

RUMANIA

*L.I. - Standard. Wednesday, Aug. 23, 1944.
Sunoco.*

Rumania has come over to our side! - That's the startling word flashed by the Rumanian radio tonight. Bucharest broadcasts a royal proclamation which states that the Balkan Kingdom, hitherto a Nazi satellite, has accepted Russian peace terms, and will now become an ally of the United Nations - and will fight against Hitler.

This is no mere rumor. The royal proclamation, as radioed from Rumania, states: Point one - Russian peace terms are accepted. Point two - Rumania will be an ally of the United Nations. Point three - Rumania will fight against her enemies - those enemies now being the Nazis. In other words, Rumania not only drops out of Hitler's war and makes peace, but also changes sides.

From Allied sources there is no confirmation of this, but there is also no tendency to cast any doubt. In London a spokesman of the British Foreign Office states that the word from Rumania was, in his words - "strictly unconfirmed, but perfectly possible,

~~in view of what has been happening in the past three months~~". He pointed out that Prime Minister Winston Churchill, in his last war review to the House of Commons, revealed that Russia had presented peace terms to Rumania, terms of which ~~xxx~~ the United Nations approved. And there have been repeated rumors that Rumania emissaries were negotiating for peace.

All of which squares with the royal proclamation in Bucharest. It reminds one of Italy - Italy changing sides in the middle of the war.

Well, it's no wonder that Rumania turns the somersault. For today's news features Russian victories, the most important of these in Rumania. Soviet forces today captured the big German-Rumanian base at Vaslui, a great railway and highway junction; ~~Vaslui is~~ thirty-seven miles from the fortress of Iasi, the capture of which we heard about yesterday, the ~~xxxxxx~~ mileage being a graphic indication of how fast the Soviet forces are traveling. ~~xxx~~ ^{TP So again} today Stalin's victory guns in Moscow were banging away. And Rumania

goes out of the war - or rather switches over to our side!

ADD RUMANIA

The latest -- Moscow reports that fighting has already begun between Rumanian troops and the Germans, the two former gang members at each others throats.

FRANCE

In France, the Allied victory is really over-doing itself. Paris and Marseilles, the number one and number two cities of France - liberated on the same day. Either would have been a headline. The liberation of Paris, in fact, is such a big headline that it is embarrassing to have another. In addition to which, the Allied troops today captured ~~xxxxx~~ Grenoble, which puts them on the road to Lyons - the number three city of France. So we have simply a plethora of good news, a surfeit - almost too much. However, I suppose we can take it with a smile.

The latest tonight is the inside story of how Paris was liberated -- a melodramatic account. The Allied Command had no idea of capturing the French capital right away. There were other more important things to be done -- go after the German Army and smash it. Paris could wait. But Paris couldn't.

Tonight's account, related by War Correspondent Charles Collingwood, tells how a Frenchman burst into

headquarters of American Ground Force Commander, General Omar Bradley. The Frenchman identified himself as the Chief of the French Resistance Force in Paris and announced an incredible thing. He told General Bradley he had concluded an Armistice with German troops in Paris.

You can imagine the look of surprise on General Bradley's face -- an armistice with the Nazis in the city. He knew there had been rioting in Paris, but he hardly expected what the French Resistance Chief went on to tell him. This was that the people of Paris had revolted, had engaged in a fierce battle with the Germans and had given the enemy such a tough time, that the German Commander in Paris had asked for an Armistice so he could withdraw his troops from the city. Whereupon the French Resistance Chief said O.K. -- Oui, oui. The armistice agreed on, and the Germans marched out.

That was the message brought to General Bradley. It was followed today by the announcement,

issued from French Resistance Headquarters -- that Paris was liberated, Paris liberated by the Parisians.

All of which caused some disconcertment for General Bradley. He now had to take over Paris and do a huge job of provisioning the city. It wasn't according to his plans, but he gave orders to march in, French troops first.

Which brings us to another late story tonight -- the Second French Armored Division has entered Paris and is being followed by American troops. The Allied occupation is under way.

