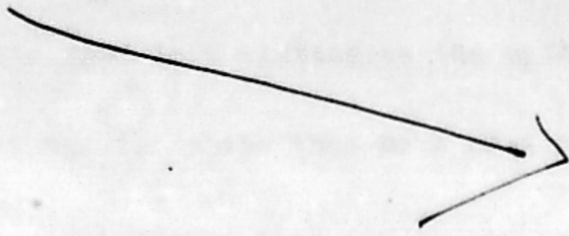


GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I'm in Chicago tonight--at the Convention, but all is so quiet on the G.O.P. Convention front--let's take a look at the Front in France.

Tonight's late dispatch from Allied headquarters tells us that fighting is still going on in Cherbourg--with parties of Nazi's resisting desperately. The town, is steadily being cleared.

It's a mopping up operation now, with Cherbourg captured--to all practical purposes. The resistance is by stubborn fanatical Nazi's who continue to battle it out in groups or as individual fighters. They are described as being



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~~at their~~ at their most formidable in the dock area-where they lurked under piers and in the many nooks and corners that you'll find where harbor installations are thrust out into the water. Wharf ~~at~~ cleaned out by parties of American soldiers who systematically mopped up the harbor area.

The principal focus of enemy resistance that still remains on the Cherbourg peninsula is at the Northeastern tip, Cap De La Hague- a fortress-headland overlooking the sea. That's the point from which German artillery has been throwing shells at the docks of Cherbourg, and the immediate task, following the capture of the city, is the reduction of the fortress at the tip. American troops are advancing against it now.

We have details today about a naval bombardment that attended the capture of the city-Allied warships standing off in the English Channel and bombarding-first German shore batteries and then enemy held sections of the town. The naval force was mostly American, and featured some of the great old sea warrior^s of our navy ^{the} battleships Texas, Arkansas and Nevada. That same Nevada ~~that~~ the Japs left sitting on the muddy bottom at Pearl Harbor. One of the Pearl Harbor ships that have been repaired, the Nevada had her place in the naval battle line off Cherbourg.

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The bombardment was a hot engagement between warships and coastal guns, with the Germans doing some powerful shooting. Their claims of sinking Allied vessels is denied, but we are told that enemy shells burst uncomfortably close as they fell in showers. That is, they did until the mighty salvos of naval guns, climaxed by the broadsides from the American battleships, put a quietus on the shore batteries. The German guns were knocked out, and then the naval cannon directed their aim at enemy-held positions in Cherbourg. This required some mighty sharp and close shooting, with Allied shells raking enemy sections not ~~so~~ very far from the advance parties of Allied troops.

Well, the invasion news will now switch from Cherbourg and it's peninsula to other sections of the second front. In fact, it is already switching- with news of a new and violent drive at the Eastern end the battle line in Normandy. With Cherbourg falling, ~~Assault-Commander~~ British General Montgomery sent his troops forward in the area of Caen and Bayeux. ~~Shored by~~ ^{Following} a shattering artillery bombardment, they thrust ahead-opening a new second-front offensive. The purpose of the drive is the capture of Caen-that Norman city which has been a point of stalemate ever since the first days of the invasion.

RUSSIA:

Once again today in Soviet Russia, Stalin issued an announcement, telling of the capture of an important city and a key enemy stronghold - Vitebsk. The German's had a garrison there ^{of} from fifty to seventy-five thousand men, and presumably these were made prisoner.

The new Russian offensive is only four days old, the assault from the East, while the Western Allies press the invasion of France, ^{the} first front collaborating with the second front. We noted at the time when the new Soviet attack began, that it was at the middle of the line, and was directed along the historic highway to Warsaw, and thence into Germany, the enemy heart. And now Vitebsk, ^{that big last in Front} ~~the~~ highway fortress, has fallen after four days of the Soviet offensive. This, with ^{the} capture of another important ^{point} ~~town~~ threatens 'to unhinge the whole German defense line.

We can only guess whether a retreat in that sector may or may not be part of a German plan of methodical withdrawal. The Nazi's are still deep in Russia in this area - after having been hurled beyond the Soviet boundary further South, in the Ukraine.

ITALY:

The Allied advance in Italy took a new leap forward today-after heavy Nazi resistance had been broken. The German's put up a furious fight North of the Cathedral city of Perugia. In that mountain sector, British Eighth Army troops had a violent battle on their hands, but they succeeded in breaking through, and drove on, and other sectors of the front have advanced with corresponding rapidity.

