

For some time there have been reports that the Germans were getting ready to abandon the great fortress of Metz. Tonight the story is officially confirmed. Allied Supreme Headquarters announced this evening that the Nazis have begun to evacuate the area.

General Patton's men in front of Metz today drove through the German fortifications from two directions, from the north, and the south, and captured ~~four~~ four forts, two large and two smaller. The two large forts are part of the nine big forts which constitute the main defense system of Metz. In addition to that, Patton's eight divisions took twelve more towns and advanced along a sixty mile front, at some places as much as four miles.

Meanwhile, the right wing of Patton's army advanced six miles into the Saar district. All this the doughboys accomplished in spite of bad weather which prevented their having any air support. They

are now only twenty miles from Saarbrücken, the
principle city in the Saar.

LOST BATTALION

Last Thursday night an American battalion advanced against the German lines through the thick Christmas trees of the forest of Huertgen. Their Commander was Lieutenant Colonel Franklin Sibert of Hohokus, New Jersey, one of the youngest battalion commanders in the Army. He's only twenty-eight. ~~xxxxx~~

As darkness was coming on, young Colonel Sibert ordered his battalion to dig in on a wooded height. Rain was falling and melting the snow that covered the balsam trees. At dawn the Germans counter-attacked on both flanks. By Friday noon Colonel Sibert and Captain Crocker of Greenwood, South Carolina, and two companies were cut off from the American main lines. They could have fought their way back, but that would have meant giving up their position.

So the Colonel sent word back to the regimental command post by radio and advised the regimental commander that the two companies were well protected, but that the Germans were attacking. Captain McElrath of Corsicana, Texas, an artillery officer, radioed

his battery to let the Germans have it.

Those two companies stayed where they were, completely cut off and isolated all day Friday, all day Saturday. Each day they beat off one counter-attack after another. Back in the main lines pilots of Piper Cub planes were ready to fly over, to drop food and ammunition. But the ceiling was too low, and too much sleet was falling. It was not until Sunday afternoon that a third company of Colonel Sibert's battalion fought ^{its} ~~ixx~~ way forward to establish contact. And this morning the entire battalion followed and rescued the lost companies.

Just a little incident in this, the most terrific war in history? Yes, but it tells a good deal.

Twenty six years ago, Chester Hirschfelder of San Antonio, Texas, was a Captain in Uncle Sam's Army, serving in France. As a matter of fact he had been in the Army since Nineteen Hundred and Nine, in the ranks. Then in World War One he won promotions at Soissons, Chateaur Thierry, and in the Argonne, also the Silver Star, Croix de Guerre and the Distinguished Service Cross. In the last war, he won the reputation of being one of the bravest fighters in an army not lacking men of valor, and many a tale was told of his exploits, of how he had stuck to his machine gun, served it all alone, during an air raid and shot down two planes of that famous flying Circus led by Richthofen, the Red Knight of Germany.

Today Chester Hirschfelder is a Colonel, and the most decorated man in the Second Division. And he's in Europe again. In fact during the great push in

Normandy, it was Colonel Hirschfelder who was personally responsible for his regiment's ~~xxxxxx~~ crossing of the river Vire. He was also leading a platoon to wipe out a German machine gun nest. Eighteen men had already perished in the attack on that nest. So hot was its fire that it held a whole platoon pinned down behind a hedge-row. Suddenly Colonel Hirschfelder jumped up, put his fists on his hips and shouted: "Well, what's holding you up?" One of his officers remarked afterwards: "It looked like the Colonel was trying to get himself killed". The effect of his action was to make his troops jump to their feet and charge like mad.

Whereupon they wiped out that German machine gun nest, and now the Army has added an Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Cross the Colonel won those twenty-six ~~xxxx~~ years ago.

TIRPITZ

The British Air Ministry is jubilant today, and with reason. Early today we heard that a formation of big Lancaster bombers had dropped some of their earthquake bombs, the huge six-tonners, on the great Nazi battleship Tirpitz, the last battlegewagon Hitler has. The first stories reported direct hits on the forty-five thousand ton man-of-war. But now comes the news that the Lancasters have sunk the Tirpitz and lost only one plane in the battle. This was the ~~Eighty~~ eighth attack on the Tirpitz in two and a half years. She was hiding in Tr nso Fjord in Norway. Twenty-nine Lancasters caught her at anchor, unable to maneuver. She sank soon after those huge earthquake bombs hit her, and that's the end of the Nazi Navy.

