

WAR CRIMINALS

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Senocr.

(Philadelphia.)

The greatest man hunt in history is going on all over Europe. Investigators of four nations are combing the continent looking for thousands of Nazi war criminals. The hunt includes the dead as well as the living. They want to be quite sure that they are dead. Number one among these, of course, they want Adolf Hitler.

A United Press correspondent reports today that the Russians in Berlin have found at least four bodies, any one of which might be that of the Ex-Fuehrer. None of these has it been possible to identify, positively. All are so thoroughly disfigured, mainly by flame throwers, that it will take an elaborate scientific study to establish definite identification.

The Russians found all of the bodies referred to, in the underground fortress beneath the Chancellery, on the Wilhelmstrasse. We have often heard of that place. It was a huge subterranean air ~~xxxx~~

shelter, connected by deep underground passages with others beneath various government buildings throughout the city. The defenders of that underground fortress fought bitterly and it took Soviet flame throwers to burn out yard by yard the last underground stronghold of the Nazis, where Hitler may have perished, screaming as the Russians turned the flame thrower his way. →

Here is some thing which may explain why so many Nazis are anxious to be captured by the Americans or British rather than by the Russians. The British, Americans and French are talking about trying war criminals by mixed tribunals. The Russians refuse to have anything to do with any such idea. When they catch a man, they try him on the spot, and, its soon over. ~~They~~ We presume ~~that~~ they try them, though nobody has ever been present at such a trial.

Add War criminals.

The Norwegians are losing no time. The people of Oslo tomorrow will see the beginning of the trial of their arch traitor, Major Vidkun ^{Quisling -} ~~Quisling, whose name has become a synonym for traitors.~~ The word from Oslo is that the trial will be short, ^{with} ~~and there is~~ no doubt about the verdict. ^{along with} ~~Besides~~ Quisling, ^{others around} ~~almost all of the gangsters who surrounded~~ him will also be on trial. ^{leaders are} ~~The three worst of them are still~~ missing, the police minister, the minister of so-called justice, and the police chief, all of them Nazis. They are supposed to have barricaded themselves in a castle ^{to be} ~~and are~~ ^{there,} holding out. Probably they will not be taken alive.

The royal norwegian government will return to Oslo by tomorrow or Saturday.

One of the men we most want to get is Himmler, the school teacher who became master torturer of Germany, head of the Gestapo. Next to Hitler, he is first on the list of the people to be dealt with. A rumor from Austria has him hiding in a mountain resort to which he flew early on Tuesday. He is on the run, fleeing from place to place. One story reports him as having

2. add war criminals.

gathered round him a bunch of SS ruffians on ^{the summit} ~~top~~ of an eight
thousand foot mountain.

PLOT

A story now comes to light which reveals how closely Nazi Marshal Von Rundstedt's big offensive in the Ardennes last December came to being far more serious for us, than it was. The original plan, we now hear, was to combine the counter attack with an invasion of Ireland and a mass prison break by German prisoners of war in the British Isles.

The operations in the British Isles were to be a sort of suicide affair, to divert the attention and strength of the Allied High Command while Von Rundstedt's reserves broke through in Belgium and Luxembourg. An airborne division was to land in both northern Ireland and Eire. Simultaneously, prisoners of war in England and Scotland were to create a diversion by breaking out and seizing whatever arms and transport they could - then to raise havoc all over the country side.

The plot was discovered by the keen work of two ~~ix~~ intelligence officers, both Americans. Captain Frank Brandstetter, of New York City, and Captain Joseph L. Hoelzl, of Louisville, Kentucky.

The date set for the prison break was Christmas eve, later changed to December Sixteenth, to coincide with Von Rundstedt's ~~ix~~ attack in the Ardennes. Berlin already had assured the prisoners that this counter-offensive would win the war.

The break out was to start in the prison at Devizes, a hundred miles west of London. The prisoners there intended to seize the arsenal, establish roadblocks, ~~ix~~ cut communications, and grab supplies and motor transport at a couple of nearby ~~ix~~ hospitals. Then they proposed to ~~ix~~ stage a blitz attack and surprise the British on three air fields. Not far away was the British Eleventh Armored Division, a division

with two thousand Sherman tanks.

With those tanks they confidently expected to be attacking London in four hours. The first plane seized by the prisoners



was to fly straight to the Fuehrer with an intelligence report.

Captains Brandstetter and Hoelzl learned about the conspiracy in curious fashion. Ten war prisoners did escape from the camp at Devizes, and for forty-eight hours made a reconnaissance tour of the countryside. They then returned of their own accord to prison.

This looked suspicious, so the two captains cross-examined the men. Gradually they learned details. Captain Hoelzl said it was so fantastic that the American officers thought at first they were losing their minds. The plan called for flying columns from devizes to set free all Germans in prison camps within a radius of sixty miles. In addition to an assault on London, they planned to attack a port nearby, and that they hoped to hold long enough for the Nazis in Holland to land seaborne reinforcements.

After what they learned from those prisoners, the officers were able to follow every move of the plotters. They learned almost as soon as the prisoners did of the plan to change the date of the uprising from christmas eve to december sixteenth.

The ringleaders had got hold of ^{ten} rifles and small arms which they had hidden. ~~With these~~ They expected to seize the guards at the camp and go on from there, accumulating more arms and supplies as they went. Actually, infantry and artillery was standing by near Helgoland with assault craft and submarines to take advantage of the prison break.

The Germans planned to do all this with a minimum of bloodshed and disturbance. They had even arranged for hospital personnel to stand by and take care of the German casualties.

The conspirators had acquired complete information about the strength of every position they expected to take, including the exact number of tanks and planes.

