

Admiral Nimitz has enforced a news blackout over the movements of the Fifth Fleet ever since it attacked and damaged ^{what remains of Japan} ~~seventeen Japanese~~ warships. There was a report that ^{our Fleet} ~~it~~ was approaching ~~the~~ Okinawa, three hundred miles to the southwest of Japan. The way Radio Tokyo put it was that Admiral Mitscher's task force was fleeing at full speed southward toward ~~the~~ Okinawa.

Okinawa is an island in the Ryukyu group, sixty-seven miles long and about ten miles wide, ~~it is rather~~ thickly populated, ^{with} some four hundred and forty thousand ^{inhabitants} ~~people living on it~~. All the Ruykyu Islands are dotted with airfields, naval bases, naval air stations, and harbors.

Carrier borne planes have bombed the island several times, also land-based bombers from the airfields under General MacArthur.

PHILIPPINES

The next important news ~~we may~~^{to} expect
from the Philippines ~~is~~^{will tell} of the capture of Baguio the
summer capital. ~~of the islands~~. The Thirty-third
division, ~~of Yanks~~, split ~~up~~^{up} into two columns,
~~is~~^{is} ~~are~~^{These columns} advancing on the city. ~~and~~^{are} are now only twelve
miles away. Baguio, ~~is~~ the last important strong
hold the Japs hold on Luzon.

BURMA

B-29s based on India have attacked Rangoon for the second time in a week. More than a hundred of them dropped their bombs on military installations, and storage areas; according to report, with good results. The enemy put up no fighter opposition, flak was moderate -- and they all got back to India.

Rangoon is now the only source of supply for the Japanese forces trapped in the north, in that triangular region between Meiktila, Myingyan, and Mandalay.

WESTERN FRONT

On the Western Front our armies and the British are fighting against a new commanding general -- at any rate a change. Hitler has fired Field Marshal von Rundstedt as Commander-in-Chief on the Rhine, replacing him with Field Marshal Kesselring, who proved such a tough and difficult nut to crack in Italy. His tactics have held the Allies on the Appenine Peninsula for months, and have shown up brilliantly alongside of the daring but unsuccessful attempts of von Rundstedt, whose counter-attack in the Ardennes cost the Germans such heavy losses, in the end.

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During the last couple of weeks, most of us have been under the impression that the big offensive on the Western Front had begun. We thought the advance of Hodges's First Army and Patton's Third was the big push. ~~Itself~~. But today we learn that the capture of Cologne, Coblenz, Worms, and all the other Rhine cities is just a ~~sample~~ ^{prelude -- and that no} ~~That the real show is only now about~~ ^{fewer than four great allied armies} ~~to begin.~~ ^{are waiting the word from Eisenhower to} ~~go~~ ^{launch the main drive.}

The ~~trucks~~^{tanks} and foot soldiers of Hodges' First have now expanded the bridgehead east of the Rhine to a width of thirty-one miles -- i.e., north to south. Today, pushing northward toward the Ruhr, they captured seven more towns.

As for Patton, his ~~men~~ men have cleaned out the last of the garrison at Mainz, which in future will probably be known as ~~Mainz~~^{Mayence}, its ancient French name. Patton, in cooperation with General Patch of the Seventh, has shut the Germans up in a triangular trap, along thirty miles of the Rhine. While Patton's troops go on mopping up the Saar.

Again today every type of plane we and the British have, was out hammering the airfields and railroad centers of the Ruhr. The object of the strategic air forces was to soften up the Ruhr garrisons -- have them softened up for Montgomery when he starts his drive across the Rhine. Bombing everything -- including command posts, and communications.

Montgomery is at the head of a great force

made up of the American Ninth, the Canadian First, and the British Second armies. In order to ~~hide~~^{hide} his operations from the Germans, the Allies for weeks have been throwing up a gigantic smokescreen sixty-six miles long; produced by smoke generators designed by a Princeton professor, Dr. Irving Langmuir. For weeks the Germans, supposedly, haven't known what was going on behind ~~that~~^{that} wall of smoke.

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And about that capture of Ludwigshafen. The Nazis inside the ruined city put up an opposition so fierce our armored columns had to give way to the Ninety-fourth, which did the final clean-up job.

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Tonight's news from the Western Front includes an interesting bit about the Two Hundred and Thirty-Seventh Engineer Combat Battalion; an outfit that won a presidential citation for what it did on D-Day, in Normandy, on Utah Beach. Well, the Two Hundred and Thirty-Seventh has just built a treadway bridge across

the Rhine -- did it in nine hours and eleven minutes. The previous record for such a bridge was twenty hours. This one will carry forty tons' weight, and was thrown across at the rate of a hundred-and-eighty feet an hour. A superb feat of engineering.

off the coast of Britain, and completely obliterated it. Another was dropped somewhere in southern England, and observers who stood a mile off saw great masses of earth, weighing tons upon tons, thrown into the air by the force of the explosion.

