

Hugh Gibson - Standard. Wed., April 18, 1945.
Sunoco.

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY

There is important late news on the diplomatic front. It has just been disclosed in Washington that the United States government has received from Soviet Russia a new demand that the Soviet-sponsored provisional government of Poland shall be admitted to the San Francisco Conference of the United Nations. This is the second Soviet request that Poland be represented by the Soviet-sponsored regime -- which has not yet been changed, in accordance with the Big Three agreement at Yalta.

The Washington word is that pessimism pervades the State Department -- the more so as it has become known that the entire Big Three Commission ~~for Poland is on its way to Washington.~~ This is the Commission which was set up to make the changes in the Soviet-sponsored Lublin provisional government. The Commission has not been able to come to an agreement, and now all of its members are flying to Washington.

WESTERN FRONT

The war on the Western Front was today still at a comparative standstill - the Nazi war machine continuing its obstinate last fight. The enemy resistance and the necessity for bringing up vast amounts of supplies, ^{are} ~~is~~ holding American armies back along the line of the Elbe.

The only headline advance recorded today was that of Patton's Third Army, which drove into Czechoslovakia. ~~Patton's troops thrust forward against sharp opposition, and were last reported three miles beyond the Czechoslovak border. This, in a nominal and geographical way, cuts Germany in two. It does not, however, cut the territory held by the German armies in two - they being in occupation of the western part of Czechoslovakia.~~

At the northern end of the line, the British today scored advances. One column drove for the River Elbe to the south of Hamburg, and at last reports were only

eight miles from that stream. Another British force heading straight ~~xxxxxxx~~ for Hamburg, pushed ahead to within twenty miles of the city.

(~~As for the remainder of the Western Front, the story tonight is chiefly one of fighting in cities.~~)

American Seventh Army troops today crashed into the city of Nuremberg. They drove from three directions, and are engaged in a bitter battle for the medieval show place, which the Nazis turned into a shrine. The story is much the same at Leipzig, in Saxony, where American First Army troops are battling against a German garrison of thirty thousand.

Magdeburg was captured today, after heavy fighting. American troops found that the Germans had destroyed all four bridges across the Elbe - but there was one thing the Nazis neglected. They didn't take away the money at the Magdeburg branch of the central bank of

Nazi Germany, and in the bank branch the Americans

captured ^{the equivalent of} seventy million dollars. This was in paper

money and silver coins, and one can't guess how much

it is really worth - Hitler paper money being a poor

prospect as sound currency.

NAZI YOUTH - WESTERN FRONT

(~~The ferocious battle for the ruined city of Magdeburg brought to a climax one thing that has been noticed on the Western Front - the presence of mere boys in the German forces.~~) Magdeburg was defended savagely - by a garrison consisting largely of Hitler Youth. And that made it a strange and ghastly sort of battle.

United Press Correspondent Robert Vermillion cables: "It was a battle of men against boys, and the veteran troops of the Second Armored Division and Thirtieth Infantry Division suffered casualties before they knocked out the youthful Nazi fanatics. In the earlier stages of the battle," he goes on, "the Americans treated the Hitler youth forces as smart-alecky kids trying to muscle into a man's war."

That belief led to a ~~rather~~ farcical incident:

"One American tank commander," relates the U.P. correspondent, "captured several of the youngsters,

gave them a kick in the pants, and told them to run along home. When a superior officer asked him what he was doing, he said, 'I thought they were German Boy Scouts.'"

American infantry soon found that this was a ~~wrong idea~~ ^{Mistake} One officer stated today: "Those kids at the roadblocks fought hard with every kind of weapon the Germans have." And the story adds that the boy soldiers seemed to be just as skillful as German regular army troops, and much more fanatical. "The youngsters were from fourteen to eighteen years old, and many looked even younger," says the news dispatch.

By way of contrast, one American tank man states that in Magdeburg he was fired upon from a window by ~~an aged man~~ ^{a man who} he must have been at least eighty years old.

GERMAN INDUCTEES

Here is a story of six German civilians who, a week ago, got orders to report to Paderborn for induction into the German army. Germans are dutiful, so the six civilians went walking to Paderborn, and there saw hundreds of strange men in brown uniforms, milling around the town. They found the clerk of the German induction center, and he whispered hastily that they had better report to another place, to the induction center at Hirschberg.

