

RUSSIA

L.J. - Standard. Monday, Jan. 29, 1945.
Simoco

The Russian war machine continues to roll on and on. With Soviet advance guards tonight only ninety-five miles from Berlin. The Nazis admit this.

Stalin issued an order of the day reporting the capture of Kreuz (~~Kroytz~~), in Pomerania. ^{This} ~~that~~ means that one of Marshal Gregory Zhukov's First White Russian Armies advanced thirteen miles overnight, ^{thirty one} ~~thirty one~~ miles in twenty-four hours. What is more, they are now only seventy miles away from the important German seaport of Stettin (Stetteen) on the Baltic.

At Kreuz, the Russians were a hundred and one miles from the German capital. But later in the day, Stalin announced the capture of Driessen, only ninety-four miles from the triumphal arches of Berlin's Brandenburg Gate. And, they have cut the highway and railway from Berlin to Danzig in two places.

The Red Army also has Schneidemuhl, (Schneidemoo)

~~It is~~ From Berlin that we ^{also} learn that the Red divisions have pushed beyond the Oder River and are only a hundred and twelve miles ~~away~~ from Dresden.

As for East Prussia, there is fierce fighting in the suburbs of Koenigsberg, the chief city of the province.

But dispatches from Moscow as well as Berlin indicate that we of the United Nations should not ~~grow~~ crow too loudly. A decidedly pro-Russian dispatch from the Soviet capital advises us to expect a slow-up of the drive of the Red Army shortly, in order to regroup and reequip those triumphant divisions. Moscow military experts themselves point out that the Germans have the advantage of shortened lines, while the lines of the Red Army have become extended. Furthermore, the Russian soldiers have been fighting without rest for eighteen days and nights.

The Nazis, for their part, claim the Russians no longer have the initiative on all sectors of their Eastern Front, and they claim this is a sign that the German counter-measures are beginning to be felt. Also, the Berlin radio says that the Nazi commander in the east reports the situation under control, and the German defense proceeding according to plan, ~~which has been~~ carefully prepared a long ~~time~~ ago. We have also been hearing, of course, of the famous line of defense built by the great German military engineer, Todt, ~~He is~~ ^{said} ~~supposed~~ to be the greatest builder of fortifications since Vauban (Vobahng), the Marshal of France who designed fortresses for Louis the Fourteenth.

At the same time, there is the fact that the Nazis are fast losing the use of the ~~many~~ numerous large munitions factories, manpower and mineral resources of all Silesia. And in addition to the places whose capture have been mentioned, the Russians have taken several others ~~that~~ ^{that} effectively hem-in the garrison of Breslau.

GERMANY FOLLOW RUSSIA

As usual, when the air is full of such news, we hear stories of riot and revolt, in Germany. ~~And, there are plausible accounts of rebellion by foreign slave workers in Germany, of whom there are some eight millions in Hitler's crumbling realm. Evidently only a few so far have risen against their taskmasters.~~

One Nazi radio commentator today talked about the difficulty of evacuating the vast population in the path of the advancing Red Army. He urged refugees not to cram the snowbound roads.

Some European military experts are saying that the next eight days may decide the war, the war in Europe, when we'll have to work and fight all the harder to lick the Japs.

WESTERN FRONT

On the Western Front, the First Army of General Hodges advanced four miles. ~~Those~~ ^{His} ~~Yan~~ divisions are now only two miles ~~away~~ from the German border, after capturing a place called Bullange (~~Bullange~~), where several highways meet, near the Belgian frontier.

With white capes over their uniforms to make them hard to see against the snow, the soldiers of the First U.S. Division took the place by storm at two o'clock in the morning.

Elsewhere, the formidable defenses of the German Siegfried Line are now within easy range of American heavy guns.

A force of one thousand a hundred and fifty American heavy bombers went to work to support the ground fighters. With an escort of seven hundred fighters, they rained explosives on the big railway junctions in back of the German line. The British

Lancasters took ~~up the charge~~^{over} by day.

~~That four mile advance of the First Army is the biggest progress made by the Allies on the Western Front, although they report~~^{The word is} that about a quarter of von Rundstedt's forces have been withdrawn to meet the attack of the Soviets on the Eastern Front. ^{TP} ~~Patton's men of the Third Army attacked in the valley of the Moselle River, but pushed ahead only two miles. Roughly, they are now some seventy-five miles away from the city of Coblenz.~~

~~Further north, the British Second Army is busy wiping out pockets of Germans in the area southwest of Roermond.~~

~~Further south, the French have fought their way toward Colmar and are now less than ~~one~~^a mile ~~from it.~~^{from it.}~~

PRINCE

Somewhere on the Western Front, a sergeant of American military police got suspicious about a station wagon adorned with the star of an American Brigadier General. At the wheel was a stoutish gentleman, in a British uniform. That didn't look good to the sergeant, so he started frisking the pockets of the stout stranger. The officer protested, saying: "But I am the Prince of Luxembourg."

