

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC E.I. - Standard. Friday, August 25, 1944.
Sunoco.

A great American air blow in the southwestern Pacific is reported, an assault against Japanese shipping near the ^{large} island of celebes - that most peculiarly shaped island in the Dutch East Indies. Billy Mitchell bombers sank a light cruiser and forty vessels of smaller size.

~~GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY.~~

Well, tonight we can have our Parisian story of day before yesterday ^{- we have it} all over again, though not with quite so much enthusiasm and elation. That premature announcement of the liberation of Paris rather takes the edge off the real thing. ~~It is hard to do it all over again - with so much spontaneous fervor, emotion, rapture. The disillusion that following the premature liberation cramps one's style.~~ But, anyway, tonight we can bear down on the fact - that it's true this time. Paris (today) was liberated, ~~one hundred percent.~~ There is no doubt about it. In fact, we can echo the Gilbert and Sullivan line: "Of that there is no matter of doubt, no possible, probably ~~x~~ shadow of doubt, no possible doubt whatever".

So having put ourselves on the ground of unquestioned factuality, let's proceed.

Tonight Allied forces are in complete control of the capital of France, not a German soldier left in the historic city - save as a prisoner of war.

The Nazi garrison, which had fought fiercely, either cleared out or surrendered. Today General DeGaulle head of the French Committee of National Liberation, is in charge of civilian affairs in the capital of the republic. Over the Paris radio, DeGaulle announced the liberation of the city and promised that all the rest of France would speedily be cleared of the Nazi.

The end of the dream was played today with flaring violence, ~~xxxxxx~~ bitter fighting in the streets. A German account this morning told of a battle for the Louvre - that fabulous storehouse of treasures of art. The German story was that a band of French patriots had seized the Louvre and were being assaulted by German troops. We have no word of any havoc that may have been created among the treasures of art.

After the report of an Armistice, which caused the premature report of the liberation of Paris, the

the patriot forces fought savagely - feeling they had been tricked. The Parisians threw up barricades, in the historic way of insurrection in Paris. Behind the barricades they fought against the German troops - just as their Parisian predecessors had fought in street-battles of the past. But they were over - matched by the modern weapons of the Germans, and were having a bad time - when regular military forces, a French armored division, drove into the city. They found hundreds of patriot bodies littering the streets. The armored division had sharp fighting on its hands, but soon put an end to German resistance. The ordeal of Paris is all over now, and the great capital is gay Paree once more. There is simply no describing the jubilation of the Parisians, the cheers, the acclamation that hail this event of glory! Paris liberated!

The welcome given the troops of ~~liberation~~ liberation as they poured in, was a thing of madness and frenzy. One American newspaperman who was among the first to enter the city today, describes it in terms of - kisses

The French have always been great for ~~ki~~^{ss}ing - and United Press correspondent James McGlinchy writes of the scene in these words:- "They climbed all over our jeeps, and kissed us. They dismounted from their bikes and kissed us. Lord, how they kissed us! I didn't think it was possible", he adds, "to be kissed by so many people, so many times, in such a little while".

Now what is that strain of sentimental music that seems to come wafting on the breeze? I think it is that old Victor Herbert waltz, "Kiss Me Again".

FRANCE FOLLOW LEAD

The news from the critical battle front north of Paris is none too precise tonight. But then precision may be impossible when the state of affairs is one of confusion. The principal thing that we know is the general fact that the enemy army is withdrawing as fast as he can from the imperilled sectors along the River Seine.

Today Allied troops reached the mouth of the Seine at Honfleurs (on-flur). That's only five miles from the great port of Le Havre.

They are pushing along against little or no opposition -- the Germans back-tracking that fast. Allied air observation reveals the Nazi forces streaming eastward everywhere, masses of men and motorized equipment clogging the roads in a huge retreat. And this leads to one of today's headlines - the Nazis preparing to evacuate the rocket coast.

London is praying for that -- London under the robots, and it seems as if a British prediction that we had a couple of days ago might come true -

the prediction that the Allied Army will occupy the rocket coast over this coming weekend. That would mean the seizure of a vital section of the shore, with such well-known cities as Calais and Dieppe. In any case, the picture tonight is one of getting out, the Germans on their way. Where they will stand next in northern France is still a mere guess.

In the sector south of Paris, Americans are reported to have taken the cathedral city of Rheims. This word is flashed from London.

Much farther down the line, in the south France invasion, American troops today reached the valley of the Rhone - in the vicinity of ~~the cities of Arles~~ and Tarascon. At last report, they were only a few miles from the great river, the Loire.

In the mopping up operations along the coast, the capture of the resort city of Cannes was completed today, and the Riviera town of Anthibes (an-teeb) was taken.

