

Let's continue the story of Aachen where we left it off last night, when the question was - What reply would the German garrison give to the American demand for surrender?

The deadline was today, ten thirty A.M. And so this morning, in the American lines ringing the city, thousands of ~~American~~ eyes gazed at the buildings and steeples of historic Aix-la-Chappelle, the city of Charlemagne, where that great Emperor was laid to his final ~~resting~~ rest more than a thousand years ago.

The watching Americans caught the glint of white - white flags hung from civilian houses. But that was all - just the civilians wanting to surrender. The hour of the deadline came and went, but there was no reply from the German command. And ^{the} Americans watching the city saw German soldiers take down the white flags the civilians had hung. ~~So the likelihood we had lost~~

~~night was borne out - the German garrison electing to
fight it out~~

The American response to this was overwhelming. First dive bombers went into action, and began their task of battering the medieval city into rubbish. Then the guns ringing Aachen opened up, and a deluge of shells began exploding in the town. Within a few minutes, Aachen was ~~hidden by~~ *erupting fire and* great clouds of smoke and dust, clouds that towered high into the air.

Next, American infantry surged forward for the storming assault, fighting their way ~~forward~~ against German defenses *at* the approaches to the city.

The guns of the great ring of artillery were ~~firing~~ *the* firing all the time, hour after hour. Then ~~the~~ great batteries stopped shooting at the city - swung around and started firing in the opposite direction. ~~They~~ *Hurled* their shells at masses of enemy troops and

equipment, that were driving forward - the Germans trying to relieve Aachen. The Hitler command sent two columns in an attempt to smash through the American line, and open a way to the city. ~~That is what drew the American artillery fire, the guns swinging around and the dive bombers joined in the blasting of the relief columns.~~ These were hit hard, were stopped - they could make no progress against the infantry forces holding the siege line. Whereupon, the guns swung around again and turned their fire on the city once more.

In the roar of ^{the} cannon ~~also~~, another sound rang out - hog calling. That's what the G.I's call it, ~~rather~~ irreverently - the voices shouting through loud speakers, voices in German. American propoganda calling upon the doomed garrison to surrender. ~~The hog calling~~ ^{It} worked in some cases, and in one place a whole German company came out and ~~■~~ surrendered.

Some of the prisoners today were reeling drunk, full of liquor. They explained that yesterday, in the face of the American demand for surrender, the German commanders distributed the monthly ration of schnapps amongst their men. The whole ration of liquor for one month. Apparently this was designed to bolster up the spirits of the soldiers, as the surrender ultimatum was refused - Dutch courage. Maybe it worked for the time being, but Dutch courage has a way of wearing off, and the indications are that the German soldiers, ~~who~~ ~~are~~ like the civilians of the city, want to surrender, but the officers are holding out.

One American commander said today: "We've got to break the will of those officers who are holding their men in line, and we are in a position to do it." ~~They~~ ^{to-night} are, indeed, as Aachen is being destroyed and stormed - with the Germans making futile attempts to relieve the beleaguered city.

West - Front - 5.

~~LOWELL THOMAS~~

~~OCTOBER 11, 1944~~

~~STANDARD~~

~~FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT~~ - Here's the latest -- the Germans

are trying to evacuate Aachen. And this may tie in with

^{the}~~an~~ attempt of the relief columns to break a way into

the city --- an attempt which the Germans proceeded to

renew. The latest word comes from American war flyers

who report that German trucks are moving ^{out of Aachen}~~from the city~~

^{and} heading for what the Nazis apparently hope may be a

narrow escape corridor. The situation with reference

to a possible escape corridor and the movement of the

relieving columns ~~is~~ is obscure. And all we have is

a report from the American pilots who spotted ~~the movement~~

^{the} German trucks ^{pushing} out of Aachen -- saw ^{them}~~it~~ by the light

of an enormous fire burning in the center of the city.

GREECE

We hear that the Germans are evacuating all of Greece, in full flight - fifty thousand of them trying to get out of the trap that is closing in on them. Their escape routes through the Balkans are threatened, as Allied forces push more deeply into Jugoslavia.

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I have an important guest here at the microphone. But first let's hear from Stan, of Calif.

RUSSIA

War on the eastern front flares at both ends, the north and the south. At one extreme, the Baltic area, the Soviet forces have begun their storming attack against East Prussia. This is announced by the Germans, who say that the long expected Russian offensive against the home province of the German military caste has now begun. And, at the same time, Russian guns are blasting Memel, the encircled Baltic port where a hundred thousand Germans are trapped.

At the other end of the line, south, ~~in~~ Hungary,

The Russians are continuing their sweep across the flat Hungarian plains. The capital of the province of Transylvania has been captured, and so has the second largest Hungarian city. Red army tanks and cavalry are placed now at a point only forty-two miles from Budapest, the Hungarian capital.

FOLLOW RUSSIA

The latest is a report that the capitulation of Hungary seems near at hand. ~~And the word is that~~ Hungary is in a state of collapse, and may surrender while Prime Minister Churchill is in Moscow.

Understanding is that the main reason why the British Prime Minister went to Moscow was to present a settlement of the Polish-Soviet dispute, which right now constitutes the greatest danger to the unity of the Allies.

The Polish Premier was in Moscow some weeks ago, but failed to come to any understanding with Stalin. The Soviet war leader recognized the Soviet sponsored Polish Committee of Liberation as the legal government of Poland. Now, the Premier of the exiled regime goes to Moscow again, and we hear that the Poles in London are optimistic about the prospects of a settlement - with Churchill now mediating between Poland and Stalin.

