

WESTERN FRONT

L.J. - Standard. Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1944.  
Sunoco.

Tonight's headline from Europe <sup>tells</sup> consists of a military event with a background of incredible endurance and heroism.

The remnants of the British paratroop force beyond the Rhine in Holland have been evacuated. They were brought across the River in the dark of night - last night and the night before. This was one of the events, apparently the principal event, that was concealed by military censorship - the news blackout of which we heard last night. How many were brought across the river? We have no figures from our side. The Germans claim that virtually the entire paratroop division was wiped out. They say that fifteen hundred were killed and sixty-three hundred and fifty were captured - thus accounting for nearly eight thousand men. The normal strength of the Red Devil Division was nine thousand, ~~which would seem to mean that the number of paratroopers rescued comes to something more than a thousand. These are enemy figures, and must be taken as such.~~

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**INSERT IN WESTERN FRONT STORY AFTER PARAGRAPH ABOUT  
GERMAN CLAIMS**

Late news from British headquarters indicates that two thousand of the paratroopers were rescued, while fifteen hundred of the wounded were left behind. London indicates that the loss of the Red Devils in their daring exploit amounts to seven thousand.

The certain military fact is that the airborne spearhead flung across the Rhine is no more. The force of paratroopers, during <sup>ten</sup>~~then~~ desperate days, constituted a threat to outflank the German defense front along the Rhine. It was a great menace to the Nazi, as long as it could <sup>be</sup>~~be~~ maintained. But it could not be maintained. <sup>Heroic</sup>~~Heroic~~ attempts were made to drive to the paratroop pocket beyond the Rhine and ~~the~~ join forces with it - but the attempts failed. The relief column could not break across the river in sufficient force, and atrocious weather made it impossible for the Allied air force to keep the paratroopers supplied by air.

They held out for ten days, their position becoming increasingly hopeless. Then the decision was made to evacuate them, what was left of them - and this was a desperate job. It was accomplished by two British - Polish regiments, which crossed the Rhine at night and brought back boatloads of the Red Devils.

The elimination of a spearhead beyond the Rhine represents an Allied defeat - small but sharp. At the same time, however, the ten day fight made by the paratroopers resulted in important military gains. By keeping large forces of Germans engaged, the Red Devils enabled the British to thrust as far north into Holland as they did - all the way to the Rhine, though not across it. As things stand tonight, the British salient in Holland has been broadened and strengthened - largely because of the epic of the Red Devils. Without their almost incredible stand, the whole salient might have been wiped out.

The human side of the story is being revealed in accounts given by men who are brought across the river, men who have returned from what is grimly described as -- a patch of hell. For ten days that single <sup>airborne</sup> division endured the assaults of enormous masses of enemy machines. The Germans assail them night and day with concentrations of ~~many~~ mobile artillery and flame throwers. One survivor tells



of the massing of enemy guns and flame against a small bridge held by the Red Devils. He says: "It was like a monster engine spitting flame and smoke and liquid death". Another, a British sergeant, speaks of the pocket beyond the Rhine in these words: "The kind of hell I never dreamed could exist on earth".

One of the returning paratroopers is the American war correspondent, Alan Wood. And he relates ~~xx~~ his story ~~xxxx~~ of how it all ended -- the crossing of the river at night: "We split into little groups, ten and twenty strong," he relates, "and set out along different routes at two minute intervals. We tore up blankets and wrapped them around our boots to muffle the sound of our feet and chose the password -- 'John Bull.' Our Major", he says, "was an old hand - he led the way and linked our party together by getting everyone to hold the tail of the coat of the man in front of him. And so", relates Alan Wood, "our infiltrating column had an absurd ~~xx~~ resemblance to some children's game."

"Cheery patrols", he continues, "went ahead of us, tying bits of white parachute tape to the trees to map our way. It was half light from the glow of burning houses, when we set out".

The news man says that his party was lucky - they got through without being shot at. But another group ran into a machine gun, which raked them with bullets. And still another had to wipe out a group of Germans with gunfire and hand-grenades.

"The worst part", writes the newsman, ~~ix~~ "was waiting for two hours by the river side ~~xxxx~~ until our turn came for the assault boats to ferry us across. The Germans kept sending up flares, and we had to lie flat and completely motionless. We lay low and shivering on a soaking field, with cold rain drizzling down. But we were lucky again", he concludes, "the crossing was quiet".

But not all the crossings were quiet. Some of the boatloads had to ferry across the Rhine under savage fire - in the closing phase of one of the most heroic episodes of the war. The epic of the Red Devils.

## BALKANS

Today a curtain was lifted, a curtain disclosing a whole new war front - a four hundred mile battle that has been raging for eleven days. Another Allied invasion, this one in the Balkans - with the landings on the Coasts of Jugoslavia and Albania.