RUSSIA

The Second Army of the Ukraine today captured a Nazi stronghold thirty-one miles east of Budapest, thereby driving a wedge between the German garrison at Budapest and Nazi defenses on the Czechoslovak frontier.

The fighting in Hungary is now on a hundred mile front, with both sides throwing fresh troops, and more tanks into the battle. ~~Now~~ No word from Moscow -- except that it will not be long before the Russians will have annihilated the main German forces in Hungary, thus knocking that country out of the war.

HITLER

Every radio station in Germany has been working overtime denying the rumors about Hitler, the story that he's ill, or wounded, or in a padded cell, or dead. According to the German radio spokesmen he's in the best of health, going strong, and busy winning the war -- all this in spite of the fact that his latest speech was read by Gestapo Chief Himmler.

One story had it that the Fuehrer's sanity has been growing more and more shaky, ever since Stalingrad, and that the revolt against him on July Twentieth pushed him over the edge.

But all these denials still fail to squelch the rumors. In fact they grew. The latest is that the Gestapo are planning to blow up Hitler's mountain retreat at Berchtesgaden with Hitler inside it. The idea being to make him a martyr, a symbol, a German God.

The word persists that Hitler is no longer capable of tending to his duties, and that Himmler is now the dictator.

CONFERENCE

Winston Churchill and General DeGaulle in Paris, have agreed that the United Nations must establish an iron ring around Germany -- after the war. They also agreed that there should be a firm alliance between Britain, Russia and France -- a permanent alliance. That is, in addition to the general alliance between members of the United Nations.

The British Prime Minister also agreed that France should be allowed to take part in the military occupation of Germany and in the Allied military government to be established after the defeat of the Nazis.

The Belgians also want a share in the occupation of Germany. ~~They~~ They want to take part in the control of the Ruhr and the Rhineland, since the Eastern Frontier of Belgium is only about ten minutes' bombing distance from the Ruhr.

Churchill and DeGaulle were at the front ~~xxxxx~~ today. They visited the advance lines of the combined French and American Army in the Vosges Mountains. Driving through a heavy snowfall they made their first stop at a command post only twelve miles from the firing lines. It was so murky and foggy they could see very little.

The Paris radio today broadcast a story that Stalin has invited President Roosevelt and Churchill to Moscow some time before Christmas. There is no confirmation of it, and London brushed it aside as improbable.

The Japs are still reinforcing and supplying their garrisons on Leyte, but Major General Irving, commanding the twenty-fourth Division says he is confident ~~that~~ he can throw back any counter-attacks the Japs may try.

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Radio Tokio, broadcast a report that our carrier based planes bombed their installations at Manila this morning. Our own commanders have nothing to say about this report.

CHINA

The Japanese claim of the capture of not only Kweilin but Lieuchow, is evidently true. The Fourteenth Air Force reported today that the Americans had destroyed and evacuated the air base there, the last important air base our side had in Eastern China. They now have only two small fields from which they can support the Chinese ground forces against the Japanese.

And today's news from Burma is not so good either. The Japanese are beginning to resist both the British and the Chinese troops in northern Burma more stoutly. Heavy fighting is going on wherever the Allies are trying to advance.

VETERANS

Here is important news for discharged fighting men. The Veterans Administration is now mailing out application blanks for veterans who want home loans. They have already been distributed to the regional offices of the Administration, and will soon be sent to banks, building and loan associations, and similar places.

Under the G.I. Bill of Rights, the Government guarantees as much as fifty percent of the loans made to eligible veterans by banks and other lending agencies.

And here is an announcement from the War Manpower Commission. Veterans who enroll in the Commission's Apprentice Training Service will be paid allowances of fifty to seventy-five dollars a ~~month~~ month, in addition to the wages they earn while learning the trade they have selected. Already some six hundred veterans have enrolled, and there are accommodations for six hundred thousand.

An Army courtmartial today brought in a verdict of guilty against Captain Joe Gould, who once was manager of Jim Braddock. when he was heavyweight boxing champion. The prosecutor charged Gould with having taken a bribe of eighteen thousand dollars. from a shipbuilding company. The court, consisting of thirteen officers, found him guilty of having defrauded the government and ~~dishonestly~~^{ed} influencing the award of seven Army contracts. The sentence followed immediately: Dismissal from the Army, three years at hard labor, and a fine of twelve thousand dollars.

COURT

The Supreme Court of the United States today made it positive that people who have been injured by orders of the War Labor Board may not look for relief in the courts. This ruling is an outgrowth of the Montgomery Ward case when the Marines threw Sewell Avery, the firm's President, out on the sidewalk.