Of course the decision of the German garrison to evacuate Paris was no little facilitated by the fact that one of Patton's armored columns was swinging around ^{to} the east of the city threatening to cut off the German retreat. Paris was about to be encircled by American forces and that helped the Nazis to make up their mind.

Well, those encircling American forces,

making the move won't have to bother about the city now
- and they are rolling east. The news tells of Patton's
army on a dash beyond Paris towards Germany.

The latest places an American spearhead
within one hundred twenty five miles of the German
border.

~~More important still, etc.~~

General Koenig - Paris liberated by the Parisians.

The American forces, which were threatening to encircle Paris, won't have to bother about the city now - and they are rolling east. The latest news tells of Patton's armor in a dash beyond the capital city and on their way to the German frontier.

More important still, may be what is happening to the Seventh German Army, north of Paris. The ~~XXXXX~~ remnants of that much battered force are on the run out of Normandy, fleeing ~~of a pocket~~, seeking to avoid encirclement - trying to get back across the River Seine.

The latest tells that Allied forces are now within six miles of the port of Le Havre, one of the great harbours of the world. Resistance has broken down, and we are told that the capture of Le Havre is just a matter of the time needed to bring up the equipment for the job.

The capture of Marseilles today followed the pattern of Paris - Marseilles taken by the French,

FRANCE - 6

French military units of the Allied Army. The city was isolated by the sweep of American forces to the west, the Germans in Marseilles cut off, ^{with} ~~and~~ French troops ~~went~~ storming in. There was some violent fighting before the city was occupied, but not so much as to prevent the people from making an ovation of it. The liberating forces, as they drove in, were received with the wildest kind of acclaim, typical of volatile and excitable Marseilles.

Grenoble is far to the north, and the capture of that city represents a drive of a hundred and forty miles from the Mediterranean. An American armored column on the rampage, rolling as fast as it could go - and into Grenoble swept the Americans, on their way to Lyons, ~~the~~ third largest city of France. The southern forces, commanded by General Patch, are now less than two hundred and forty miles from Patton's armor, southeast of Paris - two hundred and forty miles to go for a junction between the two invasion armies. And, at the rate they are moving,

FRANCE - 17

it won't be long.

In other words, the battle for France is approaching a close! - and next comes Germany!

Allied troops will soon arrive at the vaunted Nazi Siegfried line, and it remains to be seen what will happen at those powerful defenses. Maybe the Germans will put up a desperate and most formidable all-out battle on the frontier of their country - also in defense of Belgium and Holland. Or, maybe, something will happen, something ~~will~~ crack. Nobody knows.

Well, Hugh, let's have some news from Stan of Cal.

LONDON

While Paris rejoiced over liberation, today, London had a grim time of it. For today brought a climax of the rocket bomb assault. There were two waves of the robot planes. One came at dawn, with streams of the rockets buzzing across the channel. Then there was a lull, but a few hours later, another swarm of those inhuman projectiles came streaking to London.

The British capital had its worst day since the beginning of the Nazi robot campaign. Many buildings were hit, a factory demolished, a block of flats wrecked, an apartment house blasted. A number of lives were lost, including that of an American officer. He was waiting for a bus, when a rocket exploded nearby.

This climax of the Nazi terror assault, comes of course, as the Germans are being overwhelmingly defeated in France. And the British believe the enemy anticipates the loss of the French coast near Calais -- the rocket coast, from which the robot

planes are launched. The Germans may be preparing to evacuate that sector -- and that, think the British, is why the rocket campaign hit London so hard today, harder than ever. The Nazis using up their rocket supplies before they clear out. They have stocks of robots at the launching platforms across the channel - better to shoot them than to move them. One London spokesman said: "Jerry is trying to get rid of them while he can".

All of which is a thing of tragic irony for London. As victory grows more dazzlingly bright in France, and as happy Paris is liberated, the great capital on the Thames endures it's grimmest ordeal of the war.

And London is not so sure that impending capture of the rocket coast will bring relief from the robot planes. Other launching areas will still remain. Some of the rockets that have hit London have come from Belgium. And, even when the Nazis are driven out of Belgium, they may retire with the robot

ADD LONDON

Late word from London tonight is that still another flight of rockets has come speeding across the Channel -- for London's third wave of robots today.

