

The battle on Okinawa raged with wild fury today, and American troops scored advances that may mark the beginning of the end -- a decisive break in the Jap lines perhaps. Infantry fighters were ~~xxx~~ closing in on the key Japanese stronghold of Shuri -- and they captured Chocolate Drop Hill. That's a rise of land one hundred and thirty feet tall, and ~~ixix~~ it's shape and color can be guessed by the name the Americans have given it -- Chocolate Drop Hill. The capture of the summit gives them positions dominating Japanese held areas to the south.

At Naha, ^{capital} ~~xxxxxx~~ of Okinawa, a heavy Jap counter attack has been repelled. Earlier in the day word came of how the marines had driven into Naha after storming across the Asato River, and the latest describes violent fighting in the ruined wreckage of what was once a town. In a bitter house to house battle the Leathernecks hurled back a dangerous ~~Japanese~~ counter attack - drove the Japs off at the point of a bayonet.

We have an official report from Admiral Nimitz headquarters of sweeping sea and air operations over the weekend. Swarms of carrier planes of the fleet blasted the Japs on their home islands, concentrating on flying fields. Planes, bombing and strafing and hurling rockets, ravaged the bases from which Jap suicide pilots fly against warships of the Fleet. Tonight's count is three hundred and fifty seven enemy planes ^{destroyed} ~~shot down~~ or damaged -- either in the air or on the ground.

In the Philippines, General MacArthur announces that ninety percent of the big island of Mind~~a~~nao has been liberated. What Japs are left are encircled in the wild mountains in the center of the island, ~~and~~ They are under constant attack, as the reconquest of Mindanao moves to completion.

On Luzon, MacArthur reports a violent battle for the control of a dam - the Ipo Dam, major source of water supply for Manila. American troops have seized positions dominating the dam

and are attacking ~~and~~ desperately resisting *enemy*
forces.

HITLER

We have what appears to be an authentic account of Hitler's last decision. ^{That is,} the Nazi Fuehrer's determination to stay in Berlin to the end, instead of ^{continuing} ~~having~~ Nazi resistance in the mountains of south Germany, the much talked of Nazi redoubt. The account is given by a stenographer at Hitler's Berlin headquarters, ~~Gerhardt Herrgeselle, who states that he worked at shorthand and typewriting for Der Fuehrer during the months from July of last year to the last days of the Nazi catastrophe.~~ He took the job, after Hitler's previous stenographer had been killed in the much publicized plot of the generals to blow up Hitler, ^{overthrow} ~~so that~~ the Nazi regime, ~~and would make peace.~~

He describes a crisis in the underground fortress below the Reichschancellery, ~~in Berlin.~~ Soviet artillery was shelling the center of the city, and obviously the time had come for the Nazi leaders to leave Berlin - if they were to continue the war in the mountains of

southern Germany, the redoubt. There were excited conferences, but Hitler could not make up his mind.

"He seemed hazy," relates the stenographer. "He often failed to reply to questions. At other times he was obviously not paying any attention to questions."

The stenographer tells how the big decision was finally made in a fifteen minute conference on April Twenty-Second. "In recent days," he relates, "Hitler had not looked so fit. His face was puffy and he flushed easily. He seemed to become more stooped daily. When he walked his shoulders gave the impression almost of being a hunchback." The stenographer adds that Hitler's hands were shaky - especially his right arm, which had been injured in the bomb|explosion, touched off by the plot of the generals. *the Nazi dictator* In the decisive conference, ~~he~~ announced: "It is lost. I shall remain in Berlin. I shall fall here in the Reichschancellery."

His Nazi henchmen protested violently, trying to

argue their Fuehrer back into the idea of making a final fight in the south German mountains. They yelled and shouted. "But," says the stenographer, "Hitler would not be talked out of his decision. During the discussions he frequently tried to silence them, but usually they were *all* shouting at once."

There were other conferences. They ^{*still*} tried to persuade Hitler that the Nazis could still put up a long fight. He was not convinced. Ribbentrop, the Nazi Foreign Minister, telephoned, and protested in feverish excitement. He yelled that he had inside word that the Western Allies were about to split with Soviet Russia.

This Ribbentrop message was conveyed to Hitler. And the stenographer quotes him as replying: "Oh, that's what that man says." Obviously, the doomed tyrant had become disillusioned with the schemer, ^{*the champagne salesman,*} Ribbentrop - whose crack-brain-counsel had figured so largely in the Nazi catastrophe.

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Goebbels appeared^d and ~~he~~ argued ~~tk~~ with Hitler, ^{stet}

^{stet} screaming that Der Fuehrer must carry on the plan to make the final fight in the south German redoubt.

Hitler still refused, and that was the state of affairs when, shortly before the fall of Berlin, the stenographer, together with some others, left the doomed city and flew to south Germany.