On the West Coast, American Fifth Army troops today captured the important harbor of Piombino, and they need a harbor up that way. They found the port blown to bits-but the Germans didn't do it, didn't have to. They were spared that task of demolition-by Allied bombing. Explosives from American and British war planes had so blasted the port, that it was useless for the Germans, and it will be the same for us-until we repair it. Otherwise however, the city of Piombino is hardly damaged-a tribute to Allied markmanship with bombs. The news story tells of huge bomb craters in neat rows along the line of the docks-and not a building knocked over in the city just behind the port area.

The news from China continues to be unfavorable with one especially ominous point today—^{an} airbase.

We have heard all along that the big Japanese offensive which captured the rice bowl railroad center of Changsha was designed, for one thing, to strike at air bases in Southern China. These are, of course, American-built flying fields. And a couple of weeks ago, the whole air base business was dramatized by the super-bomber raid against Japan—the giant-B-29's flying from great fields in the wilds of Southern China, built as if by a miracle.

All of which is in the background, when we learn today that the Jap's are now attacking the air base at Hengyang. They have been driving toward that objective ever since the capture of Changsha, and the last we heard they were twenty miles away. Now they have reached Hengyang and its air base.

All flying field installations were either moved away or destroyed as the Jap advance drew near. Also—the entire civilian population of the city of Hengyang has been evacuated, with the defenders preparing one of those bitter-end stands that have been familiar in the China war.

Hengyang is an important junction point on the railroad from Hankow to Canton, down which the Japs are driving. But the focus of dramatic

interest lies in the fact that it is the site of one of those American-built air bases in Southern China

SAIPAN:

On Saipan Island the American forces have captured the biggest obstacle that confronted them--the tall peak, Mt Tapotchau. We heard at the end of last week how the invading troops were driving up slopes of the mountain in a desperate battle against suicide Japs. Now they've taken Mt Tapotchau and the latest tells of a beating off with enemy counter-attack.

Strange stories are related about the fight for the mountain--the tactics the Japs used and the methods that our men used against them. The mountainous parts of Saipan abound in caves, rocky caverns that extend far underground. The Japs use these for strong-points, and that led to a spectacular episode in the battle for Mt Tapotchau.

Advancing American troops came upon a ravine lined with caves, and from these the Japs opened with a heavy fire of rifles and machine guns. How to capture that ravine with its rows of cavern fortresses? That was a problem, and the Americans advance up the slopes of Mt Tapotchau was delayed for a while.

Then a solution was found--artillery. Batteries of cannon were brought up, and these fired into the mouths of the caves--point blank fire, with the shells whizzing straight into the cavern openings and exploding inside. A battle of artillery versus caves--and the underground

Japs were wiped out , whereupon the advance up the mountain continued.

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ADD SAIPAN:

The latest is a dispatch from Headquarters of the Pacific fleet stating that American troops have stormed their way to the outskirts of the town that ranks as the capital of Saipan-the town of Garapan. This is the site of an air base-the usual objective in modern war

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS.

The Army reveals an interesting thing on the subject of conscientious objectors-these unswerving zealots who refuse to fight in the war, even in defense of their own country. They are, however, willing to help in other way^{S--}-surprising ways. The Army tells us of conscientious objectors who have offered themselves as Guinea Pigs for experiments for the cure of diseases.

This concerns two maladies in particular-influenza and a type of pneumonia that does not respond to treatment with the sulfa drugs. Army doctor's wanted to make studies that involved the use of human beings willing to let themselves be inoculated. And three groups of conscientious objectors, a hundred and twenty-two in all volunteered-"Enthusiastically," says the Army. They were infected with influenza and that particular type of pneumonia. Of the hundred and twenty-two, ninety-four became ill, some of them seriously ill, but all recovered.

That is only one example cited by the Army, which goes on to tell of other experiments-in which conscientious objectors submitted themselves to a plague of cooties to test the effect of various insect-destroying-powders and solutions. The idea here was to combat typhus, which is spread by the pestulant bugs.

And, in still another case, conscientious objectors drank sea

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--CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS.

Just
water, ~~and~~ try that some time. They quaffed goblets of the salty
brine of the ocean, and the Army doctor's checked on the way they reacted.
In a study of the effect of the drinking of salt water by castaways at
sea, like shot-down fliers drifting in their rubber boats.

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EQUIPMENT:

It isn't often that we get news with a pleasant sound from our enemies, but here is a statement from the Nazi side that isn't at all unpleasant to hear. We are told what the Germans think about the equipment of the American troops fighting on the Cherbourg Peninsula. The Nazis there call our big invasion units-"Divisions de Luxe." because they are so superbly equipped for their tasks of war.

An official Nazi news agency quotes a German Staff Officer as stating the following about these "Divisions de Luxe:"

"No troops could be better equipped ^{anywhere} than the American's!" says ~~he~~ "In their huge outer pockets," he goes on, "they carry a miniature compass, steel files, medicaments, air photo's and maps on thin silk, ^{he also} chewing gum." And, ^{he} adds, "instruments for imitating animals-which they use to communicate with each other at night."