PARIS

The liberation of Paris today makes one think back with reminiscence on the theme - "The Last Time I Saw Paris". That, in my case, brings memories of ~~a one of the most~~ curious turns of comedy, ~~that this program has ever run into.~~

It was at the time of the Coronation of King George. While ~~broadcasting from London and Paris,~~ among other things I wanted, if possible, to have a head of a government on the program, as a guest speaker. ~~My sponsors, the Sun Oil Company, thought that would be fine, if it could be done - for heads of governments just don't go on sponsored radio programs.~~

Well, there wasn't much chance of getting King George. He was busy being crowded. ~~So, while in Rome~~ *I talked it over with Mussolini, but he said his English wasn't* Paris - I decided to have a try at lining up the Premier of France. ~~Looking~~ I found that the French hadn't much idea of our American system of news broadcasting, sponsors, advertising, commercials, and all that. The Premier on a news program? Why? I suggested gently

that the Premier might perhaps like to say something about the Paris Exposition. The French were about to open a World's Fair, which needed a lot of promoting. The Premier saw the point. He would be delighted.

So, the Premier went on the air with me. A scholarly Frenchman with a big mustache, more like a Professor of Literature at the Sorbonne than a politician. What did he say? ^{well,} It nearly ^{bowed} ~~knocked~~ me over. ~~He put over a super sales spiel for French hotels. Minute after minute, on my Sun Oil program from Paris, he plugged the Paris Exposition hotel business.~~

And, he was an orator, with many beautiful words, and an emotional style. I'll never forget his intensity and fervor as he cried: "There are some false ^{persons} ~~persons~~ who have intimated that at our great ~~Exp~~ Exposition our dear 'American friends will be overcharged by our French hotels. No, a thousand times no!" he declaimed. "They will not be overcharged".
Nevaire!

He was magnificent. He was inspiring. He was

touching in his fervor. Not knowing a thing about American radio advertising, not a thing about sponsors or commercials - the Premier of France, on the air, sold French hotels in a big way.

Instinct just led him to do the right thing.

That was the last time I saw Paris - gay

Paree, which a lot of Americans ~~over there~~ are seeing

tonight - on this night of nights, as the Germans are

~~leaving~~ ^{Paris} leaving ~~Paris~~ on the run!

SURRENDER

When one single wounded American sergeant receives a surrender of three hundred and seventy-five Germans headed by an Admiral -- that should be placed near the head of the list of stories that tell of one man capturing a lot of prisoners.

The story comes from southern France, the town of Aix, where the Sergeant asked United Press correspondent Robert Vermillion to be sure and mention his name - so that his mother might hear about it.

~~(His parents have already been notified that he, after being reported missing in action, is safe. But he wanted his mother to know about his astonishing experiences. All of which would make it~~ ^{It would be} pleasant to

give the lad's name on the radio tonight, hoping his mother might be listening in. But I can't do it.

The name did not come through in the news dispatch - Army censorship forbidding it, ruling that a name must go through official Army channels. So all I can say is that this is about somebody's boy, and it's a cheery thing to tell.

SURRENDER - 2

The sergeant in question was a gunner aboard a Marauder bomber, which was knocked out by flak two days before the invasion of southern France began. He bailed out of the disabled plane, and came down in a narrow rocky valley and broke his leg. He was made a prisoner, taken away for medical treatment, and eventually found himself in a big German hospital at Aix - where he didn't have a bad time at all.

He says the German Naval surgeons gave him excellent treatment, and he has a high regard for them. There were three hundred and seventy-five patients in the hospital, and they were not fanatic Nazis - not at all. The sergeant says the Germans in beds near his told him they didn't give a hang for Hitler and said - "Fanatics die early." There were even loud curses against Hitler - yelled by a wounded German Marine.

The sergeant's leg was mending nicely, and meanwhile the news of the south France invasion was coming in. Pretty soon the Germans in the hospital

realized that the Americans were drawing near -- so they decided to surrender early. That was because they were afraid the French Partisans would get them - afraid the ~~Mxx~~ Maquis would seize the hospital. If that happened, they wanted to have the status of prisoners of war of the Americans, - not a bad idea.