All along there was fragmentary word of Allied activity among the islands and along the shores of the Eastern Adriatic, but the larger aspect of a new major invasion was hidden by military secrecy. However, today the curtain was raised, and we see the war power of the Allies arrayed in great force on the Balkan Peninsula, with an advance inland - an advance that consists of an intricate maze of many thrusts in a terrain of tangled mountains and valleys, as complicated a battlefield as you will find on earth.

The smaller strategies are not clear, and I am afraid they won't be - in this newest invasion. The pattern of peaks and passes, inlets of the sea and contours of the land, is too much of a jigsaw puzzle to

be easily understood. But the broad fact is simple -

The new Allied invasion force is pushing inland for an eventual junction with the Red Army in Bulgaria, two hundred miles away. And the move is supported by tens of thousands of irregular fighters behind the enemy lines. The Partisan Bands of Jugoslav Marshal Tito.

The most immediate objective seems to be Albania, upon which small and mountainous country the new invasion is pictured as converging - as the curtain rises today.

## ITALY

Things are still going slowly in Italy, where American Troops have been busy repelling violent German counterattacks. The enemy is making a powerful effort to prevent the Fifth Army from sweeping out of the mountains into the Valley of the Po and seizing the City of Bologna. At some places the Americans were forced back by heavy enemy assaults, but the general picture is one of German counter attacks repelled.

On the Adriatic Shore, the British Eighth Army is pushing northward from captured Rimini in a slow but steady advance - as the battle for northern Italy continues to be a stubborn, hard fighting affair.



## RUSSIA

On the Eastern Front, Soviet Troops were pushing to the great port of Riga today, while to the south they seized a city in Hungary, Meaning, the Red Army Invasion of Hungary is in full swing.

The foregoing is from Moscow, while Berlin contributes a bulletin which may be even more important. The Germans announce that the Russians have begun a new and huge offensive against East Prussia. Soviet Troops made a series of violent thrusts along the East Prussian Border, and these now are developing into a major battle - says Berlin.



Over Northern Europe, the weather is bad, and yet a great air assault was launched today - by nearly two thousand American planes, which blasted Nazi war centers in Western Germany. Storms were raging, with dense clouds, hail and rain, and at high altitudes the cold was extreme. And ~~xxx~~ away up there great air battles were fought today.

The Nazi Luftwaffe was in action, putting up a violent defense, and the planes whirled in an air war of the sub-stratosphere - where the cold was almost like that of planetary space.

Losses were heavy, forty-three American heavy bombers and nine fighters failing to return. The Germans lost thirty-six to the American fighter planes alone - the bombers not yet having checked in with figures for the planes that they shot down.

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*I have some important news here from the Pacific. But first a word from Stan. of Calif.*

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## PACIFIC

An official announcement tonight is that American forces are now in complete control of Peleliu Island. That is - with the exception of two small pockets of enemy resistance that remain to be eliminated.

~~The~~ count of Jap soldiers killed rises to more than eighty-five hundred, according to the latest bulletin from <sup>the</sup> headquarters of Admiral Nimitz. ~~On~~ On the MacArthur front, thirty six more tons of bombs have hit the Japs. Long range army bombers flying along the line of the Dutch East Indies have delivered another assault against the enemy in the Philippines - Mindanao. It would seem that the insistent blows against the Philippines could only be climaxed by an early invasion of those island. Anyway, the Japs <sup>ear to</sup> ~~apparently~~ think so.

## SUPERFORTRESSES

For the first time, we have a figure of the number of giant superfortresses flying on a raid against the Japs. The figure is -- one hundred. That many B- twenty nines took part in the two-way blow of yesterday - the Japs hit in Manchuria and China. Not one single superfortress was lost -- that's the official announcement, not withstanding claims made by the Japs.

P.A.C.

It was testified in Congress today that the Political Action Committee of the C.I.O. was, what a witness called - "Part of the revamped blueprint of the Communist Party." This was stated by Robert E. Stripling, Chief investigator of the House Committee on un-American Activities - the old-time Dies Committee.

The Chief Investigator said: "The P.A.C. is receiving the active assistance of all fronts and organizations which rally round the Communist movement. It is also receiving, " He went on, "The active assistance of a number of Officials and Employees of the Federal Government, and the bill is being paid by members of the C.I.O. who are misled by certain Communist-inspired Leaders."

The witness charged that of a hundred and forty-one members of the Political Action Committee - "Over eighty per cent," said he, "Have had affiliation with the Communist Party or its front organizations during the past ten years."

The sum of his accusation was of the largest

possible scope - The allegation that the P.A.C. is part of a Communist plan to destroy the American System of Government by taking over one of the major political parties.



## PARLIAMENT

It was stated today in the London Parliament that we in America are withholding a lot of credit due to the British. One M.P. asked: "Why is it, that from American Newspapers it is almost to be gathered that British Troops are not in the Field at all?"

