

The Ludendorff bridge is okay, intact, in spite of German claims of having knocked out that all important span across the Rhine.

With an abrupt change of weather the skies were clear over the western front today, and air action was correspondingly great. And the Nazi air forces concentrated on the bridge across which the Americans had dashed to establish their positions on the farther side of the Rhine.

The Germans used jet propelled planes, which are immensely fast, though of short range. Time and again jet propelled aircraft came flashing at the bridge, trying to hit it with bombs. Berlin said that they knocked it out. But from American headquarters comes the following statement; - "the bridge, despite severe German artillery hits, is in better condition than when it was captured."

~~Fighting on the opposite side of the Rhine, etc.,~~

(end)

WESTERN FRONT-2

~~They have~~
~~thrown across the river~~

In the fighting on the opposite side of the Rhine, American forces made continued progress today- capturing a key point in a system of Nazi defenses, the town of Honnef. And they are approaching a place called Kalenborn, which stands in relation to that all important artery of communication, the super highway that parallels the Rhine. The approach to Kalenborn places the Americans within a mile of the super highway.

BRIDGE- WESTERN FRONT

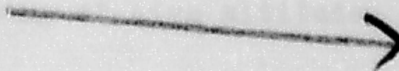
Another story of a bridge across the Rhine comes along with a touch of mystery. The Germans have wrecked the great Adolf Hitler bridge, and American engineers who made an inspection afterward could not find the electric wires that had detonated the demolition charges. The circumstances were such that the explosion had to be touched off by electricity-- but, no wires.

The American engineers believe that the wiring must be inside of the concrete of the bridge. In other words-- ~~it was~~ placed in the concrete when the span was built by the Nazis. This would seem to raise the assumption that, when Hitler had the bridge constructed, the German engineers included wiring for blowing it up-- if necessary, if war and an invasion of Germany should come about. Which might be another sign of the long range way in which the Nazis prepared for the present war.

AIR WAR

Nazi Germany was hit today by the biggest bomb ever- an eleven tonner. The British have developed a bomb weighing twenty-two thousand pounds, five tons heavier than any previously reported. And R A F planes hurled the super-giant missiles for the first time today.

The targets were German railways. The Allied air strategy is to knock out the lines of transport that are feeding the Nazi armies on the Western front, and today the assault mounted to a climax-- German railways hit by eleven tonners.



The London accounts of the new super bomb strain the English language to describe it. It is twenty-five feet long, and Britain's largest bombers, the Lancasters, had to be altered to accommodate the eleven tonners. The British called their previous giant missiles - block busters and earthquake bombs. Now they are saying -- "city busters" and "world shakers."

One R.A.F. pilot, who dropped a city-buster or a world-shaker, stated that the force of the explosion pushed his plane upwards for five hundred feet -- although he was flying at high altitude. "As it burst," he relates, "it felt as though someone had hit me severely in the back." He says his bombardier was knocked upwards from the floor and came down with a bang that left him breathless. "The bomb," said the pilot, "exploded with a fantastic flash, which was at once covered by a high column of smoke."

(end)

EASTERN FRONT

Moscow states that Soviet troops have forced a crossing of the river Oder at the captured stronghold of Kuestrin. This, in a way seems odd, because the Germans stated days ago that Red army troops had got across the Oder at Kuestrin. Now both sides agree on that point and the Moscow radio states:

"The battle of Berlin has entered its final phase."

From Berlin we hear that the Germans have completed their plans for the defense of the Nazi capital. The commander of the Berlin garrison is Lieutenant General Bruno Ritter von Hauenschild. And we have the curious word that this general was named the commandant of the Berlin because he led a tank force that reached the suburbs of Moscow- actually got to a Moscow street car terminal, when the Germans were making their huge drive for the Soviet capital in nineteen forty one. The failure to take Moscow was the bitterest of Nazi disappointments, and now the German tank leader who actually got to Moscow is in command of Berlin, and its last ditch fight.

This Nazi news becomes more rational, with the explanation that the German fight for Berlin will be based on the system the Russians used to defend Moscow, and other cities. Presumably, the general who

EASTERN FRONT-2

got as far as the Moscow street terminal knows about the Russian ~~strategy~~
strategy - and is applying it.

