

RUSSIA

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Sunoco.

In Poland, the whole German line is receding in such fashion as to make it appear that the Nazis might be pulling out of Poland altogether. Everywhere, along that immense ^{eastern} front, the Red Army surged forward today - for gains of as much as twenty-four miles. The big headline was - Warsaw captured, as announced by Stalin. And another important city, fourteen miles from the German border, has fallen to the Soviets. Also, there is a report that the Red Army has taken Krakow, the great city in southern Poland.

The capture of Warsaw is one of the markers in the history of this war. That city was the first national capital to fall to the Nazis and for more than five years Warsaw has endured a series of ordeals - ~~xxxx~~ including the revolt of the Jewish ghetto, which the Nazis crushed with merciless ferocity, and the futile uprising of the Polish patriots, when Soviet forces approached Warsaw months ago. Now the Nazis have been driven out - fleeing, as the Soviet armies drive forward in the

mightiest offensive that the eastern front has known.

German propaganda is preparing the German people, apparently, for the gloomy news that the Nazi forces are being compelled to ~~XXXXXX~~ evacuate Poland. Today, one Berlin military commentator stated: "Nothing that has happened in the last five years of war can be compared with the masses of men and weapons that the Russians have thrown into their winter offensive". And that seems to be no exaggeration - with two million Russians unchecked at any point today.

FOLLOW RUSSIA

The latest tonight states that in their advances today the Soviet armies captured two thousand ^{more} Polish towns and villages.

... the Russian army... It cut off the vision of the artillery, and impeded the infantry. The soldiers were able to see nothing ahead. Yet, Russian troops were able to capture the town of... and that was particularly gratifying to them, because... was the scene of the desperate American stand at the... when the enemy first drove forward for the breakthrough.

~~... is... the British and Canadians were attacking today. They were with battle dress, for... as they went forward through for and... might have the... out... further. You... has now lost... of the... the former occupied in their... of... that took... square miles, of which only three hundred square miles.~~

WESTERN FRONT

The Western Front, to a large extent, was tied up today by fog. Clouds of white mist shrouded the remains of the German bulge - fog so dense that it muffled the thunder of the guns. It cut off the vision of the artillery, and impeded the infantry - the soldiers hardly able to see anything ahead. Yet, American Troops were able to capture the town of Vielsalm, and that was particularly gratifying to them, because Vielsalm was the scene of the desperate American stand at the time when the enemy first drove forward ~~for~~ for the break-through.

~~Up in Holland, the British and Canadians were attacking today. They wore white battle dress, for camouflage, as they went forward through fog and sleet. Tonight finds the German salient cut down still further. Von Rundstedt has now lost three-fourths of the grounds his forces occupied in their big ~~effort~~ offensive. They took twelve hundred square miles, of which only three hundred square miles~~

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Tonight finds the German salient cut down still further. Von Rundstedt has now lost three-fourths of the grounds his Forces occupied in their big offensives. They took twelve hundred square miles, of which only three hundred square miles now remain - a thin strip, no wider than twelve miles along the border of Germany. Up in Holland, the British and Canadians were attacking today. They wore white battle dress, for camouflage, as they drove forward through fog and sleet.

~~To the south in Alsace, a stalemate of hard fighting is reported with American and French troops trying to cut off thrusts that the Germans have driven forward at Hagenuau and Strasbourg.~~

ADD WESTERN FRONT

The latest tonight features that new British offensive in Holland, which has scored gains of two miles. Field Marshal Montgomery is swinging the drive around to the north, along the German frontier - and is threatening to cut off the last remaining enemy forces in Holland.

This final bulletin repeats and expands the theme of nightmare weather. Fog so thick that Jeeps and military trucks had to be guided by foot soldiers along the roads -- something like leading the blind. And the fog has been accompanied by freakish conditions of snow and ice. A heavy snowfall was followed by a thaw and then a swift freeze, which turned the country into slippery and treacherous ice. And now another thaw has set in, and the battlefield is becoming an ocean of slush and mud.

MEDAL OF HONOR

Here is a war story, especially for New York and Brooklyn baseball fans — such as root for the Yankees or the Dodgers. In watching games at the Yankee Stadium or Ebbets Field several years ago, they may have noted a red-headed peanut vendor — one of the lads who go down the aisles selling soda pop and hot dogs and tossing bags of peanuts to the patrons. His hair was the color of flame, and his name was Charlie Shea.

In case you ever bought a bottle of pop or a hot dog or a bag of peanuts from Charlie Shea, you will be interested in this — he was decorated with the Medal of Honor over in Italy today. Charlie Shea was awarded the Nation's highest military honor for an exploit that he performed during his first forty minutes in battle — within forty minutes of his first appearance in actual combat.

