

EASTERN FRONT

N.Y. Standard, Wednesday, Jan. 24, 1945.
Suzoco.

The report tonight
~~One report tonight states that the~~
is that the
Russians have crossed the River Oder, ~~thereby~~ *are*
threatening to encircle the *great* German province of
Silesia. -- ~~that rich area of coal mines and war~~
~~industries.~~ If this be true, it might well be of
supreme importance. If the Red Army has forced a
crossing of the Oder, it might signify a decisive
break of the last line of River defense left to
Nazi Germany.

Moscow announces the capture of Oppeln,
the capital of German Upper Silesia - and ~~they~~ *are*
now *ing* ~~threatens~~ the great industrial city of Breslau.

At last reports the Russians were only ~~two~~ *four* miles from
Breslau and were driving around to encircle the
city.

Berlin states that street fighting is
raging in Gleiwitz -- a big coal mine center. Berlin,
in fact, places panicky emphasis on the great coal
mines, steel plants and armament factories of Silesia -

one German broadcast stating in the gloomiest tone that Germany's vast eastern hive of war industry is in immediate peril.

To the north, in East Prussia, the Soviets are moving rapidly toward the isolation of that province of the Prussian Junkers. They are driving through the Polish corridor toward the sea - and Berlin places the Russians at the Estuary of the Vistula - where that great river branches out for its entrance into the sea. The estuary of the Vistula is in the sector of the historic port on ~~Danzig~~ Danzig, and lies between East Prussia and the rest of Germany.

Moscow states that in Berlin the Nazis have begun to dig trenches for the defense of their capital. Moreover, Moscow tells of clashes between Nazi military units and regular German soldiers.)

This because of the brutal way the Nazis are scorching the earth in their province of Silesia - Hitler storm troopers forcing a ruthless evacuation of the civilian population on foot and in the bitterest of winter.

FOLLOW EASTERN FRONT

Here's a late story from Washington giving the opinion of military experts on that subject of much wonder -- ~~there~~ where the Germans may attempt a stand on the eastern front. Washington observers believe that Hitler's armies will try to establish a defensive line about ninety miles east of Berlin. In that way they could shorten their front, establishing a line down through the mountains of Czechoslovakia.

That success today was scored by the British Second Army, which thrust forward to a point ten miles inside of Germany - crossing into the Siegfried Line at the town of Reinsberg. That place is only fifteen miles from a big industrial center - and the advance rears a threat, always so ominous to the Nazis. That is - a threat of an Allied plunge into the great industrial area of the Rhineland, which manufactures so much of the machinery of war for Hitler's armies.

Against today's British advance in Germany

From the Western Front
Here is news all right - an Allied

drive forward in Germany. A couple of months ago, that was a headline repeated time and again - as American forces thrust across the German frontier at various points. The big Nazi offensive, with its surge forward of fifty-six miles into Belgium, wiped all that out. ~~But~~ today, for the first time since the break-through, we once again hear of an Allied advance on German soil.

That success today was scored by the British Second Army, which thrust forward to a point ten miles inside ~~of~~ Germany - crashing into the Siegfried Line at the town of Heinsberg. That place is only fifteen miles from a big industrial center - and the advance renews a threat, always so ominous to the Nazis. That is - a threat of an Allied plunge into the great industrial areas of the Rhineland, which manufactures so much of the machinery of war for Hitler's armies.

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enemy troops fought savagely. "But", says tonight's dispatch, "in weakening numbers". That phrase ~~xxxxx~~ has a significant sound - in view of reports that the Germans have had to take masses of men and machinery from the Western Front and hurry them across Germany - in a frantic effort to stop the Russians on the Eastern Front. Today's news relates that, because of weakening numbers, the Germans were unable to make a house-to-house fight at Heinsberg.

As for the German salient into Belgium - which has been a dominating factor in the war news for weeks, you might as well write it off the books - write it out of the news hereafter. Today the salient almost disappeared. The bulge was at the vanishing point, as American troops pushed forward. They drove to within half a dozen miles of the German border, all along the thin remainder of what once was a ~~salient~~ salient fifty-six miles deep. ~~By~~ By this hour, it is ~~as~~ likely enough that further American advances may have wiped out altogether the tiny remnant of the bulge.

The Americans on the Western Front have a new Deputy Commander, serving under General Eisenhower. He has a familiar name - Lieutenant General Ben Lear. He takes the post that had been given to Lieutenant General MacNair, who was killed by American high ~~explosive~~ explosive in a mistake of bombing during the break-through in Normandy.

~~We are informed that General Lear's job as Deputy Commander to Eisenhower will have to do with what the dispatch calls - "the conservation and utilization of manpower". And the story in the news goes on: "The welfare and morals of American troops are included in his ~~jurisdiction~~ jurisdiction".~~

~~All of which has to do with discipline - and General Ben Lear is noted for being a severe disciplinarian. This was illustrated in lively fashion a couple of years ago when the Yoo Hoo incident occurred. Some passing American troops in training saw some young women in shorts on a golf course and yelled "Yoo Hoo". General Ben Lear, who was~~

playing golf on the same course, frowned on this breach of discipline - and the offending soldiers had to exercise themselves with a long disciplinarian hike. ~~He~~ Just to teach them when and when not to say, "Yoo Hoo".

FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

The day before yesterday, on Monday, an American Fighter Pilot, flying over the battlefield in Belgium, spotted a hole in the clouds - and that resulted in the German disaster about which I told on this program Monday night.

Captain Wilfred Crutchfield of Madisonville, Kentucky, was leading a squadron of twelve Thunderbolt Fighters. He looked down through the hole in the clouds, and gaped. ^{There he} saw masses of motorized equipment, German tanks and trucks, thousands of them, streaming along roads into a highway junction town. Nazi Commander Field Marshal Von Rundstedt was evacuating his rolling equipment from the shrinking salient, drawing it out in a swift mass retreat - under a cover of clouds.

All through the battle of the breakthrough, and the subsequent smashing of the enemy salient, the Germans made great use of the weather - which favored them constantly. Von Rundstedt launched his offensive under cover of dense fog, which had blinded Allied Air

Power, and time and again the Germans were able to advance or retreat, under the concealment of clouds. And now Von Kundstedt was doing it again, favored once more by the weather. Favored - except in one tiny detail. The blanket of clouds was thick, but there was one small hole, ^{and} it was just ~~about~~ above a key point - the highway junction that was like a funnel through which the German motorized equipment was streaming. And over that hole in the clouds, Captain Wilfred Crutchfield happened to fly.

"I never saw so many vehicles in one small place in my life," ~~he~~ he related today. "I called every flight control in the area, and told them - 'Send everything you've got.'"

The Captain himself swooped down to eight hundred feet and dropped bombs on a curve, stalling the traffic. His own squadron of Thunderbolts followed and raked the columns of vehicles with incendiaries - starting fires, and jamming the traffic still more. They shot up the motor convoys so badly that the bulk of them were unable to

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move by the time the swarms of American planes came speeding on the job of utter devastation.

That's the story behind the news that we had on Monday night - the wholesale destruction of retreating motorized equipment by American air attack.

The group is said to be headed by Field Marshal Ernst Friedrich Von Paulus, the highest German officer whom the Soviets have captured. Von Paulus was the commander in the ill-fated German Army trapped at Stalingrad. After becoming prisoner, he turned against Hitler and joined other German Generals, prisoners of war, in forming what was called the "Free German Committee".

The story is that as soon as the Red Army captures Leningrad, the capital of East Prussia, the anti-Hitler group of German Generals will establish itself there, and will proclaim itself the real government of Germany. This regime will be headed by Field Marshal von Paulus, and will remain

GERMAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT

Here is a report that may be of the utmost importance - telling of what may be a number one development in the political phase of the war. It comes via the Balkans, and states that German generals in Russia, prisoners of war, are forming what they call - "a provisional German military government".

The group is said to be headed by Field Marshal General Friedrich Von Paulus, the highest German officer whom the Soviets have captured. Von Paulus was the commander in the ill-fated German Army trapped at Stalingrad. After becoming prisoner, he turned against Hitler and joined other German Generals, prisoners of war, in forming what was called - "the free German committee".

The story is that as soon as the Red Army captures Koenigsberg, the capital of East Prussia, the anti-Hitler group of German Generals will establish itself there, and will proclaim itself the real government of Germany. This regime will be headed by Field Marshal von Paulus, and will retain

power until a free and democratic election can be held in Germany.

The military provisional government of the ~~German~~ Generals will moreover, proclaim an immediate armistice with the Allies, will declare ~~war~~ war on Hitler and the Nazis - and offer the Allies the support of military forces. These, presumably, will be made up of the German prisoners of war in Russia, who have turned against Hitler. And they will call themselves - "The Free German Army".

~~Such is the report we have via the Balkans and, in trying to figure what it means, we can recall the case of the Free Polish Committee. That group, which was formed under Soviet auspices, has now declared itself to be the legal government of Poland, and is recognized by the Soviets.~~

Hugh, Mac Arthur's men are making further progress - but before I tell about that let's hear from Stan. of Cal.

Tonight's late news from the Philippines, pictures some new rapid advances on the road to Manila. First we are told about the capture of Bambam, another of the air bases on the northern perimeter of Clark Field. And from Bambam, American troops stormed two elevations of ground further on, Laff Hill and Hill Six Hundred.

The two hills were captured by what is called "the Los Angeles Imperial guard". That's what an outfit of California troops has named itself in mockery of the Mikado's Imperial guard.

The new successes reported today place the Americans within less than a mile of the maze of air strips called Clark Field. *And our troops are only 47 miles from Manila.*

And tonight General MacArthur gives us the figures of casualties in the Luzon invasion. Our casualties are three-thousand one hundred and forty-five -- more than two thousand wounded, and six hundred and fifty-seven killed. The Jap figure for the number killed is ten times as great -- six thousand

four hundred and forty nine. The ~~xxx~~ estimated casualties of the enemy is figured at about fourteen thousand.