So the six dutiful civilians started walking again and presently arrived at Hirschberg. There they saw ~~more~~ some more of those strange brown uniforms, and tried to find the induction center.

In the course of their inquiries, they happened to talk to one of the men in the strange uniforms. He was, Private Harry Adler of Brooklyn, an interpreter in the Ninety-fifth Division. They asked him -- where was the induction center? So they could join up -- according to orders from Hitler. Private Adler was astonished, then puzzled.

Were the six dutiful Germans to be considered prisoners of war? They had not yet been inducted into the German army, but they were certainly trying ~~xxx~~ hard. Private Adler gave them the benefit of their intentions, and today they were in the prisoner-of-war cage.

BRITISH FLYER

Among the Allied prisoners who have been released, is one surrounded by legends of the air war - Bader, the English ace without legs. He was shot down and captured in Nineteen Forty-One, after a fabulous career in the battles of the sky - and now he is back with the R.A.F. ~~once again~~

Way back in Nineteen Thirty-One, Douglas Bader, a stunt pilot, had a crash in one of his daredevil exhibits, and was badly injured - both legs amputated. ^{legs} After a time, he was around and about ~~with~~ ^{on} a pair of metal legs - and was flying again. When war came, Bader was accepted in the R.A.F., legless, but a noted pilot. He proceeded to distinguish himself in the air battles of Britain, and became one of the famous aces of the R.A.F.

Over German held France in Nineteen Forty-One, his plane was hit and disabled, and he jumped by

parachute. In landing, he broke one of his metal legs.

This was reported by the Germans - whereupon R.A.F. planes flew over the place where Bader was held and, by ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ parachute, dropped a new metal leg for him.

A few days after he got it, Bader escaped from his place of detention - by making a rope of knotted sheets and sliding down from an upper window. On metal legs he trudged a hundred miles to the coast of the Netherlands, and then was recaptured.

Twice after that he attempted to escape, and the Germans finally had to do something about it. What they did was effective. Each night they took away ^b Bader's legs, and kept them until morning, when the legs were returned to him. That stopped the prison breaks - and Bader had to stay in captivity, until the great offensive into Germany released him.

Now a message from Standard of California, and then more news

STANDARD OF CALIFORNIA -2-
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(MIDDLE)

ANNOUNCER

In football, Mr. Gibson, the man who carries the ball often gets the glory -- the blocking back who clears his path is sometimes overlooked. Air warfare is like that, too. The big bombers deserve all the credit they get, but we shouldn't overlook the blocking backs of the sky -- swift, long-range escort fighters like the Mustang. Hard-fighting Mustangs have helped make many a bombing run easier -- just as Chevron Aviation Gasoline helps make Mustang test-flights smooth and successful. These P-51's from North American Aviation's west coast plant that try their wings on Chevron Aviation Gasoline are clearing a path for motorists, too. They're proving the worth of a great new flying fuel that will someday be adapted for the highway. Now, more news from Hugh Gibson.

GIBSON

(NEWS)

RUSSIANS

The Russians are reported to be fighting within sight of Berlin - only fourteen miles from the city limits of the German capital. This word comes from the German side - Moscow still preserving its complete silence about the great Russian offensive which the Germans have been announcing. However, unofficial word in Moscow today was that there was no reason to doubt that the Red army has opened its final offensive against Berlin.

~~The Germans picture the Soviet assault as a headlong drive by tanks straight at Berlin - that and another thrust to the south, threatening to flank the city from that direction. The German forces are fighting stubbornly, says Berlin, but are being forced back.~~

ADD RUSSIA

The latest is that Soviet forces have launched a drive to the south of Berlin, with gains that have placed them within forty-seven miles of the American First Army. That's in the sector in which the promise of a quick American-Russian junction has been the most favorable. (Soviet forces are now due south of Berlin, and are pushing on ^{toward} ~~XXXXXX~~ the Americans.)

BERLIN ENTRY

One report tonight is that the date for the Allied entry into Berlin is Thursday, tomorrow. This comes from the German side, with the Berlin radio stating: "Churchill has told intimates that Thursday is to be the day."

