "some very important gains." These have been scored along the flanks of the enemy salient, where thrusts forward ^{are} ~~have~~ calculated to count the most. The German advances have been negligible, and their losses heavy, says he.

~~Stimson outlined the strategy that the enemy will have to pursue - if he intends to keep on driving. The Germans will have to expand the base of their salient, said he. It is too narrow now for comfort - ~~max~~ only twenty miles across at its narrowest. It is too much in danger of being cut in two by a slashing American drive. So, if von Rundstedt elects to keep his offensive~~

finding this out.

In England, there is a considerable undercurrent of criticism. The LONDON DAILY MAIL suggests that the Allied armies have not been properly coordinated and that changes in the command may be necessary. And today a London suggestion was made that British General Alexander, now Allied Commander-in-Chief in the



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fourteenth, before the big German offensive began. In the

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Mediterranean, be put in charge of the Western Front - under supreme Allied commander General Eisenhower. As things stand, the Allied armies are grouped under several commanders - these in turn under General Eisenhower.

The LONDON DAILY EVENING NEWS argues that

Eisenhower has too much to do, too many other military and political things to take care of, to direct the actual ^{and}

^{immediate} fighting front operations. And British General ^{Sir Harold} Alexander

is suggested for the job - either he or possibly Field Marshal Montgomery, who is serving under Eisenhower.

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Army losses on the Western Front - figures up to December Fourteenth, before the big German offensive began. In the

two weeks before that date, ^{our Amer. Forces} ~~the United States Army~~ on the

Western Front incurred nearly sixty-six thousand

casualties. Add this figure to the previous ^{one} ~~figure~~ for

~~the total~~ American losses during this war, and the total

ITALY

✓ The forgotten front flashes into the news tonight, and in no favorable way. The stalemate in Italy has been broken, ~~in a minor way~~, with the Germans doing the breaking. A surprise enemy attack drove for three miles through American lines near the Mediterranean coast.

American negro troops were forced to withdraw from a town, and today's dispatch indicates that the Germans, in their new Italian offensive, may be aiming at the old city of Lucca.

RUSSIA

News about the Russians features the names of *those* two great capital cities - Budapest and Vienna. Moscow tells us that several more suburbs of the Hungarian ~~capital~~ capital have been captured, as Red Army troops drive toward the heart of the city in bitter house-to-house fighting against thousands of trapped German and Hungarian soldiers. The word about Vienna comes from the German side, with Berlin stating that the Russians are driving on the road to Vienna - a three-pronged advance toward the capital of Austria. *The latest: - 94 miles from Vienna.*

GREECE

Churchill has left Athens - the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden taking their departure from the capital of Greece this afternoon, ^{and} the word is that in London Churchill will recommend ^{that} ~~to~~ King George ~~to~~ give up his royal position. Not King George the Sixth of Great Britain - Churchill hasn't anything like that in mind. ~~at all~~. One abdication would be enough in any Englishman's lifetime. King George of Greece is ^{the one. H} ~~mean~~. The Left Wing Elas, which launched the civil war in Greece, is bitterly opposed to the monarchy, and we hear that negotiations set in motion by Churchill's dramatic visit to Athens, ^{have} ~~Λ~~ resulted in an agreement on at least one point- that a regency be established. That would be a sort of compromise - not abolishing the monarchy, but having the Greek King step down, with the regency taking his place.

Meanwhile, the fighting still goes on - shooting

PACIFIC

The Japs have raided Saipan again, but it was a comparatively feeble affair -- and word from the base of the B-29s indicates that little damage was done. Two of the Jap raiders were shot down.

At the same time, we are told that only slight damage was caused at Mindoro in the Philippines when Japanese warships bombarded that invaded island on Tuesday night. Enemy shells failed to hit important targets -- the airfields, for example. The Americans on Mindoro think that the Japanese fleet may try it again. Meanwhile, all was quiet today on Mindoro. No enemy activity, either on the ground or in the air.

The loss of ships the Japs have sustained in the Philippines leads to the belief that the enemy fleet may eventually be wiped out by sheer attrition. This is stated by Vice Admiral Mitscher, Commander of

the fast carrier force that has hit the Japanese navy so hard. He says that even if Tokyo refuses to risk its fleet in a general battle, the present war of attrition will probably liquidate the Mikado's navy within a year.

SUPERFORTRESSES

Drop if wish

The B-29s ~~were~~ over Tokyo again today. The Japs give out the news and say that the Superfortresses hurled fire bombs. Tokyo claims that there was only a small force.