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... in dressed in military khaki uniform, Mrs.
Iraline Dunning Acosta, forty-two years old. *Acosta, she*
was accompanied by her two children, an eighteen year
old son and a fifteen year old daughter - who likewise
are members of the Philippine patriot organization, *she*
They have been serving in the guerrilla forces
with guns.

The American woman is the wife of a former
Philippine character actor, who used to play in the
Hollywood movies, Carmo Acosta, ~~xxxx~~ now an officer
of the Philippine guerrillas. - So sons and the children
have been serving under the command of daddy, which
often happens in life.

Today Mrs. Acosta told her in nineteen
thirty she ~~xxx~~ and her Philippine actor husband went
to his home country to live - residing in Manila. They
were there when the Jap invasion broke. The family

FOLLOW PHILIPPINES

Today the Americans on Luzon were joined by a woman guerrilla fighter, a woman member of a Filipino patriot band - and she was an American. She came in dressed in military ~~uniform~~ uniform, Mrs. Iraline Dunning Acosta, forty-two years old. *And, she* was accompanied by her two children, an eighteen year old son and a fifteen year old daughter - who likewise are members of the Philippine patriot organization, *and* ~~they~~ have been serving in the ~~gmm~~ guerrilla forces with mama.

The American woman is the wife of a former Philippine character actor, who used to play in the Hollywood movies, Darmo Acosta, ~~he is~~ now an officer of the Philippine guerrillas. - So mama and the children have been serving under the command of daddy; which often happens in life.

Today Mrs. Acosta told how in nineteen thirty she ~~and~~ and her Philippine actor husband went to his home country to live - residing in Manila. They were there when the Jap invasion broke. The family

fled and joined the patriots. Mrs. Acosta says the last band with which they served numbered between eighteen and twenty thousand - that big.

She brought sundry bits of information about conditions behind the Jap lines - and told of fantastic inflation in Manila. Money has depreciated to such an extent that it is almost impossible to get enough to buy rice for one meal.

SUBSTITUTE WALLACE

Before a Senate Commerce Committee, this afternoon, the ousted Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones gave some figures. These he cited to indicate the magnitude of the government lending operations under the control of the Department of Commerce - and enormous figures they were. The total of the money authorized for loans in this wartime is thirty-three billion, three hundred million dollars --- loans to that stupendous amount under the control of the Secretary of Commerce, as things now stand.

Jesse Jones stated what you might have expected about former Vice President Henry Wallace, in whose favor Jones was tossed out of the Commerce Department. He declared that Henry Wallace was not qualified to be both Secretary of Commerce and federal loan administrator in charge of the billions.

The Senate Commerce committee is considering a bill to take control of the loan business and the billions. ~~by the~~ Jesse Jones ^{in his} testimony today ~~or~~ [^] ~~is declaring~~ ^{said} it would be bad to put Henry Wallace in

in charge ■■ of both the commerce department and the loan administration.

The Jesse Jones testimony, given at a jam-packed hearing, included the statement that the lending agencies and the billions should not be entrusted to what the witness called - "a man willing to jeopardize the country's future with untried ideas and unrealistic ~~■■■■■~~ schemes".

PIGAMIST

The girls, when talking about men, may say they like 'em - tall, dark and handsome, young and with wavy hair. Nevertheless, the San Francisco police are looking for a Don Juan who is five feet tall, a wee sort of person - and his name is Francis Van Wie; He is, moreover, fifty eight years old and bald headed.

Here is what they say about Mr. Van Wie - that he wooed and won probably eight wives, and possibly more, without ever having bothered about a divorce. Mr. Van Wie had several connubial romances running at once, and was able to keep the ladies in a state of illusion - he was that fascinating and they were that devoted.

Is he so rich and fashionable, of wealthy blue blood society? No! - until he vanished he was a San Francisco Street Car Conductor making forty-three dollars and twenty cents a week. But there is one other thing to be said about Mr. Van Wie - He's an ex-lion tamer. For fourteen years he had a trained

lion act in the Ringling Brothers Circus. That may explain something - though I don't know what. What do you think, girls?

Yet we hear that in his first marriage years ago Mr. Van Wie was not such a lion - though he was a Lion tamer. He was wed to a circus side show performer named Mabel, and he is quoted as saying that one time he spent the night in the cage of one of his lions, and came out less bruised than he usually did after a ~~night~~^{session} with Mabel. He could tame the lions, but he couldn't tame Mabel.

That matrimonial experience, however, did not discourage Mr. Van Wie, and recently, as a fifty-eight year old street car conductor, five feet tall and bald headed - ~~and~~ he got into trouble when the bride he married last April and the bride he married this December got together and compared notes. Mr. Van Wie had been telling them that he was engaged in secret wartime undercover work, and that was why

he had to be away so many nights. The April bride and the December bride decided that, so far as they were concerned, the bride he married last January could have him - and they went to court to procure their freedom. The police became interested, and now they are looking for Mr. Van Wie on the small charge, the wee charge, of bigamy.

And now a final wee word from you Hugh.