Today, after he was decorated in Rome, the red-headed hero had only one urgent thing to say. He was eager to explain that, while he was a peanut

vendor at Ebbets Field as well as at the Yankee Stadium, he was from the Bronx and was a Yankee fan. His career at the home of the Dodgers was merely professional. Working for the peanut selling company, He was sent over to the home of the Dodgers as part of his job.

As for winning that Medal of Honor - Oh, it happened when his outfit was sent into the fighting line for the first time. That was in the spring of last year, when the American Army was launching its drive to capture Rome. Charlie Shea, a Staff Sergeant, led his squad safely through a mine field - which was pretty good going for a soldier who had never been in action before. However, they soon found themselves cut off by German machine guns on three sides - and Charlie Shea, who had never seen ^{or heard} a shot fired in earnest before, attacked one of the machine gun nests single-handed. He was firing his Garand rifle for the first time - except in practice. And, leaping from cover, he killed three Germans, and captured

MEDAL OF HONOR - 3

the machine gun emplacement. Then he went on to capture the second enemy strong point and took five prisoners. The same thing with the machine gun nest that remained - Charlie capturing two prisoners there.

All of which was quite an exploit during Charlie's first forty minutes in battle - the single handed capture of three machine gun nests, killing three of the enemy, and capturing seven.

- To what does Charlie Shea attribute his fighting ability? Today, in the Eternal City of Rome, he referred back to his peanut career at the Yankee Stadium and Ebbets Field - under the stands, where things can be rough and tough, among the soda pop, hot dog and peanut boys at the Ball Park.

— • —
Hugh, what's the word from Stan. of Cal. before ^dcontinue?

SUBSTITUTE LEAD PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines the American beachhead on Luzon has now been expanded to sixty-two miles -- an addition of seventeen miles being reported tonight.

This extra length ~~mm~~ was gained when MacArthur's forces drove out from the eastern flank of the American advance. That took them across the peninsula that forms an eastern arm along Lingayen Gulf. And the latest is that, ^{MacArthur's men} ~~having reached the tip of the peninsula, they~~ are pushing down the coast in the direction of still another peninsula, the one with the famous name -- Bataan.

In the main advance toward Manila, MacArthur's troops ~~mm~~ are still pushing on virtually unopposed, etc.



PHILIPPINES

~~In the Philippines, MacArthur's troops~~
~~are still pushing toward Manila — virtually unopposed.~~
We hear that their principal trouble is caused, not
by Japanese guns, but by broken bridges. These, along
the broad highways leading to Manila, have been
slowing up supplies for the big push.

Today's dispatches place American
troops at a point thirty-six miles inland, ~~that far~~
~~from the Lingayen beaches, where the landings were~~
~~made.~~ Their objective is the highway junction ~~at~~ of
Tarlac, and they are within a dozen miles of that
place. One dispatch states that Tarlac is likely
to be captured without a fight, ~~which underscores~~
~~the strange lack of enemy opposition that thus far~~
~~has characterized the MacArthur invasion of Luzon.~~

The only semblance of a battle that the
Japs are putting up is on the northeastern flank of
the advance. We heard last night about sharp fighting
there, and that report continues today. The Japs are
making a determined effort to keep the Americans from

breaking through on the northeastern flank of the invasion - where an advance would threaten to cut important highways and catch large forces of Japs in a trap.

The lack of enemy resistance to the main advance ~~is~~ has brought about the surmise at the invasion front - that the Japs might not attempt even a strong defense of Manila. An American air officer ~~is~~ is quoted as saying that the Jap air force on Luzon has virtually ceased to exist. The opinion of this officer is that ~~the~~ Tokyo appears to be resigned to the loss of the Philippines, and therefore is not sending in aerial reinforcements - not wanting to waste air power on a lost cause. ^{TP} (Here's a late dispatch telling of the destruction of sixty one ~~more~~ ~~Jap~~ ~~enemy~~ planes on the ground).

MANPOWER

President Roosevelt sent his manpower message to Congress today - urging the passage of the work-or-fight law. The message was brief, but every line emphasized the President's belief in the necessity of the bill that it would force ~~x~~ four-F's into war plants.

DOG

At Antioch, California, an eighteen year old sailor of the Navy tells a dog story - which, however, is not one of those ~~mm~~ sentimental narratives in which a pooch figures as the friendly faithful companion of some small boy. This dog story is more majestic, up in the higher brackets.

Sailor Leon Leroy tells how after a long tour of duty aboard a tanker in the Atlantic, he landed in New York on January Ninth. There he was informed that his father had ~~died three days~~ ^{just died -} ~~previously~~ - chief of Police Al Leroy of Antioch, California. The sailor was likewise told that his mother was ill. He applied for permission to hurry home and was granted, not only the permission, but also a priority aboard an Army plane -- "C" priority. The plane started across the continent, and at Dayton, Ohio, a dog was put aboard in a crate - a dog so big that it occupied three seats. The word was that the animal was being sent from Colonel Elliott Roosevelt, the President's second son, to his newly married wife -

Faye-Emerson Roosevelt.