This last gadget is something we haven't heard about and is interesting-if true. It's a novelty to think of American soldiers signalling each other at night by imitating the voices of animals. Barking like a dog, I suppose, or meowing like a cat, the bah-bah bleating of a sheep, or maybe the stentorian tenor of the Army mule. Or the song of a bird-like the trilling of the legended mockingbird of Dixieland.

CONVENTION

(This convention differs from others in one notable respect. For most of them a man needs two shirts a day. This will stand out as the three shirt convention.)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ The net results of one day of milling around the convention hall and the big hotel where most of the headquarters are located is a perfect recipe for enjoying and savoring a big national convention.

(I give this recipe freely: Stay ^{at} home, turn on the fan, and turn on your favorite broadcasting station, ~~I need hardly tell you which~~ *— meaning the N. B. C. Red Networks of course.*)

The most important news revealed today was the fact that Governor Dewey of New York is to be nominated by one of his fellow Governors, the honorable Dwight Griswold of Nebraska, ~~who~~ *who* is one of the ~~most~~ *exceedingly* successful and efficient ~~governors~~ *governors* of the ~~recent~~ *state chiefs* crop of Republican ~~governors~~ *governors*. He is credited with having restored the government of his State from a wobbly condition with ~~its~~ *the* people

~~of Nebraska~~ to complete solvency and progressive action. That is what his fellow Republicans say about Dwight Griswold. So it is considered here in Chicago a happy circumstance that the brilliant Governor of New York is to be nominated by his *able* colleague from Nebraska.

Today's proceedings at the Convention hall were strictly routine, the usual sort, ~~of stuff~~, punctuated only by unusually loud complaints about the

weather,
~~poor arrangements,~~ But then, there is hardly ever a convention without *that.* ~~such complaints. Maybe they would not be so loud this year if there was enough excitement to compensate~~

The routine included the unanimous election, by acclamation, of Governor Earl Warren of California as temporary Chairman, whose sole function will be to deliver the Keynote speech tonight. There were sighs of relief around the hotel corridors over the news that the keynote speech would be properly in tune with the progress of the days, by which I

mean it will be short. ^{HP} The permanent Chairman of the Convention, of course, is to be ~~the popular~~ Joe Martin of Massachusetts, Republican leader on the floor of the House of Representatives. ^{TP} One of the questions as yet unanswered here in Chicago is: Who will be the National Chairman of the party, the man who will run the campaign? Governor Dewey's closest associates in politics are Russell Sprague, national committeeman from New York, Edwin Jaeckle, State Chairman of New York, and Herbert Brownell, who managed the Governor's successful campaign for election, in Nineteen Forty Two. If Governor Dewey is nominated -- and there is no longer any doubt about it -- Jaeckle will be too busy doing the essential job of winning New York State. No man can be elected President, at least no Republican, who doesn't win New York. So Jaeckle will not be available as National Chairman.

Russell Sprague, ~~so~~ astute and charming,

~~Ellen, is popular,~~ and would be a fine Chairman.

But the gossip around the hotel lobbies is that he

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remains therefore Herbert Brownell Jr, Herbert
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Brownell Jr. a remarkable combination
of smoothness and practical capacity. Herb, as
everybody calls him, is so amiable and so gentle of
manner that you have to ~~know~~ know him quite a while
before you learn that under his good manners is
the soundest common sense, political sagacity and
executive ability.

The other question of the hour is: Will
the stalwart Earl Warren of California accept the
nomination for the Vice Presidency? Hitherto he has
been a man of his word and he has said emphatically
that he is not a candidate and doesn't want the job.
But the slogan today among Republicans is that no
man is too big to refuse a draft. There are Republicans
in California who ~~are~~ echo the notion that it would be
smart if the Republicans nominated the Democratic
~~by~~ but anti-Roosevelt Byrd of Virginia for Vice-
President. But the majority response to that is that
it would be too unorthodox even in these days.

But another question and, between you and me, to many delegates the most urgent is, when ~~do~~ ^{they} get out of here? There is no definite answer to that. It has been whispered however, that if there is not too much argument about the platform, nominations might begin tomorrow, begin and end with Dewey nominated on the first ballot, which would promptly ^{be} made ~~xxx~~ unanimous, by acclamation, and, the whole business over by nightfall. That, mind you, is only a rumor, and may be wishful thinking. But in that ~~in~~ case Governor ~~xxx~~ Dewey could be here by Wednesday to make his acceptance speech.-- ~~and what a show that~~ ~~will be.~~ After ^{that} ~~that~~ of course it will be all over.

And now Hugh, after you this will be all over - ~~for~~ until tomorrow.