To which the American sergeant replied in classical fashion: Yeah, Bud, so I'm General Patton, and I want to see your papers, pronto."

You have probably guessed the answer. Yes, it was Prince Felix of Luxembourg, a Brigadier in the British Army. He shook hands with the sergeant and congratulated him on his carefulness, and drove off toward the capital.

And That recalls an incident at Pelham Bay, New York. A scholarly looking civilian with a firm chin

tried to enter the reservation. He was a stranger to the shore patrol at the gate, who happened to be the scion of a rich family and just out of Princeton. The M.P. stopped the man, who protested that he was President Wilson. *And* ~~it~~ was ~~the Honorable~~ Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, and ~~incidentally~~ ex-President of Princeton, ~~University~~, but it required the persuasiveness of two secret service men in the President's escort to convince that young Princetonian. ~~That episode too dissolved in laughter and congratulations~~

The Government of the United States has not changed its position about the necessity and propriety of punishing ^{Axis} officials ~~of the Axis powers~~ for the atrocities committed at their order. Last week we heard that the American member of the War Crimes ~~Committee~~ Commission would not return to London because of the attitude of the British government. ~~The official~~ explanation was that Congress had not appropriated any money for expenses. But Herbert C. Pell, the member in question, said that was nonsense. The real reason, he thinks, is failure to find support for his attitude that the Nazi Gestapo should suffer punishment for ^{all} the crimes ~~it committed~~ against the German Jews. The British are supposed to cling to the notion that what Germans did to German nationals is no business of the Allies.

The views of our government were repeated today by Joseph C. Grew, Acting Secretary of State.

Mr. Grew

pointed out that our position has been repeatedly stated by President Roosevelt and also by State

Secretary Stettinius and ^{he} ~~Grew~~ added; ~~It is unchanged~~

~~today.~~ "It is the policy of the United States to see to it that Axis leaders and their henchmen, guilty of atrocities, shall be brought to the bar of justice."

BIG THREE

The word tonight is that Harry Hopkins is in, or nearing, Rome, where he will see the leaders of the Italian government and also Pope Pius at the Vatican. We hear that he has been in London and Paris discussing the matters to be taken up when Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin hold their conference.

War Mobilization Director Byrnes is also out of the country. But the Office of Censorship doesn't want any public speculation as to where he is or what he is doing there.

Hugh - your Standard of California --

PACIFIC

The Tokyo radio today broadcast another claim of Jap submarines operating off the west coast of the United States. According to the broadcast, they sank three transport ships and one oil tanker. Two weeks ago, American censorship allowed the publishing of a report that a Nipponese undersea boat had sunk one American Liberty ship and machine-gunned the survivors.

The Tokyo radio also boasted ^{today} that the Mikado's army has completed a line of defense in China against the future invasion of the Asiatic continent by the Allies. The line of defense extends eleven hundred airline miles, all the way from the island of Hainan in the south to Shanghai in the north. The ~~Japs~~ ^{- or say they do -} believe that they have ~~chattered~~ ^{checkmated} the Allied plan for making a landing along the China coast.

They have also sent heavy reinforcements into the area around Canton, to strengthen their hold on the

interior areas that they occupy in China.

Speaking for our side, General Hap Arnold announced today that our Superfort gunners, in an *air* ~~dog~~fight over Tokyo on Saturday, destroyed or damaged a hundred and nineteen ~~Jap~~ fighters. Those reports, said the General, are complete and accurate. And today B-29 formations repeated the attack on Tokyo, and also paid a return visit to Iwo Island in the Volcano group, seven hundred miles south of Tokyo.

The ~~dogfight~~ ^{air battle} over Tokyo on Saturday lasted for an hour. According to earlier reports, they bagged only seventy-five Jap planes. But the final figures are ~~a~~ fifty-seven enemy fighters destroyed, twenty-one ~~more~~ probably destroyed, and forty-one damaged. We lost five B-29s.

Meanwhile, Admiral Halsey, ~~who is not addicted to~~ ^{tells us} ~~loud or vain talking,~~ declared that the American Navy

has put an end to Nipponese control of the South China

Sea. ^{That} Uncle Sam's Pacific fleet ^{now} ~~was~~ operate^s there ^{at will.} ~~at will.~~

~~time we want to~~ Halsey used these words: "We've got the enemy on his heels and we are going to keep on socking him whenever we find him."

