

EXPLOSION

*C.T. - Standard. Tuesday, Aug. 29, 1944.
Sunoco.*

In England the people are puzzled tonight, perplexed by a strange explosion heard across the English Channel. A violent shock came from the French rocket coast, a blow-up followed by a tremendous rushing noise. The people in those parts right away ~~xx~~ surmised "V-Two". For weeks all England has been ~~xx~~ speculating ~~xx~~ about the new secret weapon which the Germans have announced, the V-Two, supposed to be a giant rocket bomb far more powerful than the robots which ~~xxxxx~~ have been blasting London. The new Nazi secret weapon is supposed to carry some ten tons of high explosive.

These English apprehensions give a tone of ~~high~~ dramatic suspense to the strange explosion across the Channel - the blast followed by the great rushing sound. Some thought immediately that it was a giant V-Two rocket bomb being sent on its way. But if so, it didn't land in England, apparently. Then the surmise was raised that maybe one of the new monsters had blown up as the Nazis were launching it. Still another guesses are ~~xxxxx~~ that an ammunition ship may ~~xxxxx~~ have exploded along the German-held-coast.

FRANCE

There is many a veteran of that other World War, many a doughboy of the A.E.F., who will think he is dreaming of times past, when he hears the war news from northern France tonight. The dispatches have pointed out repeatedly that the Allied offensive there was ~~storming to~~ *sweeping across* the battlefields of nineteen fourteen-eighteen. And tonight this comes to a climax - with the news featuring such nostalgic names as Chateau-Thierry, Soissons, Reims, the Aisne, the Marne and the Somme, and the Hindenburg Line.

Yes, Mr. Ex-Doughboy must think he is back fighting his battle of more than twenty-five years ago. But he will think his dream is a wild one. ~~He will imagine that old war has gone crazy, gone into weird fast action.~~

What it took him and his comrades weeks and months of bitter fighting to accomplish, is being done now in the space of hours. The ground that Pershing's doughboys on foot had to gain yard by yard in slow and bitter trench fighting, Patton's armor is eating up in great rolling strides of battle.

In a dazzling drive of twenty-five miles, American columns have forced the Marne and crossed the Aisne. They have captured Chateau-Thierry, where the going was so long and hard, and costly in blood, those years ago.

And today American armor swept into Soissons.

In the last war, the Germans held Soissons for four years, and lost it only in the final collapse. Today the sweeping advance of Patton's tanks took Soissons without a fight, the German forces ripped apart and in full retreat.

Southwest of Soisson is a plateau across which, in nineteen eighteen, the ^{U. S.}~~United States~~ First and Second Divisions fought their way in four days of savage battle - four days to advance seven miles. Today, American tanks slashed across that plateau as fast as their tractors could roll.

The speed of the offensive is indicated vividly by figures for the separate American armored columns that are driving ahead. One slashed ahead

sixteen miles from Soissons today. Another drove fourteen miles from Meaux on the Marne. A third advanced twenty miles east of Chateau-Thierry. A fourth captured the ancient city of Chalons after a dash of nineteen miles.

The summary is this - the Germans have lost the lines of the Marne and the Aisne, the lines that the Kaiser's Germans defended so stubbornly in the previous war. The Nazi forces are pulling back to the line of the Somme, which once was so important a part of the Hindenberg line.

Remember that Hindenberg' line, ^{men?} ~~follows~~ - that system of German trenches and fortifications which seemed almost unbreakable? Well, today's news indicates that the Nazi will not be able to make much of a stand on the Somme, no Hindenberg line this time.

Yet, in a way history is repeating itself, but in a different style. It was just twenty-six years ago, at the end of September, that the Americans broke the Hindenberg line - and the Kaiser's final collapse

PARIS

This was a day of days in Paris. The American Army made its formal entrance. As for the cheers and tumultuous acclaim of the Parisians, we can best describe these by quoting what one G.I. said today. He remarked with a broad smile: "My old man told me what a wonderful reception Paris gave him when he marched through here during the last war. But, brother, I bet it wasn't anything like this..."

And by the way,
All German resistance in the Paris area has finally been suppressed - the last being a Nazi suicide fight at the great airfield of Le Bourget. There some die-hard Germans fought with forlorn desperation, but now that's over too.

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began. This time, late August, we are a month earlier, and the same thing is happening to Hitler's Germany - in a series of events so very much faster.

P.S. you ex-Doughboys may be interested in one more similarity - it is still raining over there.

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In the south France invasion, American and French forces today completed their victory over fifteen thousand Nazis trapped in the lower valley of the Rhone. A late story tells that one German force managed to escape from the trap. They got away, after having lost most of their equipment - which would seem to make them just a mass of fugitives. ~~All that remains now over great areas of the countryside is to round up isolated parties of Germans.~~

~~One lightning swift drive is on its way west to the Spanish border. Another column, striking from captured Grenoble, has pushed to the frontier of Switzerland.~~

→
sent from
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PARIS AIR ATTACK

Tonight we have an explanation of why the Nazis were able to bomb Paris immediately after its occupation by the Allied forces. ~~We know that we have command of the sky over France - so how were the Nazi bombs able to get through the Allied day and night fighters?~~ The answer is - that old bedeviling element, the weather. It was a perverse trick of the weather that enabled the German Air Force to hit Paris.