Being on the alert, the British and American officers were able easily to crush the plot by putting all the ringleaders under close arrest. ~~And it is good to be able to relate that the~~

~~war department conferred bronze stars upon~~ ^{TP} Captains Brandstetter and Hoelzl, *have just been decorated for their fineworks.* Brandstetter in civil life is assistant manager of

the Roney Plaza Hotel at Miami Beach and the St Moritz in New York, -- *he's quite a linguist,* ~~with a fluent knowledge of foreign languages.~~

War.

Note.

~~Drop afternoon story and substitute the following:~~

Odd as it may seem, there is war news from Europe; all of it from the Russian front. Three German army groups in Czechoslovakia are fighting it out to the end.

Moscow today reported that the first army of the Ukraine had captured several more towns in Czechoslovakia.

The Russians also took sixty-eight thousand Germans in Latvia at two important towns, and thirty thousand, ~~five hundred~~ more north of Danzig. They captured another twenty thousand along the ^o ~~Estuary~~ ^o of the Vistula ~~River~~. One group of German battalions is still fighting, while another is running away west toward the American lines, trying to escape the Russians, ~~but with poor success.~~

The German fleet began surrendering today. U-boats steamed into British harbors under the flags of capitulation and two of the remaining cruisers of Hitler's once threatening fleet.

ITALY

Crown Prince Umberto of Italy has been warned that if he dares go to Milan, he will suffer the same fate as Benito Mussolini. This from a north Italian spokesman, at a socialist meeting in Rome. A few moments later, another speaker, at the same meeting, made an attack on the Royal Family, accused the House of Savoy of being pro-Fascist and therefore responsible for all Fascist crimes.

Umberto officially is still an Italian Lieutenant General.

Hardly a week ago, in Italy, I was talking to General Mark Clark and other Allied military leaders about Crown Prince Umberto. Not wanting to express themselves on political matters, they were ^{reluctant} ~~xxxx~~ to say what they thought about him. But General Clark did tell me that the tall Crown Prince had been going

into cities and towns in Italy, and mingling with the people, as soon after the cities were captured as possible. His obvious purpose was to make a good impression and try to ~~we~~ convince the people that he not only had been playing a part in their liberation, but that he was anxious to look after their welfare. He had been going about without a guard, and that always makes a good impression.

I came away from Italy feeling that the fate of the House of Savoy hangs in the balance, and by a slender thread.

Pacific.

The Prime Minister of Japan today called an emergency conference of the Elder statesman of the Mikado. The discussion was about the European situation and stricter measures to mobilize the ^{civilian} ~~situation~~ subjects of the Mikado for total war. After all we have heard about regimentation in Japan, it is difficult to imagine what further steps they can take.

This conference was a reaction to the latest raid of our superforts, the greatest in the whole Pacific war. Four hundred of them flew through heavy flak over the Inland Sea. It was a strategic bombing raid, which destroyed Oil and gasoline factories on three Japanese Islands in the Inland Sea. The ^{B-29s} ~~superforts~~ left a mass of flames where Jap fuel storage plants and synthetic oil factories had been. In spite of the heavy flak, all four hundred B-29s returned to base.

In the Phillippines, a few units of the twenty -fourth Infantry division landed on the Island of Samol in the Gulf of Davo today, in an ~~amphibious~~ operation, ^{and} ~~They~~ took the ^s island easily and enabled the Yanks to place heavy artillery aimed directly on the Japanese on the Island of Mindanao.

2. Pacific.

In north east Borneo, Australians cleared the Nipponese out of an area of six square miles around Tarakan. They were helped by Dutch forces of the Netherlands Indies.

On Okinawa, the engineers of the Sixth Marine Division drove a bridge across the river just above Naha. The Japs launched some of their suicide flyers trying to blow up the bridge with human bombs. But they ^{failed,} ~~did not get to~~ ~~first base.~~ That ^e battle on Okinawa continues to be a desperate [^] hand-to-hand affair, with our men advancing yard by yard.

Nevertheless, Lieutenant General Buckner, commander of the Tenth Army, reports that our ^{troops} ~~men~~ have killed or wounded one ^{soldiers} ~~fighters~~ half of the 85,000 Japanese [^] on the island.

VETERANS

The War Department has worked out a ~~xx~~ system for discharging veterans of all battle fronts. It will demobilize some one million three hundred thousand men during the next twelve months, and more later on.

The officers have worked out a system of credit points. A man in the armed forces to get one point for each month of service since December Sixteenth, Nineteen Forty. An additional point for each month of overseas service. Five points for each star indicating his having taken part in a battle; five points for each wound; five points ~~for~~ for each decoration; twelve points for each child under eighteen; but no more than three children. A man with a total of eighty-five credit points will be entitled to discharge.

The same applies to officers, but with not

so good a chance of getting a discharge. It having taken longer to train them, and they have special skills. So their chances for demobilization will depend upon how badly they are needed in the ~~xx~~ war against Japan.

The War Department announces that WACS will need only forty four points for demobilization.

Taxes.

The joint committee of the House and the Senate on post-war taxes has recommended some relief of the tax burden. ^{This to} ~~will~~ take the form of concessions to help business and industry in getting back to a peace time basis. But there will be no change at present in income tax rates for either corporations or individuals.

The proposals of Senator George of Georgia, for substantial reduction in post-war taxes will be ~~unopposed~~ ^{we hear,} ~~opposed~~ ^{By} ~~The opposition will come from~~ treasury secretary Morgenthau.

The House today passed a bill to give congressmen an allowance for expenses, of two thousand-five hundred a year each, tax exempt.

And after that I'll say -
e-l-u-t-m.