So the surrender occurred with all due ceremony - the leading performers being the wounded sergeant and the German Admiral in command, Admiral Dr. Karl Eyerich.

"There was nothing to it," the Sergeant relates. "The Admiral just walked in, gave me his sword, and said, 'I surrender to you.'"

He adds that it was a beautiful sword, decorated with an ornate tassel - the dressy sword of a German Admiral.

It wasn't an unconditional surrender, however. The German Admiral made this condition -- that the Sergeant, broken leg and all, should bring regular American forces in as soon as possible - to

SURRENDER - 4

keep those French Partisans away, those angry Maquis.

*Prison
shop*
(~~That was easier said than done. Even after contacting the American forces, there was a wait. The officer in command said he was too busy to bother, and the Sergeant had to stay in command of the hospital and the three hundred and seventy five prisoners of war headed by the Admiral for twelve hours.~~)

————— 0 —————
Yes, this has been an historic day, ~~though~~ And now ^{Hugh} a word or two from you.

FRANCE

In France, the Allied victory is really over-doing itself. Paris and Marseilles, the number one and number two cities of France - liberated on the same day. Either would have been a headline. The liberation of Paris, in fact, is such a big headline that it is embarrassing to have another. In addition to which, the Allied troops today captured Grenoble, which puts them on the road to Lyons - the number three city of France. So we have simply a plethora of good news, a surfeit - almost too much. However, I suppose we can take it with a smile.

The Parisian story is not what we had imagined it would be - we thought of Paris being liberated by the entrance of Allied troops. But the Parisians took things into their own hands. They staged a revolt, about which we have been hearing, and after four days of sharp fighting, the German garrison got out.

Their decision was facilitated no little by the fact that one of Patton's armored columns was

swinging around to the east of Paris, threatening to cut off their retreat. Paris was about to be encircled by American forces, and that helped the Nazis to make up their minds.

But there was a battle inside, warfare in the historic heart of Paris. A French Partisan force seized the Ile de la city (Eel Duh La Citay). The Germans assailed them, and there was prolonged fighting. The venerable cathedral of Notre Dame is nearby, and it is not clear whether or not that extraordinary monument of the middle ages was damaged.

Another line of battle was the fashionable Rue de Rivoli, and on that boulevard is the Louvre. There was fighting and shooting up and down the Rue de Rivoli, and we don't know about possible injuries to the Louvre and its treasures of art.

But it's all over now, with the Germans clearing out today. And the liberation of Paris could be jubilantly announced by the French themselves, by the Commander of the French Resistance Force,

AIR WAR

The air war during the past several days has been largely a show based on Italy. The flying weather in northern Europe has been bad - but not in the Mediterranean. There they've been having the fair summer days proverbial in that latitude of clear skies and blue waters. So the bombers based on Italy have been at it all along.

Today they hit Nazi war centers in Austria - armament plants near Vienna. This followed a night attack against Hungary, which in turn had followed a large scale air raid yesterday. That one ran into heavy opposition, the Luftwaffe having one of its hard fighting days. And today we are informed that yesterday our Mediterranean air forces sustained it's greatest loss since the north African campaign -- thirty-nine bombers failing to return. At least thirty-one ^{at the} enemy ~~s~~ were shot down. ^{TP} In today's long range air assault the Nazis took a heavy pasting.

LEND-LEASE

President Roosevelt declared today that Lend-Lease should go right on after Germany is defeated, should continue until Japan is knocked out.

There has been a good deal of talk about this method of aiding our Allies, and a statement has been made that Great Britain wants Lend-Lease to continue after the war is over, on into the years of peace - to help ~~in~~ rebuilding British economy, so badly hit by war. On the other hand, some people, both in and out of Congress, have contended that Lend-Lease should be curtailed, cut down, after the war with Nazi Germany is over.

To this the President says no. In a report to Congress, setting forth recent figures for aid to our Allies, he argues that Lend-Lease should continue with full steam until Allied troops are in Tokyo - this as a part of the business of knocking out the Japs.