

PACIFIC

Hugh Gibson-Standard. Monday, April 9, 1945.
Sunoco.

Good evening, everybody -

Today

The Battle of southern Okinawa ~~today~~ ^{has} reached the

phase of hand-to-hand fighting. All night long, the Japs

had made one attack after another upon our lines,

suicide attacks. Today the conflict became even more

deadly. It is becoming more and more like the fighting

of Iwo. ^{Jimme} The Japanese are strongly entrenched in pill

boxes and caves ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ with communicating

trenches. The progress of the infantry ~~XXXXXX~~ grows

slower every day. In fact, the fighting is so intense

that it is ^{Dangerous} ~~actually bad~~ business for any unit to advance

too far ^{best} ~~for fear~~ it ~~may~~ be cut off. Consequently, it

may become necessary for ^{our} ~~that~~ infantry column to slow up

so as to straighten its line.

The defenses of the Nipponese are as ~~adequate~~ ^{intricate}

as the famous Cretan maze. From one knoll alone there are as many as fifteen entrances to underground tunnels, and some of them are half a mile long. In such defenses, the enemy looks down upon the ^{great} part of the American line.

the northern
On ~~another~~ part of Okinawa the

Marines are pushing ahead without much difficulty.

One half of the Motobu peninsula on the west ~~xxx~~ coast of the island is already under U. S. control.

Land artillery and the guns of the fleet cooperated to soften up the Japanese on southern Okinawa.

The Japanese today admitted that our planes had sunk the super-dreadnought Yamato plus one cruiser and three destroyers. The terms in which they admitted it revealed the fact that Japanese sailors and airmen are now pledged to suicide attacks against ^{the} U. S. Navy. And the ships destroyed ~~off~~ over the weekend, the Yamato, the cruiser and three destroyers were part of a special attack corps assigned to damage the American fleets at any cost. Any cost in this case meant the loss of five of the Mikado's warships.

PHILIPPINES

Our bombers and fighters based in the Philippines have bagged twelve more Japanese vessels - either sunk or severely damaged. Two of them were warships. They were in a convoy going south off the China Coast. The meaning of that is that General George Kenney, Commander of the Third Air Force is establishing a real blockade of Japan.

ARGENTINA

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The United States and Argentina are friendly once more. That is, diplomatic friends. Secretary Stettinius announced that our government has resumed diplomatic ^{relations} ~~communications~~ with the regime of President Farrell in conjunction with the other nineteen republics of the Western Hemisphere. Today the ~~diplomatic~~ officer in charge of the embassy at Buenos Aires called at the Argentine Foreign Office for the first time in more than a year. This of course is the direct result of Argentina's ~~direct~~ declaration of war upon the Axis countries and her acceptance of the actions of the Mexico City Conference.

9 More news in a moment, but first a message from Stanton of California

ISLANDS

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A Democratic Congressman today opened a campaign for keeping the islands in the Pacific which Americans have fought and died to ~~lose~~ ^{wrest} from the Japs. Representative Mahon of Texas pointed out that in this he has the support of Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Fleet. Saying ~~ing~~ Mahon: "We ought not to have to buy these bases ~~z~~ with American money and blood more than once."

Also, he thinks that Uncle Sam should relinquish ~~his~~ control when, as and if the United Nations can agree for joint ~~occupation~~ and control.

In any event, he insisted that the administration should make no commitments for relinquishing the control of the islands without the consent of Congress.

until morning to surrender.

In this type of warfare, there is no such

WESTERN FRONT

~~A German story~~

One story from the Western Front tonight describes

the region between the Rhine and Hannover as one vast guerrilla battlefield of a peculiarly deadly type.

The woods are chockfull of Germans. Some of them want to surrender, others want to kill. Consequently, the

American troops rolling eastward do not know ~~which~~ ^{which} is which

They pass a group of natives and they don't know whether they are going to throw up their hands and scream

"Kamerad" or put up a fight. Fourteen year old boys jump out of ditches to commit suicide, trying to attack our

tanks. In Hannover, the Nazi officials have even inducted the draft board into service.

On the other hand, German soldiers even go to the jails and when the guards aren't looking, ~~slip~~ ^{slip}

into the prisoners' ~~cells~~ ^{cells}, so they won't have to wait until morning to surrender.

In this type of warfare, there is no such

thing as a non-combatant. A general or a clerk is just as likely to be attacked as a fully armored fighting man.

Our men

~~They~~ never know when to expect a bullet from a sniper, even miles behind the front lines. In other words, though the Germans are disorganized, they have by no means quit, and that is a lesson ~~for~~ that everybody here at ~~the~~ home ~~front~~ might take to heart.

Tonight ~~both~~ the First and Third Armies of the United States are together east of the Weser River, on a hundred mile front. A dozen armored columns are fanning out through Germany toward Magdeburg on the Elbe, eighteen miles away, and Leipzig in Saxony, sixty miles away.

