

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

General MacArthur announces that the northern part of Manila has been entirely cleared of Japs -- the part of the city north of the Pasig River. And American troops are battling to crush resistance in the section of the city south of the River.

The Pasig is a broad, swift flowing stream, and the bridges are all down -- even Jones Bridge, the one saved from destruction by the heroism of a young American demolition officer. Jap machine gun fire kept our men from getting across Jones Bridge and the Japs were later able to sneak in and knock out a section of the span.

One report tonight is that MacArthur's troops have been able to get across the Pasig River on one point, but not in large force, and the belief is that the moping up of the Japs will have to be done by American forces coming up from the South. The southern column is having

visit to former prisoners of the Japs, who had been set free. These still being housed in prisons, Bilibid and Santo Tomas - for ~~the~~ lack of better housing at the moment/ The spiteful Japs have been shelling the prisons, and these have been hit. None of the former captives of the Japs have been killed, but several were injured.

At the prison of Santo Tomas shells hit the building just before MacArthur arrived. He was greeted with embraces and kissed from former women captives, wives of high American officers, old friends of the General. Shortly ~~lx~~ after he left, Jap mortar shells burst again -- exploding nearby. All ~~fn~~ of which added ~~some~~ dramatic fireworks to MacArthur's entrance into Manila.

One next objective seems to be -- Corrigidor.
American warships are shelling that rock, shaped

like a tadpole, which lies in the entrance of Manila Bay. And American troops are moving down the shore of historic Bataan, to take possession of that peninsula -- the southern tip of which is separated by only a couple of miles of water from Corregidor.

But the Japs have forced us to give up our air base after another - these secret air bases which the American Air Force constructed with extreme trouble and toil, and of which they never approved. For the last few years since the case of Bataan and Yonkers, burned and blown up by the Japs, and the Japs closed in. However, this occurs as Manila is captured, Manila - with its great air base, which are to be used for the training of Japs as the last flying field in Japan ever built have been. Even if the Japs had not captured this, the great Japs would have been relatively weak - with a fraction of the Japs' force

CHINA

There is something ironical about the loss of the last American air bases in eastern China - the joke being on the Japs, in a way. The Far Eastern enemy has had a lot of success in his south China campaign, seizing the entire length of the Hankow-Canton Railroad. And the Japs have forced us to give up one air base after another - those secret air bases, which the American Air Force^s constructed with endless trouble and toil, and of which they were so proud. Now the last two have gone, the ones at Namyung and Kanchow, burned and blown up by the Americans as the Japs closed in.

However, this occurs as Manila is captured, Manila - with its great air bases, which are twice as good for the bombing of Japan as the lost flying fields in China ever could have been. Even if the Japs had not captured them, the south China bases would have become relatively useless - with American bombers flying from

the great airfields of Luzon. Today, in fact, General Claire Chennault, our air commander in China, announced that his squadrons hereafter would confine themselves to air blows against the Japs in the interior of China - the long range work being taken over by the American Air Forces based on the Philippines.



Now a Stan. A Cal. message.
Then a lot more important news.

EASTERN FRONT

Both Moscow and Berlin are in agreement on ^{the} main fact about the Eastern Front tonight - the climactic and decisive battle for Berlin has begun. Last night Berlin reported that the Red Army had forced three crossings of the Oder in a sector nearest to the German capital, thirty-three to forty-three miles away. Moscow tonight confirms this and tells of a fourth bridgehead driven across the river. These are being expanded by the Russians, and Moscow states that Marshal Zhukov's army is now, on what it calls, "the broad asphalt superhighway leading like an arrow to the heart of Berlin."

The Russian bulletins today were jubilant, almost lyrical, in their anticipated triumph. And we may well remember that the Soviet war dispatches have been most conservative all along, usually lagging behind German advices in telling of Russian success. So listen to this:- "A wild, spectacular battle is raging this

very minute," says one Moscow bulletin, "and fighting is now going on in the forefield of Berlin." Forefield meaning - the outer fortified area reaching toward the Oder. "Russian armies," continues the Soviet dispatch, "are poised to leap on Berlin. The situation," it concludes, "is wildly promising." Those last two words are really lyrical in the anticipation of triumph - "wildly promising."