The latest is that Allied Forces on a two hundred mile front are rolling the Germans back toward the Rhine, and one American spearhead has crossed the River Marne so famous in the first World War.

ROMANIA

Romania has declared war on Nazi Germany! - So says the Bucharest radio. And that completes the Rumanian flip-flop - making peace, ~~xxx~~ joining the United ~~Nxx~~ Nations, and now declaring war against the former Nazi ally.

This news had ~~an~~ an immediate sequel today - with a dispatch saying that the Germans today bombed Bucharest. The Luftwaffe may not be so good against American and British air power, but it is still capable of smacking ^{the} Romanians, and bombing Bucharest.

Fighting is still going on between Rumanian troops and the Germans. We are told that in Bucharest whatever Nazi troops were there have been captured, and a violent battle is said to be on at the Black Sea Port of Constanza.

The Germans are pulling out of R^umania, getting out what forces they can. This was stated today by the Berlin Radio.

RUSSIA FOLLOW RUMANIA

The Soviet invasion of Romania ~~is~~ is now a matter of mopping up German forces caught between the Red Army and the belligerent Romanians. Soviet forces are sweeping on and rounding up great hordes of Nazis.

Farther to the north, in the Baltic area, Moscow announces the ~~xxxxxx~~ capture of the Esthonian city of Tartu, one of the great German bases in the Baltic states.

AIR WAR

With its armies reeling back in France, Nazi Germany took another heavy pasting from the air today - a twofold beating. Great airmadas flew from both ~~Britain~~ Britain and Italy, and assailed war targets in Naziland. The sky fleet from Britain numbered more than twenty-five hundred bombers and fighters, which sounds like a record for magnitude^d. The squadrons of the air hit oil and aircraft targets ~~and~~ ^{throughout} the length of Germany. ~~What were the air battles like? Nothing much. The heavily beaten luftwaffe gave scarcely any opposition.~~

The ~~new~~ bombers based on Italy numbered five hundred, and their goal was aircraft factories and air bases in Czechoslovakia. These they hit with plenty of havoc. - ~~More~~ ^{More} damage done to Hitler's crippled air power.

And now, ^{Hugh} it's your turn -
and then more news. A lot more.

CHURCHILL

There is important news about Winston Churchill in Rome. It tells of a long conference the British Prime Minister had today with Pope Pius the Twelfth. And from Vatican sources we hear that the talk covered broad questions of the peace to be made after the defeat of Germany.

Pope Pius is said to have urged that, in the framing of peace terms, the principle of nationalities be maintained, the Pontiff arguing that nationalities do not die. And among the nationalities foremost in the Pope's mind was Poland. The head of the Roman Catholic Church pointed out to the British Prime Minister the terrible sacrifices that the Poles have made in this war, and spoke at length in their favor.

At the same time, we are told Pope ^{Pius}~~XXX~~ hoped that the Polish question would not cause friction with Soviet Russia. Today's news dispatch tells us that the papal attitude toward Russia and Soviet Communism is what the dispatch calls - "benevolent waiting".

One of the things discussed by the Pontiff and Prime Minister was the punishment of Nazi war criminals. The Pope is said to have told Churchill that the Roman Catholic Church recognizes the justice of inflicting due penalties on Nazis responsible for the many brutal outrages.

~~But that is only one item of important news about Winston Churchill in Rome the other tells of a great press conference. The Prime Minister talked with the news correspondents, and made a number of headline statements. This happened two days ago, and Churchill was at his best - with important disclosures and witty exchanges of talk.~~

The news men went ahead and wrote a full account of the big time Churchill interview for transmission on the press wires. ~~So what have we tonight? Maybe you think I can recite some of those Churchill revelations, and tell the headline things that he said.~~ But, alas, ~~no.~~ The stories of the Churchill interview had to go ~~through~~ through the

MERRILL

One of the strange stories of recent months has been the tale of a ~~breakdown~~ breakdown of morale in that famous outfit of fighters² in Burma -- Merrill's Marauders. *Today in Wash,* Brigadier General Frank D. Merrill said that gossip was largely responsible for the stories. One version has been that men volunteered for the ~~an~~ dangerous job in Burma on the promise that they would be soon sent home to the United States. Nothing to it, says Brigadier General Merrill -- no such promise was made.

And then he gives an explanation of the reports that some of his men ~~had~~ were ordered to the fighting line when they were in hospital sick beds and virtually invalids.