The Germans have set fire to both Bremen and Hannover. In fact, they are putting the torch to everything on the entire north Westphalian Plain, everything they have time to set fire to. Brunswick and Lübeck, another old port of the former Hanseatic League,

are also reported in flames, which is curious because neither of them has been bombed by Allied planes for weeks. In short, it looks as though the German army in the north is applying the scorched earth policy. The only towns and cities that escape are those ~~in the path where the Allies are driving so swiftly~~ that the Germans haven't time to destroy.

The British Second Army under General Sir Miles Dempsey, has begun the siege of M Bremen with a big concentration of guns and tanks. It is going to have the support of the full weight of Marshal Montgomery's artillery. As we know he, like the Russians, is a firm believer in efficient and heavy artillery preparation for any attack.

On the northern end of the front, the Canadian First Army is wiping out German pockets in Holland.

It has made connections with airborne troops, although

the Germans claim to have wiped out the parachute infantry that were landed.

The Ninth Army has fought its way into Essen, one of the foremost of the great steel and munition cities of the Ruhr. There are the ~~biggest~~ factories of the great Krupp Works, and the Ninth has occupied those factories.

Supreme headquarters in Paris tells us there have been fifty thousand German casualties a day for the past ten days, making half a million. The Nazis themselves, in their broadcasts, admit that they have been trying to stop our Allied armor with units no better than ~~DE~~ 3 impromptu fire brigades.

South of Westphalia, the First Army broke loose, forced the passage of the Leine River northeast of Kassel, and ~~is~~ ^{is} now storming the Werra River due east of Kassel.

Berlin says they are dropping paratroopers behind the German lines.

Patton's men are on the march again after a lull of four days, presumably to let supply lines catch up with them. The First and Third between them have driven a wedge into what is called the Thuringian Gap, in the Hartz Mountains, one of the historic gateways to Leipzig and Berlin.

ADD WESTERN FRONT

All in all four Allied armies are pushing toward the Elbe River, approaching the fortress cities that guard Berlin on the West. To pave the way for them the Allied High Command sent out five thousand planes, heavy bombers, medium bombers and fighters which tore up communication lines and disrupted the Germans behind their front.

In the South, the French are less than nine miles away from Stuttgart.

Details of the Third Army have found still another mass of treasures which the Nazis had stolen and hidden. This is in addition to the hundred million dollars of gold bullion and the paintings and other treasures they found Saturday in a salt mine. Today, a detail of the Third ransacked an ancient castle not far from Giesen. It consisted largely of Jewish manuscripts of great historic and scholarly importance, actually priceless. There were also paintings and other works of art. It is believed the manuscripts and books were stolen from the Oppenheim Museum at Frankfurt-am-Main, the Jewish Historical Museum at Amsterdam, and museums in Paris. They were probably stolen for the benefit of Dr. Alfred Rosenberg, the notorious collaborator of Hitler, who is believed to have done a good deal of the writing of "Mein Kampf." At any rate, he was responsible for Hitler's anti-Semitic ravings.

Secretary.

27

In the State Department, Stettinius announces ~~the~~ that the Army will hold all the gold and other treasures it has found until the Allied nations can make plans to handle the loot. They are pledged to return it to the rightful owners, but finding the rightful owners is going to be a terrific job.

~~What do you say, Hugh?~~

RUSSIA

One bit of news from Russia tonight is a story for which we've been waiting a long time, the fall of Koenigsberg. ~~For~~ ^The capital of East Prussia, what is left of it, is now in the hands of the Third White Russia Army. One must say the enemy fought hard. The siege lasted seventy days, ten whole weeks, although the garrison from the first was hopelessly outnumbered.

So much for the Baltic front, but down south the fall of Vienna is more and more imminent. Tolbukhin ^{has} sent in a ~~fresh~~ fresh column of shock troops from the north. And those Red soldiers are only three thousand yards away from ~~a~~ another division that is charging in ~~from~~ from the south.

In fact, the Reds are advancing so quickly that it looks as though the attractive old capital on the Danube may escape being as badly damaged as some other cities. For instance, one column, having captured the

west station in southwestern Vienna, advanced a mile and a quarter since last night, and is now at the museum on the Ring. That will mean a lot to anybody who has ever been to Vienna. The Ring corresponds to Chicago's Loop, ~~with the only difference that all of the Ring is nice to look at, which I would not say for much of the Loop.~~ It is a circular boulevard, enclosing the entire heart of the city. Inside it are all the best hotels, the best restaurants, theatres, in short, most of what a stranger wants to see.

~~A bulletin just received says that the Red Army has occupied the centre of Vienna.~~

ADD RUSSIA

A later story

reports

~~The latest~~ from Vienna ~~is~~ that the
~~is~~
Russians tonight are [^] in possession of two thirds
of the old city of the Austrian Emperors. Since

27 — noon, the Third Army of the Ukraine pushed ahead
two miles, took the Parliament Building, the Main
Police Station, the ~~once~~ Imperial Opera, the ~~once~~ *obs*

26 Imperial Central Post Office and the Central European
in short, the heart of the former Imperial City
Bank, [^] What the Germans are hanging on to now is just

the northern part of Vienna and the eastern section
between the canal and the River Danube.