The Germans admit that Soviet tanks today drove to the very center of the key fortress of Kuestrin. The Nazis claim that this tank unit was driven out, but say that the major fighting front at that point has surged into the outskirts of Kuestrin - the fall of which will be a big blast in opening the road to Berlin for the Russian armies.

A late dispatch draws one of those historical parallels - telling of the Soviet capture of a place

called Kunersdorf , near the fortress city of Frankfurt.
Kunersdorf is famous in the history of Eighteenth Century
battles, as the place where the Russians of the Czar
defeated Frederick the Great, that demi-god of Prussian
militarism. And the bulletin goes on with the reminder
that the victory at Kunersdorf was followed by a Russian
march into Berlin. However, let's not ~~xxx~~ press the
historical parallel too far - because, in spite of the
Russian capture of Berlin away back in those days,
Frederick the Great still held out and eventually
emerged from the war as something of a victor. A thing
that is most unlikely to happen ^{this time --} in the case of Hitler.

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Here's word just in: Moscow says
5 German generals have been
captured and 8 others found dead,
in the battle for Berlin.

RUMORS

Moscow has word that new peace riots have broken out in Berlin, and Stockholm passes along a rumor that Hitler is preparing to step out as Fuehrer and form a new government - with the idea of making peace. One version is that von Papen will ~~soon~~ be made Chancellor - that same slippery von Papen who, in the course of devious intrigues, enabled Hitler to become master of Germany. The chance of von Papen making any kind of peace arrangement, with Hitler in the background, is exactly zero.

Paris hears that Hitler and other big shot Nazis are still in Berlin, but are ready to skip at any moment - when ^{the} Russian forces draw near.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD WESTERN FRONT

Here's the leadline from the Western Front!:-

-- American forces have smashed completely through the Siegfried Line. That formidable German defense barrier has been shattered in two places -- by General Hodges' First Army and by General Patton's Third Army. And American forces are pushing toward the Rhine in a blazing drive along a seventy-five mile front.

Today's ~~xxxxxx~~ Third Army advance was spectacular,

Patton's men stormed across the border into Germany at ten different points on a twenty-five mile front and smashed for distances up to a mile ^{into} the Siegfried Line. etc.

SUBSTITUTE ~~MAN~~ SOLDIER

The sentence of hanging imposed upon a soldier at Camp Roberts, California has been rescinded. A Court Martial ~~was~~ ^{ordered} to reconsider the death penalty has changed it to life imprisonment. So that's the punishment to be inflicted on Private Henry Weber, guilty of military insubordination -- ~~who~~ ^{he} refused to obey an officer's order to drill.

The penalty of hanging was called off after protest had been made against the severity of the sentence, protest for example, by a political party -- the Socialist Labor Party, of which Private Weber is a member. His wife is an organizational worker in the ^{Labor} Socialist Party and her father is a party organizer in the State of Washington. The soldier himself, stated that his insubordination was based on his political beliefs. Those include the opinion that the present war is a capitalistic struggle and that it is wrong to ^{kill.}

~~WPC~~

The Socialist Labor Party rallied to his defense
contending that Private Henry Weber was entitled to the
status of a conscientious objector, ^{and that} ~~that~~ he had been
badly advised by his draft board, advised to state his
objections after he ~~was~~ in the Army.

CONFERENCE

Well, it's finally official. ^{Yes,} - the meeting of the Big Three is on - and has been for some days, ~~undoubtedly~~ The announcement, issued this afternoon, states that President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin ~~are in full agreement on all military points, and~~ have concluded their discussion of war measures for the final defeat of Nazi Germany. And they have now got around to problems of peace, post-war arrangements. It must have taken some little time, a

couple of days at least, to get that far - and so the recent reports that the meeting of the Big Three was actually taking place were okay - as we all figured.