Adm.

In five months, ^{Adm.} Halsey's Third Fleet has

destroyed five hundred and sixty-three enemy merchant

vessels, ^{and} damaged one-thousand-and-eleven. ~~It~~ ^{Also it has}

destroyed four thousand, three hundred and seventy

planes, and ninety of the Mikado's warships, ~~these~~

including ^{ing} a battleship, four carriers, four heavy cruisers,

three light cruisers, twenty-one destroyers, eighteen

destroyer-escorts, four submarines and thirty-five small

combat ships. In addition to all this, Halsey's men

damaged a hundred and fifty-two more vessels,

including eight battleships and eight heavy cruisers.

PHILIPPINES

A dispatch from Mac Arthur's headquarters, in summing up the position of the American Sixth Army, says it advanced thirty miles in the past week.

Major General Griswold's Fourteenth Corps, ~~is only~~ ^{at latest} ~~is~~ ^{reports, is} thirty-four airline miles away from Manila - having captured San Fernando. To protect the right flank of that corps, our troops have set fire to the grassland west of Clark Field; to burn out the Jap entrenchments. MacArthur admits that Japanese mines destroyed some of our tanks.

San Fernando is a town of some twenty thousand people at the juncture of two highways -- two important highways over which the ~~troops~~ ^{fighting men} of the Fourteenth Corps have been travelling some ninety miles from the invasion beaches. The ~~capture~~ ^{capture} of San Fernando was a bit of a surprise because our officers had expected the Japs to make a stand at the San Fernando River. So now the last line of defense between our soldiers and the Philippine capital is the Pampanga River just ten miles further south.

WALLACE

A statement from Henry Wallace, and it contradicts what he said before. Hitherto he has declared that he would take the job of Secretary of Commerce even though Congress lopped off the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and all the loan agencies. Tonight he went back on that. He said he would prefer not to be Secretary of Commerce if he could not have control of the Forty-six Billion dollar R.F.C., and all the other government agencies for lending money to people.

BLUEBEARD

Francis Van Wie, the San Francisco super-bluebeard, is out on bail tonight. But he had to promise the judge that he would indulge in no more matrimony before his trial at least.

It came to light today that two of the foremost attorneys of the Golden Gate City will defend VanWie, who is charged with multiple bigamy. And according to the United Press, a group of well-to-do San Franciscans, including one millionaire, have subscribed for his defense. Said one financier, who is among these philanthropists:- "Please don't think this means we are condoning bigamy." And then he added: "I guess we got into this thing just because we have a sense of humor." One of the lawyers explained that the subscribers to the Wie fund to defense Van Wie, felt that any man brave enough to marry twelve women should have some help.

Well, Hugh, after that we'll turn to you.

One of the biggest cartels in the world, though not the most talked about, is the diamond syndicate, *which* for ~~over~~ decades, ~~it~~ has controlled the marketing of *diamonds the world* ~~those precious carbons all~~ over, ~~the world~~ producing and selling something like ninety-five per cent of the total supply. Owing to ^{this} ~~its~~ rigid control of the market, the diamond still is the most valuable of all gems.

Well, here in our country, The Department of Justice has brought suit under the Anti-Trust Law, naming ~~the~~ DeBeers Consolidated Mines, Limited, of Kimberly, South Africa; the Diamond Corporation, Limited, and seven other subsidiaries and affiliates, in Belgium, in the Congo, and in Portugal.

Dept. of Justice
The ~~Dept.~~ makes the accusation that these corporations have conspired to erect a monopoly of the diamond trade *in* the United States, with ~~bad~~ ^{harmful} results to the war effort. Stock piles of industrial diamonds have shrunk so that there are not enough of them for use in industry.

Today

The Federal Court, in New York, ~~today~~ issued an injunction forbidding those nine corporations and seven of their American stockholders from removing their diamonds and their cash on deposit in New York City banks. The government charges that those nine corporations produce a hundred million dollars' worth of ~~gem~~ diamonds a year, ^{— plus} about one million karats, ~~and~~ seven million karats of industrial diamonds. ^{And the U.S.} Government charged ^{the diamond combine} that ~~it~~ lowered the quality of industrial diamonds, ~~but~~ ^{without} ~~it did not~~ reducing the price.

The government further charged that the syndicate had carried on a campaign of advertising to make ~~it~~ the public believe that diamonds are naturally rare and valuable and worth the prices you pay for them. Those prices, says the government, are many times those which would prevail under competitive conditions.