ITALY--

It looks as though a new battle might be about to break in Italy. Things have been quiet there for months. But today there was a sudden eruption of air raids on the German divisions along the Sineo River. That is in the eastern part of the plains of the Po Valley. The Allied high command threw all the aircraft it had at the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Nazis.

~~And now, Hugh James.~~

And now what do you say

Hugh James

TEMPLE

Now I bring you a story of real moment, the latest about Shirley Temple's engagement ring. It is a diamond two and a half carats, set in platinum, emerald cut.

The young ~~1~~- movie star has promised Mother she will not marry her fiancé, John George Agar for two years -- maybe three.

It is ^{interesting} ~~thrilling~~ to learn that Shirley wore the two and a half carat emerald-cut diamond engagement ring to the exclusive fashionable Westlake School for girls. She told reporters coyly that it was difficult to pay attention to her studies such as cutting up frogs in the laboratory with that ring on her finger.

8 1/2
And now what do you say
Hugh James.

Taken from early bc. 4/9/45.

Tonight we know why the National Association of
Manufacturers did not greet ^{with cheers} the agreement between the
Unions and the United States Chamber of Commerce ~~with~~
~~cheers~~, the so-called Labor-Management Charter for
post-war industrial peace. It seems that all along, the
N.A.M. and the Chamber of Commerce have had a joint
committee at work preparing drafts of legislation to
make strikes illegal.

This was made public today by a director of
the National Association of Manufacturers. He thought
it very curious that Eric Johnston, President of the
Chamber, had made the charter public when he did,
knowing all the while that the Chamber and the N.A.M.
were collaborating on such a measure as that.

Whether such a law would have a chance of
passing is another matter, but if it did pass, it would
outlaw all strikes by unions called for the purpose of

coercing government agencies to act on cases before them. It would also forbid labor unions from using their power of strike to prevent the adoption of modern production techniques. Some unions have opposed the installation of new machinery. It would discourage strikes in violation of contract, and guarantee the freedom of all men to refrain from joining the Union without danger to himself or his family.

News from Tokyo tonight is ~~quite~~ significant. The ~~Mikado~~ Mikado's new Prime Minister announces that his Foreign Minister who has charge of affairs in Greater East Asia, is Shigenori Togo. That might not mean anything more than any other long Japanese name. But this Togo happens to be the diplomat who had charge of the negotiations with the Soviets during the border conflict between the Russians and the Japanese in Nineteen Thirty-Eight.

Tonight it looks as though the soft coal squabble might be settled without the government having to step in. The Union leaders and the mine owners have come to terms on every issue but one. The spokesman refused to say what that one is, but he indicated that there was distinct hope that even that might be ironed out.

It looks as though there was an end to the wildcat strike movement in the central and western coal fields. Today there were sixty-two mines shut down, some eighteen thousand men out. That is a distinct improvement from Saturday, when there were ninety mines not producing and thirty-four thousand men idle.

ADD_COAL

Late tonight, the War Labor Board certified the strikes in many of those mines - to the Economic Stabilization Director, William H. Davis. That leaves it up to Davis whether the Government shall seize those mines or not.

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There is sharp criticism today of the President's idea for establishing a Missouri Valley Authority, just like the Tennessee Valley Authority. What is needed, says the critic, is ~~xxxxMxYxxx~~ not one M.V.A., but two, one for the upper river, where irrigation interests are most important, and the other for the lower river, where flood control and navigation are paramount.

The critic is none other than Dr. Arthur E. Morgan, once Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority, whom President Roosevelt fired in Nineteen Thirty-Eight, after one of the stormiest episodes of his ~~administrations~~ administrations.

Whether you ^{agree with} ~~like~~ Arthur Morgan or not, he is one of the great American engineers. He points out that the Missouri River drains an area of nearly six hundred thousand square miles. That is fifteen times as much as the area drained by the Tennessee.

In his argument, Dr. Morgan takes a crack at the moving picture called "The River", which has been distributed all over the country. He says it is powerful, but dishonest and misleading, and it will be a generation before the false impression given by that picture is overcome.

More criticism of the United Nations War Crimes Commission in London. The Czechoslovak delegate has now come out with the accusation that in the long run the Commission will do nothing to punish Nazis guilty of cruelties before or during the war, -- In a scathing exposure of the policy of secrecy adopted by the Commission, he says: "They are against publicity in matters concerning war criminals, because they have dark plans favorable to the criminals." ~~Hexixix~~

He intimated that the Commission is composed of diplomats and politicians who suffered nothing, or so-called experts ~~an~~ international law who do nothing but invent obstacles in the way of effective punishment for war criminals. By way of ~~ix~~ illustration, he pointed out that they sneer at the suggestion that membership in the Gestapo or the S.S. should be considered prima facie evidence of membership in a criminal gang, punishable in itself. The members of the Commission say there are also decent people among the S.S. and the Gestapo.

That last one is quite a strain on the
credulity ~~for~~ most people.

A - ~~SM~~ - H - J,