The trans-continental voyage was continued and then, at Memphis, sailor Leroy was told he'd have to get off the plane. And so were an Army sergeant and a Navy Seabee, who also had "C" priorities. ~~They were informed that~~ their three places were needed for ~~some~~ some high priority cargo, ^{that} ~~which~~ was put aboard.

The sailor says that he, the Sergeant and the Seabee protested: "Why can't you take off the big dog?" they demanded - arguing that the animal in the crate occupied the same amount of space that they needed.

"You have "C" priorities", they were reminded, and then were shown that the dog, ~~said to be on its way from Colonel Elliott Roosevelt to his wife,~~ was listed as having priority "A".

So, they were taken off the plane, and the sailor, ^{says} ~~states that~~ he had to hitch-hike the rest of the way to California - thumbing ~~automobile~~ rides, as he proceeded to his home where his father had ^{just} died.

and his mother was ill.

~~Today, giving his story to a home town newspaper, he said that, because of all that long hitch-hiking, his leave is nearly up, and he'll have to hurry back to New York - unless his leave is extended.~~

That's the dog story for today, and undoubtedly the explanation is that there was some kind of mix-up. It would be interesting, I suppose, to tell Fala about it - though Fala might be jealous. *Am*
It might result in a dog fight. - ~~though Fala is rather small beside the big dog in the plane.~~

ADD DOG

Yes, Here is a follow-up to the story, an inevitable inquiry made by newspapermen in Washington. A spokesman of the War Department states that it is true that three service men were put off an Army plane at Memphis while a big dog remained aboard.

He was asked: "Did the dog belong to Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt?"

He replied: "I cannot comment on that."

The War Department spokesman went on to say that the plane in question was a cargo transport, and that the three servicemen had been taken aboard only as a favor - with the understanding that they would have to get off if their space was needed for cargo. Three hundred pounds of extra cargo had to be taken aboard at Memphis - and the load of the plane reduced that much. The dog in the crate did not weigh three hundred pounds, so the three servicemen were taken off instead.

Still later - Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt states that she did receive a dog, a big Mastiff, from her husband, who is in England. But she says she doubts

that the animal had traveled on a high army plane

priority. *And, she* ~~she~~ says she understands that Colonel

Elliott Roosevelt has sent her still another dog from
England - by air.



SECOND ADDITION TO DOG

The latest is that newspaper sleuths have discovered the dog - in a Hollywood kennel. A fawn-colored, hundred-and-fifty pounder, a bull mastiff. They were told the dog was a cross between a great Dane and an English Bull. It has the body of a mastiff and the face of a bulldog -- which sounds formidable.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

Today is the two hundred and thirty-ninth birthday anniversary of Benjamin Franklin, and ~~at Boston an enterprising United Press reporter looked up the facts and figures in the matter that certainly would interest Benjamin Franklin, if he were alive today. In fact, that soul of thrift "poor Richard" would be delighted.~~ *And we are reminded*

that Back in Seventeen Ninety-One, Franklin created a trust fund into which he put a thousand pounds - about four thousand dollars. In his will he stipulated that the money was to be loaned at a suitable rate of interest to what Franklin called - "young married artificer's starting in business". ~~In other words, young married craftsmen in various trades were to get loans, and thrifty Poor Richard specified that they were to pay interest.~~

The Franklin Will continued that, at the end of a hundred years, the fund, increased by the accumulation of interest, was to be divided. Half of it to be put out on loans, as before. ~~This for~~

~~another ~~xxx~~ hundred years, when the State of
Massachusetts would receive the final accumulation
of money - for use as the State might decide.~~

So now let us see what has happened to
the ~~xxxx~~ original four thousand dollar fund bequeathed
by thrifty Poor Richard. The first hundred years was
up in Eighteen Ninety-One, and at that time the Four
Thousand Dollars, with piled up interest, had grown
to nine hundred and sixty-six thousand. Half of this
was used, at the time, to found the Franklin Technical
Institute in Boston, which now has about four hundred
students in engineering.

The other half, four hundred and eighty-
three thousand dollars went on building up, and has
now increased to much more than a million. And it
is anybody's guess how much it will amount to when
the second hundred year period is up. ^{At that time} ~~how much~~ the
State of Massachusetts will get ^{the} ~~from~~ half of the
modest fund left by Poor Richard.

A wise man was Benjamin
Franklin. And how about a few
words of wisdom from you Hugh?