Where are Roosevelt and Churchill and Stalin meeting? Today's official announcement, issued simultaneously in Washington, London and Moscow, says the conference is being held in the Black Sea area -

which confirms prognostications that we had some little

while ago. The Black Sea area is a large sort of place, but we can narrow things down considerably. On the shores of the Black Sea are Soviet Russia, ^{and} Rumania, and Bulgaria, which are occupied by the Russians; - ^{also} neutral Turkey. You can rule out the latter, and it seems unlikely that the meeting of the Big Three would be staged in one of the recently conquered sattetites of Nazi Germany - Rumania or Bulgaria. ~~So~~ The answer would seem to be - Russia, some Russian place on the northern shore of the Black Sea. It is possible to surmise that in picking an exact spot, the statesmen were not neglectful of the charms of the Crimea - the Russian Riviera. The climate there in winter is perfect - something like ~~Florida or~~ California or the Italian Riviera, or any pleasant winter resort you can think of. I ~~wouldn't want to say that the heads of the~~ ^{Allied} ~~three dominant nations would pay too much attention to~~

such things as blue skies, bright sunlight and balmy breezes - but you can discuss the highest problems of super-statesmanship as well when you are comfortable as when you are shivering - better, maybe. All of which does not matter a great deal, I suppose; but in telling of today's Big Three headline, it is pleasant to think of the Black Sea Riviera - after the weather we have been ^{here} having in New York.

Anyway, the historic palaver is on, and today's announcement informs us that the Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin discussions of post-war arrangements include joint plans for the occupation and control of defeated Germany, and proposals for the earliest possible ~~xxx~~ establishment of a permanent international ~~organization~~ organization to make peace.

SUBSTITUTE FOLLOW CONFERENCE

Here's a tragic footnote to the Big Three story
----a dispatch from London telling of the crash of a
plane carrying members of Prime Minister Churchill's
staff. The latest word from the British capital is that
the disaster to the plane occurred ~~xxx~~ on February First.
So on that day, last Thursday, officials were on their
way to the Three Power meeting. The plane carried
members of the British Foreign Office and the British
War Office. It crashed somewhere enroute to the Black
Sea area ---- just where we are not told. Ten passengers
were killed. Five are missing and are believed to have
been killed. Five were injured. Among ~~thxxxx~~ the
victims were six members of the London Foreign Office
and four members of the London War Office.

The crash was kept secret till now, although
London newspapers were given off the record information
right after it occurred. This was to prevent rumors

that some of the important members of the conference had been killed. It was known for example that British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden was on his way to the meeting of the Big Three, as was Sir Alexander Cadman, ~~the~~ head of the British Foreign Office. The victims, however were specialists and advisors.

British newspapers are printing versions of what happened -- saying that the plane developed engine trouble and plunged into the sea. The London Daily Express states that the engines sputtered and stopped. The pilot tried to head for the nearest landing place on shore, but was unable to maintain ~~his~~ sufficient altitude¹ because of the heavy load of passengers the plane was carrying, and the plane hit the sea and broke in two.

Now Hugh James - a final word.

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FIFTH TERM

Here is something from London on a topic exceedingly American - a fifth term. The LONDON DAILY EXPRESS prints a report from its New York Correspondent, C.V.R. Thompson, who states that President Roosevelt is likely to make an announcement soon about a fifth term. "He may soon make a statement disavowing any intention of running for ^{president again} ~~a fifth term~~" says the New York

correspondent of the London paper. And he explains that the purpose of the ^{Presidential} statement would be to allay

antagonism and solidify unity at home. It would be F.D.R.'s final word on this matter of running again.

And now H - what's your final word - for tonight.

SOLDIER

Taken from early te.

The case of the soldier sentenced to be hanged in California acquires a political slant. That is, a political party has rallied to the defense of Private Henry Weber, condemned by court martial for refusing to obey an officer's order.

Private ~~Henry~~ Weber is a member of the Socialist Labor Party, and he states that his military insubordination was based on his political beliefs. These include the opinion that the present war is a capitalistic struggle, and that it is wrong to kill.

We hear that the soldier's wife is an organizational worker in the Socialist Labor Party, and that her father is a Party organizer in the State of Washington.