We are told that organized rings of defenses have been established around Berlin, and these become tighter and denser as they approach the city. The Nazi theory is that the spearheads of Russian tanks can be worn down by increasingly powerful fortifications.

GERMAN ARMISTICE? POSSIBLE FILLER

We have word from Washington concerning rumors that German commanders have been trying to get an armistice from General Eisenhower. One report has been that German commander Marshall von Rundstedt made a definite approach, asking Eisenhower for cessation of hostilities. Official quarters in Washington declare that they know nothing about this, but some well informed sources say they wouldn't be surprised if von Rundstedt had been trying to get an armistice. They add that high German commanders may be trying to establish secret negotiations right now.

The Washington word is that the Allied commanders will not make any kind of deal for an armistice or truce. They are prepared to accept the unconditional surrender of German units of any size, including whole army groups- but no general armistice. It is especially emphasized that the western Allies will not listen to any German suggestion for an arrangement to end the war in the West, and leave the Germans to face Russia in the East. This denial might seem to indicate that the Germans have been trying to advance some such proposal.

There is a common belief in government circles in Washington that

CHURCHILL

In the London House of Commons last night, an MP got up and called Prime Minister Churchill- a liar. And today Churchill arose, bristling. The dispute was about the quality of British tanks, which the prime minister had said were okay. But that question was lost in the storm aroused by the short and ugly word. Churchill, who is seventy years old and whose figure is not at all athletic, challenged the MP to repeat what he had said- repeat that short and ugly word.

The offending MP, instead of accepting the challenge, made an apology. He used no short and ugly word. He admitted he had been guilty of what he called, "a terminological inexactitude." ~~Which~~

~~are long words—though not beautiful either~~

Now some Terminological
exactitude from Stan. of Cal. &
then more news.

PHILIPPINES

MacArthur has taken two more islands, Romblon and Simara. They are small bits of land, but are important for the control of the Sibuyan Sea, the waters between Luzon and the island of Mindoro to the south east. Romblon was captured in a dramatic night attack which took the Japs completely by surprise, the enemy wiped out with small American loss.

LEAD IWO

The American flag was formally raised on Iwo Jima today
signalizing the conquest of the island.

IWO JIMA

As the fighting on Iwo Jima plays out to the bitter end, we have some bits about life among the fighting leathernecks- flashed along by ^a marine combat correspondent, Sergeant Bill Ross.

^{Bill} ~~He~~ used to be on the staff of the United Press, and he

~~He~~ tells us that there are two things that the marines, in the heat of the fight to the death, want most of all- news and coffee. You'd think they would have enough battle out there on that inferno called Iwo Jima, but, they are eager for news from the other war fronts- Europe especially. So the third division of marines issues a daily mimeographed news sheet, and it' s a common thing to see a leatherneck in a foxhole, ~~and~~ under fire- eagerly scanning the latest about the war in Europe.

As for coffee, the marines call that beverage- "joe." And we are given a picture of hot coffee being distributed in the front line fox-holes, cups of "joe."

Which leads to a savage reflection by a leatherneck driver of a jeep. He was on his way to the front line with a jeep load of coffee, a jeep load of joe- when a Jap mortar shell landed in the jeep and scattered joe to the four winds. The driver, almost miraculously,

was ~~up~~ⁱⁿ hurt. He crawled out of the wreck and a bunch of marines came crowding around. He took a look at their faces and growled: "you'd almost think those guys would rather have seen me get hit than the coffee."

SHIPPING PROGRAM

The Merchant Shipbuilding Program will be completed by the end of the year, so tonight states Vice Admiral Vickery of the Maritime Commission. By the end of the year we'll have all the cargo vessels we need for war. What about the shipyard workers? There are five-hundred-and-twenty-one thousand of them. The admiral announces that they will ^{be placed} promptly ~~placed~~ at other war work equally vital. In fact, there are right now in the war shipyards, one-hundred-and-seventy-thousand workers less than there were a year before. All these have been placed in other war industries.

