

A late bulletin from the Western Front states "The American First and Third Armies linked armored spearheads near Giessen today." This represents a forward surge of twenty-seven miles during a day of dizzy advances. And the junction of the First and Third Armies at Giessen would seem to give some eloquent indication of Allied strategy in the invasion of the heart of Germany. The drive to the city ~~of Giessen~~ represents a push to the northeast by General Patton's Third Army, and a thrust east by Hodges's First Army. In other words, ~~again~~ the general direction is toward north-central Germany - the direction of Berlin.

We've been hearing about Patton's forces ~~approaching~~ approaching Nuremberg, which is on the road <sup>through</sup> ~~to~~ southern Germany. And one wondered whether the Patton strategy was to cut across the enemy country in that direction.

On the other hand, the plan might be to swing around

northward, cutting ~~into~~ the rear of the retreating German armies. And the First and Third Army junction at Giessen would fit that pattern perfectly. *The latest ~~table~~ of Third Army tanks racing toward the city of Kassel.*

Another late dispatch tells of a swift advance further north, where the British-Canadians <sup>and</sup> ~~of the~~ American Ninth Army are. Radio Luxembourg reports that an American column is approaching the City of Muenster, and that's on the road to Hannover - also <sup>to</sup> Berlin.

It represents the swiftest kind of lunge for miles, and cuts across the northern edge of the Ruhr basin. ~~The~~

*TP* German troops are represented as putting up a desperate fight for that great industrial Ruhr, and only small

Allied advances are reported in the principal areas of

the ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> maze of war factories and coal mines. However, the

Ruhr is being flanked on both north and south - with the

drive to Muenster threatening a quick encirclement.

The Ruhr is the only sector in which real German

resistance is reported. Elsewhere, the news tells of continuing German demoralization. One bulletin describes the front in these words: "the most fluid imaginable." Meaning that the Germans have been unable to establish any kind of defensive line. <sup>R</sup> Officially, the farthest point of Allied advance is sixty-nine miles beyond the Rhine - but this may be ancient history. In fact, everything ~~that~~ we have just heard may become ancient history at any time - with a bulletin today stating that great and sensational advances will be disclosed as soon as the news blackout is lifted. The security blackout is hiding the extent of the latest Allied drives - sensational, they are called. And United Press ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Correspondent Robert Richards cables: "It won't be too many days or weeks before our Sherman tank gunfire will be heard in Berlin."



## PRISON HOSPITAL

American troops beyond the Rhine have reached the first prison hospital to be captured by the Allies, and what they found enraged them. The hospital, in the German town of Heppenheim, is described by today's news dispatch as, "a living hell of starvation, filth and medical neglect."

An American major, who had supervised other American prisoners, told of a caricature-type Prussian Nazi commander, who was filled with a neurotic hatred for Americans, and who had violated every rule of the Geneva Convention for the treatment of prisoners of war. Three hundred and nine prisoners had been admitted to the hospital, and of these fifty-three had died of starvation, infection, and lack of medical care. The remainder were walking skeletons.

The daily hospital ration was sheer starvation, and the wounds of the prisoners had not been treated for two weeks. All this, in contrast to the way the Allies take care of prisoners of war, giving them the full benefit of the Geneva Convention, and better.



## FOLLOW PRISON HOSPITAL

There were instant angry reactions in Congress, with demands for retribution against the Nazis. However, officials in Washington, who are familiar with the state of affairs in German prison camps, say the hospital atrocity at Heppenheim seems to be an exception to the rule. They declare that American prisoners of war in Germany have in general been treated in accordance with the Geneva <sup>Convention.</sup> ~~Convention.~~ The big complaint has been insufficient food, especially since food shortages have developed in Germany. Also, the flow of Red Cross packages to American prisoners has been halted by the disruption of the German transportation system under Allied bombs.

## PRISONERS

It may seem like a reference to a war of centuries past, to talk of soldiers keeping in line-- under fire. Maintaining a perfect formation -- in a hail of bullets. That's the way the British Redcoats charged up Bunker Hill. The story that comes along today has other turns of strangeness. The soldiers, lined up in perfect formation, had their shirts off, and were ~~stamped~~ stooped over -- with their bare backs facing the sky.