~~We are told that days before Paris was captured, American and British Squadrons of the sky were organized for the defense of the capital of France And they were on the alert on the night of the Nazi bombing raid.~~ *Allied fighter* ~~But the~~ planes couldn't take off - because of dense low lying clouds that hung right over the tops of the trees. This was a local condition that affected the flying fields assigned for the defense of Paris. The German Bomber Bases far away were in the clear - the trick of weather giving the enemy his chance.

~~Sky and cloud conditions over northern France~~

RUSSIA

Moscow announces the capture of the great
Rumanian port of Constantza, which the Nazis used
as a basis for what warships they had in the Black
Sea. One wonders where the Nazi boats have gone now -
or were they captured?

The Germans declare that Russian troops today
crossed into Hungary, a Nazi news agency announcing
a Soviet invasion of Hungary at two points.

At the same time, we hear of the panicky
resignation of the Hungarian cabinet - together with
other indications of feverish moves to get out of the
war.

GERMANY

I don't know how much truth there is in this next report - but it has one astounding twister. Hitler playing the second fiddle ... the story comes via Stockholm, and states that Germany is now being directed by what is called - "A government of implacable resistance." And this, the rumor continues, is headed by Gestapo Chief Himmler, with Hitler second in command.

It is hard to imagine the Nazi Fuehrer putting ~~him~~ himself in second place. He may not be so good on the violin, but he has always insisted on playing first fiddle - fiddling while Germany goes to its doom. Hence the surprising novelty in the report about a Nazi "Government of Implacable Resistance," - Himmler first, Hitler second....

~~More factual is another news dispatch which gives a graphic indication of how the Germans feel about the war.~~

Today a big time Berlin radio commentator, Lieutenant General Kurt Dittmar, gave the most pessimistic review of the war situation the Germans have heard thus far. He admitted that Naziland

is drawing near to complete defeat, and stated flatly that during the past few months, Germany has lost what he called, "Considerable parts of what we believed were firmly in our hands." Which is a fair-to-middling way of representing the loss of France, Poland, etc.

In one way, today's pessimistic review was a bid for peace - the Nazi Lieutenant General radio commentator stating that Germany would now fight on for the purpose of gaining moderate terms, battling merely to avoid unconditional surrender.

PACIFIC

In the war of the Pacific, General MacArthur's headquarters reports the heaviest blow yet against the big Japanese base at Amboina, in the Dutch East Indies. The Japs there were assailed by a ~~new~~ powerful fleet of the sky, which returned without the loss of a plane. It was the fourth attack against Amboina on as many days, and constitutes another air strike in preparation for a drive to the Philippines.

— 0 —
Now Hugh, your Stan. of Cal.
message, and then I have a lot
more news.
— 0 —

DD DUMBARTON OAKS

We have an announcement that the International Conference at Dumbarton Oaks has reached a general agreement on three broad principles, ~~These concerning~~ an international organization to preserve the peace.

First, an assembly, composed of the representatives of all peace-loving nations - the assembly to be run on the principle of sovereign equality.

Second, a council, a smaller body. This to consist of representatives of the big powers, together with delegates of a certain number of smaller nations which will be elected to membership on the council from time to time.

Third, an international court of justice for the peaceful settlement of disputes between nations. Also the use of force to preserve the peace - though this is described in exceedingly diplomatic language.

~~And we have a statement from American delegate Stettinius, who explains the secrecy that surrounded the deliberations of the conference - the secrecy against which there has been much protest. He points~~

ADD DUMBARTON OAKS

At his press conference late this afternoon, President Roosevelt stated that the idea was to form a world security organization very different from the old ^{League} ~~League~~ of nations. That is - much more workable. The main objective, said he, was to have a world association that can step on the necks of wars before they grow up.

AIRCRAFT

A lot of American airplanes are going to be destroyed - that is if Assistant Secretary of War Lovett has his way. He today recommended a huge ~~XXXXXX~~ scrapping program to be put into effect in our Air Forces after the war. Why? To get rid of obsolete equipment. Not that the planes with which we are ~~fight~~ fighting the air battles overseas are out of date - but they will be, says he. ^R Assistant Secretary Lovett ~~made his declaration before the meeting of the National Association of Broadcasters in Chicago - giving the radio men some inside information. "Our safety lies in progress," said he. And he~~ told how the progress of American military aviation after the last war was checked by a surplus of first World War equipment. For example, we had a lot of Liberty Motors left over. ^R These were used during subsequent years, and kept our Air Forces from ordering new motors - (discouraging the development of new types.) The surplus of Liberty Motors, said the Assistant Secretary, lasted for ~~f~~fourteen years, and did a lot to hamper the

development of American air power.

This sort of thing, he said, must not happen again. Our surplus aircraft after this war must be, in his words - "unemotionally and purposefully scrapped.