"At one time", said he, "when our forces were attacking the ^{upper Burma} town of Myitkyina, the local commander thought the Japs were coming up in strength. ~~xxxxxx~~ He asked me to send reinforcements. I was in the hospital at the time", says General Merrill", and I asked General Stilwell to send back as many men

as he could. In passing General Stilwell's message around", he concludes, "it was finally interpreted to mean -- send back all men fit to walk".

This was an error, but it was not discovered until men had actually been flown to the front - hospital cases unfit for combat duty. And that aroused ~~some~~ considerable indignation among Merrill's marauders; and ^{then} reports were circulated of a breakdown of morale among Merrill's Marauders.

The noisy wrangle in the War Production Board came to a climax today, with intimations that W.P.B. Chairman, Donald Nelson himself, may be on the way out. Of course, he's on the way to China, but that ancient land ^{of Far Cathay} may be just a way-station on the road back to private life.

Some while ago it was announced that Donald Nelson was scheduled to go to China on important government business, and that he would be away for several weeks. (Then later President Roosevelt indicated that Nelson's trip to China might last a good deal longer than that. Which drew a loud protest from Nelson. It looked as if he were being put on a Chinese shelf during the critical days at hand, the days of the probable end of the European war. However, Nelson was given reassurance - his trip to China would really be for only a few weeks.)

All this caused certain cynics to smile - they recalling that Vice-President Wallace took a trip to China shortly before he was eased out of the

Vice-Presidential nomination. China began to sound like Siberia - a trip to the ancient land of ^{Kubla Khan} ~~Cathay~~ assuming the aspect of an American political voyage to oblivion.

Then, yesterday, we had the news of the resignation of the Vice-Chairman of the War Production Board, Charles E. Wilson - he getting out. There had been much report of disagreement between Chairman Nelson and Vice-Chairman Wilson, and Wilson in resigning said he had been the target of unfair criticism from the Nelson side of the fence. So, he was quitting, and this seemed a victory for Nelson - as he was about to start for China.

But what have we today? In the first place, the President has appointed an acting Chairman to run the W.P.B. while Nelson is away - Lieutenant Commander J. A. Krug, who in times past was a Vice-Chairman of the Production Board.

And shortly after that, the word at the White House was that Donald Nelson might not resume his

W.P.B. job when he returns from China. This was indicated by President Roosevelt himself, at today's White House News Conference. He was asked whether Nelson would carry on as Production Board Chairman when he came back. In answer to this, the President said - he didn't know.

~~(So maybe both Nelson and Wilson are out. And to this we can add reports that the whole thing traces to a faction of left wing New Dealers of the W.P.B., who want to get some socialistic ideas across - and are happy to see both Nelson and Wilson go, Nelson being, at least, on his way to China.)~~

What's that old cynic saying over there in the corner? With a sour smile, he's uttering reflections on various ways of firing people. He is remarking that one old-fashioned formula was: "Your services are no longer required." But nowadays, with all those global ideas, the newer form might be: "Here's a ticket to China."

PREDICTIONS

Here's an item to end the weeks on - one for us to talk over across the dinner table: -
Here are

Some predictions about the end of the war. In Washington, Congressman Woodrum of Virginia, Chairman of the House Committee on Post-War Military policy, declared today that the Army expects the war with Nazi Germany to end in October. The Army's expectation is - tentative, said the Congressman.

This follows something from General Eisenhower, who is quoted by Secretary of the Navy Forrestal. Eisenhower says: "By all rational standards, the German Army would roll over now." But the standards are not so rational. And General Eisenhower goes on to say that the German Army is not likely to collapse soon because, in Eisenhower's words: "Any revolt leader will find a pistol bullet in his liver the next minute."

As for the war against Japan, here's the Navy assumption on that score. It is given by Rear Admiral James H. Irish, who today told a Congressional Committee that the high command of the fleet is, in the Admiral's words: "Assuming that the war against

PREDICTIONS - 2

1/2 Japan will continue at least until the end of
nineteen forty-five."

Those are some mighty
interesting predictions. Something
to ponder over this weekend, Hugh.

There is one large element of doubt in the south France invasion, and this concerns the speedy American column that drove north so fast and so far and captured the city of Grenoble. We haven't ~~heard~~ heard about that flying column for a couple of days, and it's goings are a mystery. However, one report today was that American troops have reached the vicinity of the city of Lyons. If that be true, it must be the flying column, the movements of which are cloaked in official mystery.

censors. The reporters battled for two days, and now, in the end, the censors permit the transmission of only one Churchill declaration. ~~This is on the subject of cigars.~~

A war correspondent asked: "How many cigars a day do you smoke, Sir?" *That was the only sentence passed.*
~~Which is all that we have~~ of the big interview, ~~the rest of which may some day be given to the waiting world years hence.~~