The Socialist Labor plea against the sentence of hanging is based on the contention that Private Weber was entitled to the status of a conscientious objector, but that he had been badly advised by his draft board - advised to state his objections after he was in the army.

Here's the latest: - the soldier's sentence changed - to life imprisonment.

SINKING

The British disclose belatedly the sinking of a great liner nearly two and a half years ago. It was the ORCADES, biggest and finest ship of the Orient Line, which in peace time was one of the great steamship companies operating between Europe, ~~and~~ the ~~Far~~ East *and Australia.* The ORCADES was torpedoed by a submarine off Capetown, South Africa.

The story, as told two and a half years later, discloses what must have been an epic of rescue. The liner ORCADES had aboard more than a thousand persons, when in the black of night she was hit by six torpedoes. You'd think that would have meant a ghastly loss of life. - But no. A Polish vessel, the NARWIK, steamed to the rescue - and picked up more than a thousand survivors. All but forty aboard were saved ~~in~~ one of those dramatic episodes which censorship has a way of keeping under cover.

WESTERN FRONT

On the Western Front today, the play was taken by Patton's Third Army, which drove for ten new thrusts across the border into Germany. Patton's men stormed ~~across~~ the frontier of the enemy country at ten points along a twenty-four mile front, and smashed for distances up to a mile into the Siegfried Line.

~~defenses~~

The German border at that point is a matter of rivers, not big ones, just medium streams. But they had to be crossed, and they are not frozen. On the contrary, they're flooded, swollen by inundations. The Third Army soldiers got across in boats. The first crossings were made in the dead of night, and without artillery preparation - a surprise. Americans in the boats ran into heavy machine gun and rifle fire, and some of the boats were sunk - but American casualties are described as light. The first river crossing^s made₁

RETAKE

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successfully, others followed, until a total of ten were piled up - ten new thrusts into German territory.

PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines the next objective seems to be -- Corregidor. American warships are shelling that rock, shaped like a tadpole, which lies in the entrance of Manila Bay. And American troops are moving down the shore of historic Bataan, to take possession of that peninsula ~~the~~ the southern tip of which is separated by only a couple of miles of water from Corregidor. *P* The Japs, occupying that southern tip after the tragedy of Bataan, had an easy time shelling the rocky fortress -- which resisted bravely until overwhelmed. Now the American army seems about to do the same thing all over again -- in reverse, the Japs on Corregidor ~~getting~~ *about to get* the medicine this time, the explosive medicine from high ground artillery positions on nearby Bataan. *P* American observers report no sign of life on Corregidor, but the Japs are undoubtedly there -- deep down in the underground caverns, which once ~~was~~ sheltered the Americans. MacArthur's purpose in recapturing Corregidor is obvious. The island dominates the entrance to the great harbor of Manila, and its capture will open

{ that most strategic port to American shipping.

The ^{great} fires in Manila were out tonight, for the most part. The tremendous conflagration set by the Japs has burnt itself out -- leaving scenes of black devastation along twenty of the best streets in Manila. The huge fires caused hardly any loss of life, but thousands of Filipinos are homeless, and today they are shouting a vengeful slogan -- "Burn Tokyo!"

And, General MacArthur ~~today~~ made his official entrance into Manila; ~~and~~ received ^{ing} a fervid ovation -- MacArthur, who had said he would return. Today he completed his return -- driving ~~ix~~ into Manila in a staff car. He paid an immediate visit to former prisoners of the Japs, who had been set free. These ~~were~~ still being housed in prisons, Bilibid and Santo Tomas -- for the lack of better housing at the moment, The spiteful Japs have been shelling the prisons, and these have been hit. None of the former captives of the Japs have been killed, but several were injured.

At the prison of Santo Tomas shells hit the building just before MacArthur arrived. He was greeted with embraces and kisses from former women captives, wives of high American officers, old friends of the General. Shortly after he left Jap mortar shells burst again -- exploding nearby. All of which added ~~xx~~ some dramatic fireworks to MacArthur's entrance into Manila.

And here's MacArthur's latest: — all of North Manila is now cleared of the Japs.

FOLLOW CONFERENCE

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