All of which raises the likelihood of a big program for the destruction of airplanes, a program as big as those two big words - unemotionally and purposefully.

HUNGER STRIKE

At Fort Stanton, New Mexico, twenty-six interned enemy aliens, Germans, are on a hunger strike - or are they? There seems to be some doubt.

Twenty six German civilians are confined there, including the notorious Fritz Kuhn, one-time Fuehrer of the Bund. They made complaints about recreation facilities in the camp, and a week ago announced they were going ~~km~~ on a hunger strike. Since then they have refused to accept a bite of food. The story is disclosed only now, and a twist of doubt is expressed. Officials make the surmise that the twenty-six interned Germans may really have ~~supplied~~ supplies of food hidden away, and are eating on the sly. At any rate, they fail to show signs of starvation, and therefore no attempt has been made to keep them alive ~~gm~~ by forced feeding. Maybe the hunger strike is just a Nazi fraud - with hidden food providing secret suppers.

SOLDIER VOTE

The question of the soldier vote overseas has reached a curious climax in Ohio - a climax of black lead pencils. Today the State Auditor, ~~Joseph T.~~ Ferguson, delivered a blast against Governor Bricker of Ohio, ~~who is likewise the Republican Vice-Presidential candidate.~~ The State Auditor claims the soldier vote law in Ohio will prevent many of the boys overseas from voting - because they may not have black lead pencils.

In the law there is one provision which prescribes how soldier ballots shall be marked, and the method named involves the ~~xx~~ use of that most familiar of all writing implements - the one ~~that~~ we fish for and usually haven't got when we need it for marking down something. Apparently it won't be okay if the soldier uses a blue pencil, or maybe violet ink, ~~in xxx marking his ballot, or if he inscribes it in gold letters like an illuminated manuscript of the middle ages.~~ According to Ohio law, he must resort to the black lead pencil.

(And he may not have one, argues the State

Auditor. So what is to be done about it? The demand is made that a black lead pencil be sent with every soldier ballot.

Which certainly would mean a lot of pencils - there being a lot of Ohio troops overseas. It might even cause a shortage of that humble instrument for writing - along with the other shortages. ~~And~~ Imagine the astonishment of G. I. Joe when he gets a perfectly good black lead pencil along with his ballot. ~~Okay~~ he'll smile, and use it for a lot of other purposes as well. ~~Like writing home to the girl friend.~~

~~However all that may be, the Ohio State Auditor vows that he is going to court about it, and I hope the legal documents are written out with a black lead pencil.~~

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt tonight announces that he will make his first campaign speech on the night of September twenty-third. In Washington, he will address a dinner given by Daniel J. Tobin, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. The President added that in seeking a fourth term, he will not make a nationwide campaign tour - because he has too much to do.

On the other side of the fence, Republican Candidate Dewey will make his first major address of the campaign at Philadelphia - on September seventh. So this coming month will see the battle for ballots in full blast.

PUBLIC DEBT

Remember the days when we used to talk about astronomical figures every time the government budget figures got up into the billions? We could always try for a smile, by referring to the astronomers and the kind of ~~xxx~~ arithmetic they use. Nowadays, however, a billion dollars has become ^{— well, almost} as commonplace as a mere petty million - particularly for those of us who regard twenty-five bucks as a lot of money, especially when a friend wants to borrow it.

Wartime has brought our star-gazing finance to a point where we can start talking in trillions. Today, for example, we have a figure of the public debt. That's the amount of money that we owe collectively, all of us - not counting the grocery bill and next month's rent. Today the public debt soared up beyond the two hundred and eleven billion mark, and that's nearly one-fourth of a trillion. During the past year, the debt took a nimble jump of more than sixty-three billions - on its way up to the dizzy heights ~~of~~ the mathematical stratosphere.

So we owe nearly a quarter of a trillion -
and now, Hugh, how about lending me ^{two-bits for bus} ~~back for fare~~
fare home tonight - home to Hoboken.

PARIS TRUCE

Ever since that premature announcement of the liberation of Paris early last week, there has been doubt and mystery concerning the Armistice between the Paris patriots and the Nazis - the truce that led to the false report. Today we have an account of what happened from a United Press correspondent who was in the French capital at the time. He is Jean de Gandt, a Belgian, who remained in Paris all through the Nazi occupation.

"Even now," he writes, "there is some question as to the exact nature of that truce, but a Communique issued by the French forces of the Interior indicated an agreement that the German command would not attack public buildings occupied by French troops and would treat all French prisoners under the laws of war. The French, on their part," he adds, "agreed to suspend fire against the forces of occupation until the Germans evacuated Paris."

It was on the basis of this Armistice that the liberation of Paris was announced - and then the

whole arrangement broke down. "The truce began well," cables the U.P. man, "but it was only a few hours - before both sides were charging violations, and shooting at one another."

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are always tricky, but the weather experts over there say that the peculiar lay of the clouds that attended the bombing of Paris is unlikely to occur again in any foreseeable time.

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