Montgomery Ward asked the Federal Courts to enjoin the War Labor Board from exceeding its jurisdiction. The Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia decided that orders of the War Labor Board are not subject to review in the courts. The Supreme Court upholds that decision. So anybody who ~~dis~~ doesn't like a decision of the War Labor Board is ~~just~~ ~~plain~~ out of luck.

DAVIS

William H. Davis still serves as Chairman of the War Labor Board. He has not resigned, neither has the President relieved him of his duties. Secretary Steve Early admitted that toward the end of August, Davis, who is sixty-five years old, wrote to Mr. Roosevelt and asked to be relieved. But the President ~~asked~~ asked him to hang on for a while longer. And that is how the matter stands now.

Davis himself said he is not the only member of the Board who wants to quit. Two of the members supposed to represent the public, both University professors, are anxious to go back to their teaching jobs. Davis himself wants positively to return to ~~his~~ his law practice by the first of the year. He denied reports that he's resigning from the War Labor Board for reasons of health.

FLIGHT

A new transAtlantic record . It was established
By a Lancaster four-motored bomber, one of those huge
planes the British use to blast the daylights out of
German cities. With a Captain Lothian at the controls
as pilot, this Lancaster flew from Montreal to Prestwick
in Scotland, in ten hours and fifteen minutes, ~~That~~
~~route is~~ three thousand, one hundred miles, ~~and that~~
~~time is~~ ~~xx~~ One hour better than the previous record.

From the West Coast of Ireland to Scotland it took
only thirteen minutes. The average speed was more
than three hundred miles an hour.

LOST

For seven days, Mr. and Mrs. Almeric Bourbonnais looked in vain for their nine year old son David. They lived in a trailer camp ~~at Los Corrales,~~ near Long Beach, California. When the little boy was lost, his father was at a Long Beach naval hospital recovering from shrapnel wounds he sustained ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ the battle of Tarawa. He was released from the hospital to help look for his son.

They found nine year old David today locked in a trunk one hundred yards away from his trailer home. A twelve year old playmate had locked him in the trunk and left him there. During the seven days David shrunk from seventy pounds to thirty five. He is all right tonight. He is just waiting to catch the boy who locked him in. ~~Says David: I'll push him in the face, I'll dunk his head in the oil sump.~~

KISS

At the U.S.O. Club on Boston Common ~~xx~~ the number of visitors yesterday approached the three million mark. So it was arranged that Miss Norma Gleason, ~~xx~~ of Belmont, Massachusetts, a twenty-one year-old hostess at the club, would welcome the three millionth visitor with a kiss.

There was considerable excitement as the total mounted. ~~xxxxxxx~~ Following two million, nine hundred and ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine, in came First Class ^{Bos'n's Mate,} ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Richard A. Henry of the Coast Guard. Norma Gleason, who is a pretty girl, stepped up to him, held up her face, closed her eyes, and waited to be ~~xxxxxxx~~ kissed. To her dismay, nothing happened, until the Bos'n's Mate stepped back nervously and said: "I'd like you to meet my wife," who turned out to be a little blonde Spar.

Here is something about five young ladies who have not been in the news for quite a while, the Dionne Quintuplets. They are now ten and a half years old, and we hear that they are individualists. A reporter asked them a number of questions, and they all gave different answers. On just one they agreed: not one of them would like to be a Queen. Said Emilie: "A Queen has to meet too many people." Said Cecile: "A Queen has to sit down too much." Said Marie: "A Queen can't have fun". And so on.

They also have different ambitions. Yvonne thinks she'd like to be a nun, but she's not sure. Cecile would like to make people happy. Marine would like to look after children. Emilie's ambition is a secret. Annette would like to stay with her parents.

The interviewer then asked them what they like ~~xx~~ about people. Yvonne likes honest people,

Cecile likes people who play the piano. Annette likes people who are happy and gay. Emilie likes people who are good to her. And Marie likes people who are good to other people.

And now here's Hugh, who is good for us even when he isn't good to us.

SUBSTITUTE LEAD WESTERN FRONT

L.T. Standard

Sumoco

November
14, 1944

The latest on the Western Front is a new offensive launched by French troops. Today the First French Army made a lunge at ^{the} Belfort Gap, at the southern end of the battleline, and captured the first line of German positions.

The news from Patton's army is - fortresses falling to the Americans. ~~One after~~ 