We don't ^{quite} know how a Nazi broadcaster would learn about information that the British Prime Minister has given to intimates - but, ^{perhaps} Thursday might ~~will~~ be the day.

ATROCITIES

There was justice indeed in General Patton's order compelling German civilians to make a sightseeing tour of the Nazi prison camp near the city of Weimar.

There have been endless rumors about the horrors of Hitler prison camps, rumors that now become reality - as those ~~places~~ ^{places} of Nazi ferocity are captured by American forces. ~~and~~ One of the worst was at Weimar, the city so famous in the ^{German} annals of liberal ^{ism and} enlightenment - Weimar with its shrines dedicated to the poets Goethe and

Schiller. After World War Number One, the German Republic was founded at Weimar, an apt choice - and it is typical of the Nazis that they selected the place for one of their most brutal ~~concentration camps~~ ^{concentration camps}. There is no need of

trying to describe the ghastly scenes, but there was justice in compelling the citizens of Weimar to behold

them. That gave them first hand evidence of the true

character of the Hitler regime, which they supported - they the people of the city dedicated to Goethe and Schiller.

PHILIPPINES

American troops have made another landing -- on the last big island ~~now~~ held by the Japs in the Philippines -- Mindanao. This is announced by General MacArthur, who states that his forces have secured a ~~the~~ thirty-five mile stretch along the coast, ~~and~~ ^{They} are pushing toward Davao, which, before the war, was the center of Japanese Fifth Column activities -- a large Japanese colony being situated at Davao.

PACIFIC

We have an accounting of American losses in the naval, sea, and land campaign of the Ryukyu Islands. The casualties number seven thousand, eight hundred and ninety-five -- nine hundred and eighty-nine killed, two thousand two hundred and twenty wounded, and one thousand, four hundred and ninety-one missing. These figures include losses incurred not only in the land invasions, but also in the aerial attacks launched by the fleet.

OKINAWA

On Okinawa, bitter fighting raged today, with the Japs hurling counter-attacks to break out of a pocket on the Motobu Peninsula. The Japs launched four assaults, which in the end proved to be futile, although a dominating hill changed hands twice. ~~At last reports,~~ the ~~marines had captured the hill,~~ and the line ~~encircling the Japs was as firm as ever.~~

On the island of Ie, off the west coast of Okinawa, there is still some fighting - though two-thirds of the small bit of land is now under American control. The battle for that island has been of no great consequence in a military sense, but the conquest of Ie has cost one prominent casualty - the loss of the most headlined newspaper correspondent of this war.

ERNIE_PYLE

The story of the death of Ernie Pyle, killed by a Japanese bullet, shows that he ~~lost~~^{lost} his life in the line of duty - duty specifically as Ernie Pyle saw it. He was the poet laureate of the common soldier in the foxhole, and he ~~met~~ met his end with the infantry.

After his extraordinary career across the Atlantic - as war correspondent assigned to the G.I.'s, he went to the Pacific - and saw the sea ~~and~~ and air war. ~~As an aircraft carrier, he went through encounters with the Japanese fleet and air force.~~ But Ernie Pyle wanted to be with the infantry. In this case - the Marines.

He was with them in the invasion of Okinawa, and then accompanied them ~~in~~ⁱⁿ landings on the nearby island of Ie. Today he was standing with the regimental commander, when a hidden Jap machine gunner got in a surprise burst of fire. And immediately the word flashed, "Ernie Pyle killed in action."

POPE

A plea for a peace organization, based on justice, was made today by Pope Pius the Twelfth. The views of the Pontiff are conveyed in an encyclical addressed to the Catholic Bishops, an encyclical which calls upon people everywhere to pray for a post-war peace organization based on fairness.

The Pontiff takes note of difficulties founded in wartime emotions. "Unfortunately," says the encyclical, "it is not easy - while the world is so upset, while the souls of many people still are stirred by vengeful sentiments - to reach a peace based on equity and justice." ~~A peace - suitable to meet, in a spirit of fraternal charity, the aspirations of all peoples, and capable of eliminating the latent seeds of feuds and rivalries."~~

The ^{papal} ~~paper~~ view emphasizes the difficulty in arriving at a rational settlement while we are still aflame with the spirit of war.

and now - Hugh James