He states his belief that Hitler perished in the underground fortress, together with his sweetheart Eva Braun, who was with him all the time. In that case, the end of the Nazi Fuehrer would have a feminine element, as ^{true} ~~the case~~ in the gruesome doom of his Fascist partner, ^{- and Clara Petacci,} Mussolini. The Hitler stenographer believes that Hitler's body may have been placed in a vault somewhere in the underground fortress, and the tomb then sealed by blasting the rubbish of a building down ^{upon it.} ~~a point~~

GOEBBELS FOLLOW HITLER

The Russians announce that they have found the body of Goebbels - in one of those subterranean Nazi recesses in Berlin. And, with the arch propagandist of Nazi Germany, were the bodies of his wife and children. They were discovered sprawled around the microphone in Goebbels's underground broadcasting station. And, from the brief description that the Russians sent^d_{it} it would seem that Hitler Propaganda Minister died as he had lived - shrieking a harangue into the microphone. ~~It~~ Apparently ~~would seem that~~ he ranted his last propaganda broadcast, and then - ^{a family} ~~apparently committed~~ suicide.

Hugh - what news from Stan. of Cal. ?

British troops of occupation today entered Flensburg, the seat of the ghost of the Nazi Government headed by Admiral Doenitz. That sharpens the question of the status of Doenitz, successor to Hitler as Der Fuehrer. London official circles say they do not know whether or not Doenitz is to be tried as a war criminal. Having made the surrender to the Allies, he has been left with authority to carry ^{out the terms,} ~~them out~~ and recently the Doenitz government announced that German Field Marshal Ernest Bush had been placed in command of German soldiers and civilians in northwest Germany - this with the sanction of the Allies. ^{has} All of which ^{created a good deal} of wonder.

A British military commentator today explained that in the case of a mass surrender, it is necessary "to deal with someone who has authority over surrendering troops." (~~And to this those words he added: "Something like six million Germans are milling around, and the best method to control them is to make use of existing~~

Today the protests in England about coddling German war leaders increased, with publication of a news dispatch stating that two top German commanders, Field Marshal von Milch and General von Manteuffel are living in the most luxurious kind of captivity in ^{Lueneberg} ~~Luxembourg~~ - dining on what the dispatch calls - "champagne, eggs and custards." It is explained that in the prison camp the two German commanders are getting regular military rations, according to the rules of war. But their friends are ~~sending~~ sending them these "Champagne, eggs and custards"; and, gifts to war prisoners are also in accordance with the rules of war. But it is an annoyance to the Allied soldiers at the camp, who have to get along on army rations.

WAR CRIMINALS

American troops have seized perhaps the most atrocious of the war criminals - Police Lieutenant General Kaltenbrunner, who was in charge of the wholesale gas murders perpetrated by the Nazis. The story is that Hitler, Himmler and Kaltenbrunner decided that the most efficient method for mass executions was the use of gas chambers - in which victims could be killed in maximum numbers by lethal vapors. And Kaltenbrunner was placed in charge of this hideous atrocity and did the job so well that the number of gas victims was estimated in the millions.

When the final collapse came, ~~captain~~ *the fiend*, Kaltenbrunner went into hiding, trying to disguise himself by shaving off his mustache. He got to Austria, and there was recognized. He wasn't so hard to identify because he is described as - "a fat man with a singularly unpleasant face."

Meanwhile, there is no word about a whole string of other Number One war criminals, headed by Gestapo Chief Himmler. No sign of Ribbentrop, Hitler's Foreign Minister, and the Nazi Labor tyrant, Robert Ley. The Luxembourg radio reports that the Allies have closed the entire Western frontier of Germany, to prevent the escape of top ranking war criminals who have dropped out of sight.

ATROCITIES

Congress today heard from the Committee on Nazi atrocities - the twelve Senators and Representatives who, at General Eisenhower's request, flew to Europe and inspected the German murder camps. Their report is precisely the same as that of others of us who ~~have~~ had the opportunity to see those hells of horror. They today told Congress that their own eye-witness testimony verified completely the worst that ^{you've} ~~we've~~ heard about the Nazi atrocity camps. These they call: - "no less than organized crime against civilization."

The Committee conveys the same impression that I myself tried to state - when I broadcast by short wave several weeks ago, after being one of the first to ~~be~~

~~taken on an inspection of~~ those haunts of Nazi crime. -

^{that is} the impression that the worst was true, ^{all of us who were there} ~~and that it was~~
^{found it} almost impossible ~~for a normal human being~~ to realize

that such criminal barbarism could have existed in this world.

ATROCITIES

The Committee today added an account of a ghoulish treasure hoard - a Nazi cache of jewels and gold. At the infamous Buchenwald^d Camp, a hiding place was found crammed with jewelry, including thousands of wedding rings and gold fillings of teeth - loot that had been taken from murdered victims.

EISENHOWER POLICY

Policies of censorship on public information within the American occupied parts of Germany were clarified by President Truman today. He referred to a statement made recently by Elmer Davis, head of the O.W.I. Davis had stated that American and other Allied newspapers and magazines would not be permitted to circulate among the Germans, ^{who} ~~but~~ would be allowed access to censored versions only. ~~That is - publications of the United States and other Allied nations would be doctored and fixed up before the Germans would be allowed to see them.~~

This provoked a good deal of criticism, and today President Truman stated - No, that wasn't the idea at all. The head of the O.W.I., he explained, spoke in good faith but he had misunderstood what the military leaders of the Western Allies really wanted. The President said that General Eisenhower has informed him that he has not laid down any policy for the censoring of American and other *Allied newspapers and magazines in occupied Germany.*

SUBMARINES

Three German submarines appeared off the coast of New England today, and surrendered. One - at Casco Bay, Maine, this morning. The others - at undisclosed places later on.