POLAND

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FOLLOW POLAND

Over in this country, the Polish Question flashed into the news late this afternoon with the visit of a group of Polish-American leaders to the White House. They made representations to President Roosevelt and asked for assurance that the treatment of Poland by Soviet Russia will be in accordance with the principles ~~outlined~~ of the Atlantic Charter. President Roosevelt responded by saying that Poland must be reconstituted as a great nation/ Also, he add^{ed}, "a peace loving nation."

PORT ARTHUR

A book published in Moscow is not only creating a literary sensation, but is also taken to have a political meaning concerning the post-war peace arrangements. It ~~is~~ a seven hundred page novel called - "Port Arthur", and tells about ^{the siege of} that strategic ~~city~~ in Manchuria - ~~a story of strategic Port Arthur~~ during the Russo-Japanese War. Speaking of ^{Port Arthur} ~~the city of Manchuria~~, the book says: "It was the very symbol of the fatherland of Russian soil." That line of thought is being wildly applauded in Moscow, and ~~the movement~~ is taken to indicate Soviet intentions of acquiring possession of Manchuria.

History records how that province of China was seized by the Russian armies of the Czar. Then the Russians were defeated by the Japs, and Manchuria was returned to China - only to be grabbed by the Japs later on - which event marked the beginning of the

present war between China and Japan. The Chinese want to get Manchuria back when victory comes, but now Soviet Russia is applauding a novel which presents Port Arthur, the strategic Manch^urian harbor, as a sacred Russian goal.

PHILIPPINES

Travel news from Washington adds another indication to the presumption that the Philippine Islands may be invaded soon. Philippine President Osmena, successor to the late Manuel Quezon, has left the national capital. And the word is that he is on his way to join ~~General~~ MacArthur for the impending drive to liberate the Philippines.

Word just in - American forces have taken another island in the Palau group

Word from Pearl Harbor is that Halsey's bold assault against the Ryukyu Islands is only beginning, and will be followed by a rapid series of blows designed to crush the Japanese inner defense lines ---

of which the Ryukyu Islands are so important a part.

TP The Japanese themselves disclose the specific targets that Halsey's task force ~~has~~ hit -- four key island bases with names like ~~Amami~~ *Amami* and Okinawa. Tokio says that the Islands were assaulted by four hundred carrier-based-planes which flew in four waves.

MacArthur, meanwhile keeps hammering away at the Japanese oil supply in the Dutch East Indies. His latest bulletin telling of seventy-four tons of high explosives dropped on an important harbor of Ceram Island --- ~~and that is~~ *a big* oil harbor.

Word just in: — Am. forces have taken another island in the Palau group

NEW ACE

We have a new top ranking air ace --- and he's the ~~same~~ same one all over again, Bong. Major Richard Bong who with twenty seven ~~xxx~~ Japanese planes shot down, returned to this country to be hailed as America's top scorer in the war. Now he's back in action in the Southwestern Pacific and a bulletin tonight announces that he has run his score up to thirty -- making him our number one ace, as he was before.

SMUTS

Sombre words were spoken today by that eminent statesman of the British Empire, Prime Minister Smuts of South Africa. One of the great spokesmen of the British cause in the present war, the South African Premier today stated that the final death struggle of Nazi Germany may turn into horror greater than any that has come to pass thus far. And Smuts declared: "The best contribution we can make toward peace is to ~~end~~ the war as soon as possible. The world is bleeding and suffering to death. In the sixth year of the war," said he, "the whole mechanism of civilized society is in danger. The very foundations of the future are cracking in universal destruction."

And so -
~~to say wonder why~~ the British Empire's Grand Old Man speaks out now in such sombre tones - like a modern Jeremiah.

TRUMAN

Today in New Orleans Senator Truman, running for the Vice Presidency, was in what might have seemed to be a candidate's paradise. Or maybe -- a candidate's inferno. He was visited by a delegation of service men's wives, three hundred of them -- each with a baby. Now, as we all know, baby kissing is vividly featured in the American tradition of electioneering. A candidate, arriving at Podunk or Oshkosh on a campaign tour, is supposed to osc~~u~~llate an infant. And there in New Orleans were three hundred for Truman to ~~osc~~^{oscullate} -- if he wanted to campaign in a really big way. ~~There was, moreover, a pair of twins for him to hold while being photographed. What an opportunity, or what an ordeal -- I don't know which.~~

What did Candidate Truman do? He said he had a cold, and didn't want to give it to the babies. So he didn't kiss even one. Which may have been a tragic loss of a great opportunity, or maybe just a good out.

WORDS

I suppose it must be the American influence over in England - but anyway, we learn today of a move to simplify the language of official documents - cut out the ponderous expressions and big words. Keep the lingo simple and brief. This occurs in a citadel of British dignity and conservatism, the War Office, the central bureau of His Majesty's armed forces. Today, the War Office directed its staff not to use a big word when a little one will do. Don't say - "terminate". Say "end." And don't "facilitate" when you can "help."

To impress this instruction, His Majesty's War Office issues the following pronouncement: "Nothing is more conducive to long winded and stilted writing," it proclaims, "than the use of a formal pedantic or polysyllabic substitute for the natural word or ~~expression~~ expression." ^{TP} Hear! hear! as they say in England.

And so, because of American influence no doubt, the writers of British ^{War Office} ~~government~~ documents will no longer use a big word when a little word will do. And all that remains is for them to come over here, spread

that same good influence in Washington, and persuade the boys who get up American government forms not to use - "a formal, pedantic or polysyllabic substitute for the natural word or expression."

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— o —
And now something—
monosyllabic, I hope —
from ~~Hugh James~~ the
sesqui-pedalian Hugh
James.