The British call it the volcano bomb. Apparently they have used it only against the Nazis. Just one of these, dropped on the Steinfeld Viaduct, caused at least six spans of it to crumble immediately.

Eventually, they expect to use this volcano bomb against the Japanese. According to what Hirohito says in his Imperial and underground messages.

The only type of plane that can carry this volcano bomb, so they tell us, is the British Lancaster. And they had to make a special bombing truck to load it.

BOMB

The British Information Service today gives us information about those monster bombs the Royal Air Force has been dumping on the Germans, the bombs that weigh twenty-two thousand pounds each. In an experiment, one was dropped on a small granite islet off the coast of Britain, and completely obliterated it. Another was dropped somewhere in southern England, and observers who stood a mile off saw great masses of earth, weighing tons upon tons, thrown into the air by the force of the explosion.

The British call it the volcano bomb. Hitherto they have used it only against the Nazis. Just one of them, dumped on the Bielefeld Viaduct, caused at least six spans of it to crumble immediately.

Eventually, they expect to use this volcano bomb against the Japanese. Something more to make Hirohito quake in his Imperial underground ^{hideaway.} ~~hideaway.~~

The only type of plane that can carry this volcano bomb, so they tell us, ~~is~~ is the British Lancaster. And they had to make a special hoisting tackle to load it.

EVACUATION FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

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The army has developed a new system for hospitalizing the wounded. A story from the front illustrates it beautifully. Twenty-four soldiers, injured somewhere near the Remagen bridgehead, were put into a couple of gliders. Nine minutes later, they were in an evacuation hospital fifty miles away. As one of the wounded expressed it: "I got nailed by a Jerry bullet about eight this morning, and here I am ^{away back here} at a hospital for lunch." Then he explained that if he had had to come by ambulance, ^{to the place he termed "way back here,"} he wouldn't have reached there before nightfall, ^{a wild ride over} ~~and it would have been a horrible ride over~~ rough roads.

An officer of the Army Medical Corps pointed out that they expect ~~in good order~~ to evacuate some six or-seven hundred wounded every day by ^{this new} glider-ambulance service. The gliders work both going and coming. On the way to the battle areas they carry four thousand pounds

EVACUATION FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT - 2

of medical supplies, and on the return, a cargo of wounded soldiers.

High, will you take over for a moment?

CASUALTIES

Our casualties are reported to be mounting at the rate of almost twenty thousand a week -- the total today, eight-hundred-and-fifty-nine-thousand, five-hundred-and-eighty-seven, of which a hundred-and-eighty-five thousand, six-hundred and fifty-two are dead, and five-hundred-and-six thousand, six-hundred-and-thirteen wounded. Most of them serving in the Army, which includes the Army Air Forces --- seven-hundred-and-sixty-seven-thousand, six-hundred-and-eighty.

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Hugh, will you take over for a moment?

EASTERN FRONT

The big news from the Eastern ^{in Europe} Front is that the Germans are about to lose their last arsenal, the factories of Czechoslovakia. The Nazis had counted on holding those ^{even} after they lost the Ruhr. Two powerful Russian columns plunged twenty-five miles across Upper Silesia and met at the Sudeten Mountains in Czechoslovakia. ^{Both} ~~These~~ were columns of the First Ukrainian Army under Marshal Konev.

In their advance, they seized and occupied more than four hundred towns of Silesia, including half a dozen large manufacturing cities.

All this Marshal Stalin announced in an order-of-the-day. For thirty-three days we had heard virtually nothing about Konev's army. The Germans themselves, about a week ago, reported a new offensive in those quarters, but Moscow said nothing about it. Another cheering fact about that operation is that ^{the} ~~these~~ two columns of M Konev's army, when they joined up,

surrounded and destroyed some fifteen thousand Germans.

A later bulletin from Moscow reported^S that the Red armies have killed no fewer than forty-five thousand Germans in Upper Silesia. Evidently Konev had a huge army at his disposal, for Stalin's order-of-the-day enumerates no ~~fewer than~~ fifty-six generals ^{who are under Konev,} ~~as among them~~.

The Nazis themselves today announced that no fewer than four Russian armies are pushing down the Danube from Budapest, ^{headed} ~~They are making~~ for Vienna and the Bratislava Gap. The Nazis admit they have been forced to abandon many strong points to the Russians, who are now only ninety-four miles from Vienna.

After the fall of Budapest, the Nazis made a terrific counter-attack, and succeeded two months ago in pushing back the Third Ukrainian Army under Marshal Tolbukhin. By the latest progress in Hungary, the Soviet armies have regained almost all the territory that Tolbukhin lost.