From our side, we have a report on yesterday's big B-29 raid against Tokyo, when bombs were hurled on the Musashimo aircraft factory. Reconnaissance photographs show that twelve direct hits were scored.

~~This was~~ the third attack by the Superfortresses on that fifty acre airplane plant; *with* ~~and~~ yesterday's twelve hits

doing plenty of damage. However, dispatches from B-29 headquarters on Saipan give the cautious opinion that the great Tokyo aircraft factory has not yet been knocked out. It will take more bombing. ~~to do that.~~

MONTGOMERY WARD

Drop if wish

It looks as if we might have the Montgomery-Ward-Sewell-Avery turn of melodrama all over again - a repetition perhaps of the episode of last Spring when Avery, the Montgomery Ward President, was carried bodily out of his office.

Today once again President Roosevelt ordered the seizure of the mail order firm, because of a labor dispute. Montgomery Ward refuses to abide by a Labor Board order concerning union membership and wage increases. There was a strike, and today the Army moved in. In thirty minutes; the big plant in Chicago was taken over, but Sewell Avery still rejected the whole thing - sitting in his office, and saying - No.

~~At last reports he was still there, and maybe they will have to carry him out again.~~

Today's government seizure includes all of the Montgomery Ward branches, and at the one in Portland,

PRISONERS

27 On the American Seventh Army front, they are hailing a new hero tonight - Lieutenant James Tower of Grand Island, New York. ~~They are~~ hailing him, however, with a grin, that kind of G. I. leer which almost cracks an American soldier's face open with amusement.

The exploit performed by Lieutenant Jimmy Tower was one of the bravest. Today, alone and single handed and armed with a carbine, he captured a German machinegun position and took thirty-four prisoners - all by himself, with his trusty carbine. The story tells how Jimmy Tower, valiant beyond words, stalked his way to the opening of the pill box, and pointed his carbine down into it - calling upon the Germans in the underground position to surrender. They looked into the frowning muzzle of the carbine, and that was enough. They gave up, and came streaming out of the pill box. There were thirty-four of them, and Lieutenant Jimmy

28 Tower kept them covered with his trusty carbine. All alone, he marched them down the road toward an American position, his menacing carbine keeping them cowed and submissive.

On the way, he was joined by a fellow American officer who gave a quick glance, sidled over to Lieutenant Jimmy Tower, and whispered: "Don't look now, Jimmy," he hissed, "but you haven't got any magazine in your carbine! "

1/2 Jimmy never guessed it, but he did all that with an empty carbine. So tonight on the American Seventh Army Front, Lieutenant ^{Jimmy}~~James~~ Tower of ~~Grand Island, New York~~ is being hailed as - the hero without bullets in his gun!

29 ~~And now H - fire away.~~

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SL

is more than six hundred and twenty-eight thousand -
which includes more than a hundred and thirty-four
thousand killed. And to this sombre tally we have to add
the heavy American ^{casualties} ~~losses~~ during the present huge battle -
during which, as we have been told time and again, our
losses have been large.

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1 Let's hear from
Standard of California, and
then on with the war
news.

Today we have an official confirmation of previous reports that the German commander in the invasion battle of Normandy committed suicide because of the Nazi defeat; ~~He was~~ Field Marshal Guenther von Kluge.

His name figured a lot in the news at the time of the D-Day invasion. He ^{been} ~~had~~ given command of the German forces on the Western Front, succeeding Field Marshal von Rundstedt - that same von Rundstedt who ^{Hitler's} launched ~~the~~ present ~~German~~ offensive. ~~on the Western Front with so much success.~~ Back in those days, von Rundstedt fell out of favor with Hitler, who removed him from the command in France - and put von Kluge in his place. So von Kluge it was who faced the D-Day invasion, and we all know the disaster that befell the Germans - as Allied military power swept through France to the border of Naziland. ~~And now~~ Von Kluge was removed

from the command, with subsequent reports that he had killed himself. This now is confirmed by a Nazi order of the day, which states: "As a result of the crushing responsibility for the outcome of the Normandy battle, von Kluge handed over his supreme command - and committed suicide."

Whereupon *V*on Rundstedt was put back on the job, ~~and~~ I suppose he was lucky ~~that~~ he did ^{not} face that early invasion drive. Anyway, *he is today* ~~von Rundstedt, with~~ ~~his present offensive~~ *is* the only German commander in a long time, who has been able to achieve anything but defeat;- and, he ^{'is} likely to run into that before he is through.

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