We hear about this from a wounded American lieutenant on the Western Front. He tells how he was one of a thousand prisoners of war held by the Germans. A swift Allied advance ~~approached~~ approached the camp where they were kept, and the Germans ordered them out -- put them into a train of freight cars, which thereupon started eastward. The train was spotted by American strafing planes, which swooped down with blazing guns -- shooting up the train. American bullets killed several of the prisoners, and the German trainmen and guards ran away.

The prisoners forced their way out of the freight cars, whereupon the American planes dived down at them -- taking them for German soldiers. It looked as if the prisoners would be ~~wiped~~ wiped out by their own countrymen.

Then their officers hit upon an idea. They ordered the thousand men to take off their shirts and line up in a formation that spelled P-O-W - prisoners of war. And stoop over with their bare backs to the sky, the rows of white backs to make the message visible to the planes overhead -- P-O-W.

Bullets were hitting all around, as the men took their positions. A formation of planes came swooping. Their guns were blazing, and bullets came streaming down. Several men in the lines on the ground were hit -- the lieutenant who tells the story was wounded. But still the soldiers ~~stayed~~ stooped over, with bare backs, held their positions. Out of a thousand, only one ran away -- his nerves unable to endure the terrifying ordeal of holding that strange line under fire.



Then the planes stopped shooting. They detected the symbolism - P-O-W. They got the idea, and the prisoners saw wings dipped in recognition -- and the planes flew off.

Shortly afterward American tanks caught up with the prisoners of war-- who told how they had saved their lives by lining up in a formation hitherto unheard of in the history of war.

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Now Hugh, your brief word from Stan. of Cal. — then I'll continue.

## HITLER'S FATE

In the London House of Commons, the following hypothesis was considered today - Suppose that a British Tommy should seize Hitler?<sup>?</sup> What should he do? The hypothesis was presented in a bit of parliamentary dialogue.

An M.P., addressing Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, asked: "Would it be the duty of a British soldier who finds Hitler to shoot him or try to bring him back alive?"

The Foreign Secretary responded: "I am very confident to leave that to the judgment of any British soldier."

So, there was official permission, given by His Majesty's Foreign Secretary, to any Tommy in the ranks - permission to shoot Hitler if he catches him ~~alive~~<sup>or</sup> *bring him back alive,* ~~which reminds one of the old line about putting salt on a bird's tail, only first you've got to catch the bird,~~

## EASTERN FRONT

Moscow announces the capture of Gdynia, the Polish port on the Baltic ~~Sea~~, which was built as a companion harbor to Danzig. And this apparently not only cost the Nazis another city - but also a battleship. One report is that the German battleship GNEISNEAU was in port at Gdynia. The German garrison in the city surrendered - and, before doing so, blew up the GNEISNEAU.

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At the southern end of the long and winding Russian front, Soviet troops are continuing their push toward Vienna. Today they captured two fortresses, guarding the corridor through which the Danube flows, and at last reports were within ten miles of the Austrian border - and forty-eight miles of Vienna.



## PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines -- the city of Cebu has been captured. General MacArthur reports that the place was taken with only slight casualties. The city, capital of Cebu Island, has the second best port in the Philippines. The Japs did a lot of destruction, setting fires and blowing up buildings -- but the valuable port ~~was~~ of Cebu was taken almost intact.

PACIFIC

We still have no American word of the invasion of the Ryukyu Islands - which lie at the southern doorstep of the main islands of Japan. Tokyo continues to tell of American landings and fierce fighting, with a great American battle fleet striking ~~with~~ with heavy air blows all along the line of the Ryukyus, right up to Japan itself.

ADD PACIFIC

Tonight's late navy bulletin ~~still gives no~~  
~~confirmation of the Jap story of invasion.~~ It tells  
merely of violent air action, in which American carrier  
planes blasted the submarine pens of the Japs on  
Okinawa Island. Nor does the dispatch from Admiral  
Nimitz give any hint of Japanese intimations that units  
of the Mikado's battered fleet have been in action against  
the big American task force.



## MANPOWER

President Roosevelt asks the Senate to okay the Manpower Bill, which has already been voted by the lower House. He declares that the manpower situation is - still serious. A Senate failure to pass the bill would, in the President's words - "hamper the successful conduct of the war."