The inference from all this is that the Russians are accomplishing a daring and brilliant piece of strategy. The object is to squelch the widely advertised German plan of making a final desperate stand in Czechoslovakia and Austria. And ^{thus} ~~that will~~ bring the ~~actual~~ end of the war ^{sooner, and} ~~much closer~~. It will ~~completely~~ frustrate ~~Adolf~~ ^{Wagnerian} Hitler's cherished project of holding out indefinitely in the Bavarian and Austrian Alps, ^{and} then vanish in a clap of mountain thunder.

While all this was happening on the southern end of the Eastern Front, the Soviet armies in the north were cutting in two the German garrisons at Danzig, Koenigsberg and Gdynia. Reports from that end of the line predict that the German attempt to hold out to the last on the Baltic coast ^{has turned into a} ~~has become nothing~~ ~~short of disastrous~~. (The garrison at Koenigsberg, is battered and dazed, It is holding out in an area which is at no point more than three miles deep.

Further west, the Soviet armies are fighting through dense forests of beech trees, that protect the approaches to Danzig and Gdynia.

GERMANY FOLLOW EASTERN FRONT

The British Government today warned the Germans that, unless they surrender quickly, they will probably starve in Nineteen Forty-Six. A spokesman for the Ministry of Economic Warfare cautioned the enemy not to expect the Allies to feed them after they have surrendered. This warning followed a Berlin broadcast in which the Nazi government admitted that the advances of the Russians in the east and the Allies in the west, plus the disruption of ~~the~~ the German railroads and *the* ^{whole Nazi} distributing system, has already created an acute food shortage in Hitler's Reich.

The British Ministry of Economic Warfare pointed out that ~~Germany~~ Germany never was self sufficient in the matter of food, always imported at least twelve per cent of what it ate. Furthermore, the Nazi Government has crippled German agriculture in order to boost the war program. ^{and} If they do ^{not} take steps, immediately, to step

GERMANY FOLLOW EASTERN FRONT - 2

up production on ^{German} the farms, ~~not~~ even ^a the ~~most~~ kindly
disposed enemy could ^{it} save them. The Allies ^{we are told,} cannot feed
them, because they ^{Allies} will need all ~~the~~ available food
supplies to feed the people^s in the areas liberated from
the Nazis.

ADD WESTERN FRONT

~~Propaganda Minister Goebbels has begun to admit to the German people that they are in a bad spot. He published an article in which he said that from a military ~~stand~~ point of view the Americans, British and Russians have almost everything in their favor. But~~

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Goebbels continues to hold the great illusion before his ~~own~~ people, the idea that the Allies are quarreling and will split if only the German people will hold out long enough. That seems to be the secret weapon that Hitler dangles before his ~~misery~~ unfortunate followers.

Among the nine members of the British delegation will be two women. One of them, Miss Wilkinson, a laborite and a veteran member of the House, who is also Parliamentary Secretary of the Minister of Home Security. The other will be Florence Horsbrugh, a Conservative, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Health Minister.

DELEGATION

The British delegation to San Francisco next month will be led by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden.

Prime Minister Churchill ^{so} ~~made~~ the announcement ^d ~~ment~~ today. *And,*

The appointment raised a row in the House of Commons.

Two of the Laborite members protested because their leader,

Clement Attlee, who is also Deputy Prime Minister, becomes

just an ordinary member of the delegation, subordinate to

Eden. The Laborites charge that in this move, Churchill

^{is} ~~was~~ trying to ^{seize} ~~grab~~ power for ^{his own} ~~the~~ Conservative ^{party} ~~party~~ with

an eye on the general elections ^{that} ~~which~~ will follow the

European war.

Among the nine members of the British delegation

will be two women. One of them, Ellen Wilkinson, a

Laborite and a veteran member of the House, ^{who} ~~she~~ is also

Parliamentary Secretary of the Minister ^{of} ~~of~~ Home Security.

The other will be Florence Horsbrugh, a Conservative, and

Parliamentary Secretary to the ^H Health Minister.

Churchill resented the criticisms of the Labor members, said they were churlish. At any rate, there will be no change in the appointment.

WIVES

At Stoneham, Massachusetts, a gentleman advertised for a wife. The gentleman in question was recently divorced, which left him, as he put it, "to be ~~an~~ father, mother and general factotum" for his three children. It brought him proposals from divorcees in the Social Register, school teachers, business women, and one dame eighty years old, a grandmother.

~~the rich old lady with the five hundred thousand dollars~~
~~xxxxxxoldxxxxgrandmother~~ The advertisement he wrote must have had umph or something. For, although he is forty-seven years old, he has received ~~xxx~~ fifty offers, including one from a seventy-year-old lady with two country homes and two motor cars, and presumably enough gas coupons to run 'em.

And now Hugh, will you tell the folks about

~~that~~ ~~our wonderful gas, Blue Sunoco.~~ ~~that~~ ~~is~~ ~~the~~ ~~best~~ ~~gas~~ ~~to~~ ~~put~~ ~~in~~ ~~their~~ ~~cars.~~
that Chevron gas to put in their cars.