This was accompanied by a similar query from a Member of Parliament who bears a familiar American name - Astor, William Waldorf Astor. ~~He, of course, is a member of the expatriate branch of the Astor family that became British.~~ Today <sup>Maj. Astor</sup> ~~he~~ intimated that Americans have not been sufficiently aware of the nationality of General MacArthur's Army. William Waldorf Astor, M.P., stated: "The majority of MacArthur's Troops for a very long time were British."

Well, I wonder whether the honorable members are not indulging in some useless worry. I think that most Americans have known that the bulk of MacArthur's ground forces were British Empire Troops, that is - Australians. And, as for the fighting in Europe, the American Press and Radio have put headline stress on



~~the British part in the present desperate battle - the  
British bearing the brunt of the fury in Holland,  
particularly that British Airborne Force north of  
the Rhine, whose heroism has been a dramatic focus of  
American News for days.~~

And ~~yet~~ there might be something in the  
complaints made in the House of Commons today - complaints  
that were directed in large part against British censorship.  
~~In the Parliamentary Debate, the contention was held  
that the American Forces get the break in the news,  
because American Military Censorship is liberal and  
permits a reasonable amount of stories to get through -  
while the achievements of the British Soldiers are  
covered up by the news-killing rigors of British Army  
Censorship.~~

~~I wondered about this today~~ <sup>and</sup> called the  
United Press to ask what their experience had been. As  
it happened, there was in the U.P. Office, a War  
Correspondent just back from the European Battle Front -  
Harrison Salisbury. And he told me that the real trouble

is that the whole British Army Press set-up is inefficient. He said the British don't provide their newsmen with the kind of facilities for getting and transmitting stories that the American Press Officers grant to American War Correspondents. As a result, vivid American news stories are procured and promptly flashed *to us —* ~~across the cables~~ - while British news stories are harder to procure and then are delayed in the sending.

## BRITISH CAPTAIN

London reports the extraordinary case of a British Army Captain on the fighting front, who has resigned his commission and refuses to fight. He is Captain William Douglas-Home, youngest son of the Earl of Home, and a descendant of thirteen generations of British Earls. And he has been in command of a unit of tanks in the bitter battle against the Germans at the Port of LeHavre.

Why is he resigning and refusing to fight? Because of the slogan - "Unconditional Surrender". He writes that at the great port of Le Havre, the Germans fought a hopeless battle rather than surrender unconditionally, whereas they would have yielded if given terms.

Here's what Captain, the Honorable William Douglas Home writes: I do not believe a negative war aim to be worth the bones of one British grenadier. Yet I am to charge forth not as captain of my soul, but as Captain of the Royal Armored Corps; not for my conception of the truth but for what I regard as being

a deliberately false reading of international politics by statesmen playing the old game of ~~the~~ power politics for the ~~second~~ second time in twenty years.

"Am I not to be allowed to choose whether to live for my own ~~ideals~~ ideals or to die for a negative of ideals of two very tired old men?"

In London, the astonished military authorities refuse to say what they'll do about the battlefront Captain who resigns and refuses to fight, because he does not believe in "unconditional surrender".

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And now back to Hugh again,



## BASEBALL

In Chicago today, there was a stately version of the old business of - flipping a coin. It was done by means of long distance telephone calls, the wire being held - while a newspaperman did the flipping.

Why all the ceremony? Well, today's coin flipping might have a lot of big time significance in - baseball, it might have a bearing on which team will win the American League Pennant and thereby go into the World Series.

In the American League, with only a few games remaining to be played, the Detroit Tigers and St. Louis Browns were today tied for the lead. There is a distinct possibility that the Pennant Race might end in a tie, and in that case what will they do about it? The rule book gives the answer. In case of a tie, the issue is to be decided by one game - this to be played at the Home Ball Park of one of the teams in the tie. Which one? That's important - because there's ~~an~~ an advantage in playing on your own home grounds, amid

the cheers of the Home Town Rooters. The rule book says the question shall be decided by the flip of a coin. Hence the solemn and portentous business of heads or tails today.

The coin flipping was done at the office of the President of the American League in Chicago, while long distance communication was held with the Offices of the Tigers in Detroit and the Browns in St. Louis. The Browns had the call, of saying head or tail. A newspaperman spun a coin - and the Browns lost. So therefore - the play-off game, in the event of a tie, will be staged at Detroit.

~~Seems to me they are~~  
~~Of course, the New York Yankees have a~~

~~looking rather far ahead, don't~~  
~~mathematical chance for the Pennant and so they had their~~  
~~you think so Hugh?~~  
~~own bit of coin flipping - just in case. But that's all~~

~~so mathematical, we might just as well leave it for~~  
~~the Professor. I mean Hugh James.~~