Doesn't the way things are going in Europe make any difference? - the collapse of Nazi armies on the Western Front? Many think there'll be a quick end of the European war, and <sup>that</sup> this should alter the manpower picture. The President takes apparent notice of <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ possible early end of the European war by saying: "In the days ahead of us there will be great temptation for workers to leave war plants."

SUBSTITUTE COAL MINE

The soft coal miners of Pennsylvania and West Virginia have voted -- to strike. They ~~soft coal diggers~~ were polled today on the question of whether or not they were in favor of a walkout, if the demands of ~~them~~ their union were not granted by Saturday night. The indications were that they would vote -- yes, and this is borne out by the result -- an overwhelming vote -- to strike.

## FOOD

It is announced in Washington that the United States and Great Britain have decided to reappraise the entire food situation. The two governments are going to survey all requirements for foods, and the supplies available - reestimating the amounts that are needed and the amounts that are to be had. This - in the light of what the announcements in Washington called, "an increasingly critical food situation."

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~~This is in connection with a visit to Washington~~

~~by The British Minister of Production and Minister of Food~~ <sup>are in Washington, and it is</sup> ~~disclosed now that these two London~~  
Cabinet members were sent to this country by Prime Minister Winston Churchill at the invitation of President Roosevelt - in an attempt to settle British-American problems of food.

~~Meanwhile, Congress is looking into the problem - with announcements of investigations in both the Senate~~

## HOLLYWOOD STRIKE

There are new complications to tangle the Hollywood strike still farther -- and it is already complicated enough. Today a committee of members of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees distributed handbills before the big studios, handbills stating that the President of the I.A.T.S.E. has been, in the words of the handbill, ~~bx~~ "pushing Union members around." The strike, which is a fight between unions, has been opposed by I.A.T.S.E. -- though one branch of that organization has come out in support of <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ walkout.

LORD HALIFAX

A new uproar flared in Congress today -- concerning an event staged for British Ambassador Lord Halifax and Lady Halifax down in Oklahoma. They were guests of Governor Kerr, and I suppose the Oklahomans figured that Lord and Lady Halifax were accustomed to foxhunts, and so would appreciate <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ southwestern version of that British institution. Anyway, they staged a coyote hunt.

The uproar comes about because of the fact that, in pursuit of the coyotes, airplanes were used. Today in ~~Ok~~ Congress, Representative Schwabe of Oklahoma declared that eleven planes flew far and wide to spot the prairie wolves, and the Congressman thinks that ~~xi~~ servicemen and warworkers may be irked upon hearing of aircraft being used in wartime for such a mere social purpose -- not to mention the consumption of gasoline.

As for the coyote hunt itself -- we've often heard unfavorable remarks about British foxhunting as a sport, and I wonder what Lord ~~xxx~~ and Lady Halifax



thought of the Oklahoma version, with prairie wolves?

The Congressman describes it as follows:

"Apparently," says he, <sup>"a</sup> few, perhaps three or four, small prairie wolves were turned loose in front of two hundred or more dogs from Arkansas, Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma -- said to be the largest assembly of ~~five~~ highly trained hounds in the annals of coyote hunting," *says the irate congressman. Well,* You'd think that two hundred ~~or~~ such formidable dogs would have been enough -- in ~~the~~ pursuit of three or four <sup>*timid coyotes.*</sup> ~~small prairie wolves.~~ But the Congressman continues:

"Eleven airplanes were used as spotters to show the hunting party the direction in which the coyotes were traveling in their attempts to evade their <sup>pursuers."</sup> ~~handlers.~~

I don't know how badly annoyed the servicemen and warworkers will be about the use of the planes and gasoline, but I should think they'd be enraged by what seems to be a horrible reflection on American dogs -- *the need for 200 of them, plus airplanes.*

*Ah well, here's Hugh.*

## COAL

The coal miners today were taking a strike vote - four hundred thousand diggers of soft coal casting their ballots to decide whether or not to stage a walkout if the demands of their union are not met by Saturday night. The polls will close at eight o'clock this evening, but it seems as if we could announce the general result right now. Apparently, it's a foregone conclusion, the miners voting - Yes. All accounts indicate that in the balloting, which is still going on, they are voting overwhelmingly to go on strike unless the union demands are conceded by Saturday night. In fact, there was a foretaste of a strike today - work stoppages, as the soft coal ~~workers~~<sup>men</sup> went to vote. They took time off from working hours, and coal digging stopped, while they cast their strike ballots.