The surrender of the German U-boat fleet has been proceeding rapidly, and would now seem to be virtually complete - although a few German subs may still be at large - presumably on their way to surrender.

End s-l-u-t-m,

BIG THREE

President Truman declared himself today on the subject of another Big Three meeting - he expects one to be held in the near future.

Previously today, Prime Minister Winston Churchill in London had said he devout~~ely~~^{ly} hoped for a conference between himself, Premier Stalin, and President Truman. "It would," said Churchill, "be very odd if such a long fierce war ended without any settlement even among the victors."

~~President Truman's view is that a get-together of the Big Three is likely to be held, not at once - but some time soon, to consider a whole list of pressing questions, a list headed by Poland.~~

Today *Truman*
~~The~~ President was asked - what about DeGaulle?
The head of the French government has been demanding that he be invited to the next parley of the chiefs of the Allies, France to be given a place along with the

United States, Great Britain and Russia - making it a Big Four. President Truman was asked about that today and pointedly reiterated that it still would be - the Big Three.

CONFERENCE

At San Francisco this afternoon, Secretary of State Stettinius declared that a world organization comes first, and a Pan-American system - second. He ~~declared~~ "The United States delegation," ~~he declared~~ ^{said he} with the utmost emphasis, "is in San Francisco to write a charter for a world organization." And he stressed the word - "world."

This is stated as compromise proposals are being made to fit our Western Hemisphere system into the structure of the world organization of the United Nations.

FOLLOW CONFERENCE

Tonight, Mexican delegate Padilla states that he believes the regional security issue is well on the way to solution. He made this optimistic declaration after conferring with Secretary of State Stettinius. And the latest word from San Francisco is that the U.S. formula for including our western hemisphere system within the World Security Organization is ready to be presented, and is virtually certain to win the approval of the Latin American countries.

ENDING

Tomorrow I'm off again, on another trip, this time to take a look at the war in the Pacific. On my recent jaunt, visiting the Armies ^{at} ~~in~~ the various fronts in Europe, I flew some twenty thousand miles, covered so much ground and got up so much momentum, that I can't wait to get to the Pacific. The war with Japan, so far as I am concerned is the only thing that matters. I admit that we are all interested in getting ready for the post war period, for the time when peace comes. But, to the average American, I believe the war with Japan is even more important than the war we have just won in Europe.

My trip starts tomorrow, and will include a flight around the world, the first, so far as I know of that has been undertaken by a radio news commentator. That part doesn't matter. I feel that I should see ~~xxx~~ something of our forces in the field, in the Pacific,

so that I will be better able to analyxe and interpret the news. My journey, I hope, will include not only many of the islands of the Pacific, but also the mainland of Asia -- broadcasting as I go. In closing tonight I do so with an enthusiastic salute to Standard of California, and to all of you. I hope you will continue to listen each night to your Standard News Program which will continue uninterrupted -- and now, as I take off for the other side of the glóbe, solong!

It is confirmed that the United States and Great Britain have sent diplomatic notes to Yugoslav Marshal Tito, protesting against the occupation by his force^s of the Italian province of Istria. The importance of Istria lies in the great harbor of Trieste, which city, a pre-war possession of Italy, Tito's Yugoslavs claims.

Istria, in the capitulation of the German armies in Italy, was part of the territory surrendered to the Allied command. We are told in London that Marshal Tito had agreed, last February, that all Italian territory should be under the control of the Western Allies. However, Tito's Partisans pushed into Istria and into Trieste - where New Zealand troops also established themselves. The city is now divided between the two.

Such are the grounds for the American-British protest, which London describes as firm, - though not an ultimatum.

OKINAWA

Taken from early bc. May 15/45.

American troops scored a major advance in the bitter battle for Okinawa. Today marines of the Sixth Division stormed across the Asato River and plunged to within a thousand yards of the center of the town of Naha - a place of ruin and wreckage now. Last weekend, the marines battled their way to the riverbank, and then were pinned ^{there} ~~down~~ by savage Japanese fire. Today, they were able to beat down enemy resistance, get across the stream, and push on to Naha, an advance supported by a pulverizing bombardment.

Word from the battleline is that today's events may mark the beginning of the end - a decisive break in the Jap lines. ^{TR} The Battle on Okinawa, which began Easter Sunday, has been as violent as the ferocious conflict on Iwo Jima. The Jap garrison consisted at one time of eighty thousand men, and it has lost so heavily in the savage clash, that less than half are now believed to remain. Their resistance is being crushed by a

stupendous weight of metals and explosives, but it is
believed ~~that~~ they will repeat the Iwo Jima story -
~~and~~ fight to the last man.