SHIP LAUNCHING

At New York today they launched a new destroyer, a ship christened the H J Ellison. This was in honor of Ensign Harold J Ellison, Navy pilot, who was lost in the battle of Midway. He was a member of that famous outfit, Torpedo Squadron Eight, which turned the tide of battle by blasting a big Jap carrier.

Torpedo Eight flew in the fray with twenty-nine men, and twenty eight were lost-- ~~was~~ only one survivor. *We all remember that.*

The destroyer today was christened by Mrs Fay Ellison, the twenty-eight year old widow of Ensign Ellison. With her was Mrs May Ellison, the flyer's mother-- and Lieutenant George ^{Gay} ~~He~~ was the lone ^{flyer} ~~man~~ of Torpedo Eight, who survived. At the time of Midway the story was famous, of how Lieutenant Gay, shot down in the attack, clung to a life raft on the ocean and watched his comrades smash the Jap carrier with torpedoes-- and sacrifice themselves. He had been Ensign Ellison's best friend.

With Lieutenant Gay at the launching today was actress June Havoc-- she stood beside him. They had known each other for three years-- but only by letter for the most part. They had begun to correspond shortly after Lieutenant Gay came back, a hero of Midway and had met only three weeks ago.

SHIP LAUNCHING-2

Today the new destroyer, named after the pilot lost with torpedo eight, slid down to the sea, as the band played Anchors Aweigh. It was a moment of tense emotion for those who watched-- the hero's widow, his mother, his best friend-- and the young woman companion of that best friend.

And right then Lieutenant Gay heard a thing he had been waiting to hear, ^{say --} Jane Havoc ~~that~~ that he had been wanting her to say ever since, after three years of writing to each other, ^{and since} they had met several weeks ago.)

The report on the launching indicates-- an engagement, Lieut. Gay and movie actress June Havoc.

MOVIE STRIKE

The Hollywood movie strike brings a threat to close all the motion pictures theatres in the nation. This menace was stated by one union leader today, while the head of another union ~~just~~ dared him to try it. All of which sharpens the fact that the strike, which has almost shut down the big film studios in Hollywood, is a fight between unions. And caught in the middle is the multimillion dollar film industry, with its galaxies of glittering stars- all entangled in a jam, with rival unions calling strikes and threatening to close the movie houses of the nation.

BASEBALL

Here is baseball news - with an angle of heroism. In Washington today, Clark Griffith, boss of the Washington Senators announced that he is going to give Bert Shepard a chance. Who is Bert Shepars? Oh, he has played on minor league teams - as a pitcher and infielder.

He is also Lieutenant Bert Shepard, an ace fighter pilot in the war over Europe, with thirty-five missions to his credit. Eight months ago fighting in a wild air battle he was shot down, badly wounded - and his leg was amputated. Since then he has been recovering, and now, with a wooden leg, he is going back to baseball.

Bert has reported to the training camp of the Washington Senators and today he said: "I can get around with a wooden leg as easy as pie. I can run a hundred yards in fourteen seconds and I can pitch and field as well as I ever could."

GERMAN PRISONER

In a prisoner of war enclosure on the Western front a captured German lieutenant sat with an American newspaper man, and indulged in some fond reminiscences.

On his chest the prisoner had a German army military decoration, the Iron Cross. On his finger he wore a college ring, a class ring—Fordham University, New York.

His name was Hans Detels, and he told how he immigrated to the United States when he was eighteen, and worked as a cabinet maker in Brooklyn. Today he murmured: "That was a beautiful place—

Brooklyn." *Beautiful, lovely Brooklyn.*

had He earned enough money to go to Fordham and there ~~was an~~ *he had been an*

enthusiast about football, cheering the team. "Those were wonderful games," he said today. "I wish I could recall some of the players.

But, "He added regretfully, "It's so difficult to remember those

Polish names." *Wiszechowski, Fordham! Beautiful Brooklyn. Sounds as tho Fordham were in Brooklyn which it isn't.*

He showed the newspaper men a picture of a girl, a girl he

knew when he was a student of Fordham. "It's a long time since I've seen her," he sighed. "I know she will be happy if she hears I am still alive."

GERMAN PRISONER-2

Graduating from Fordham he returned to Germany to study medicine in a German university- and, was drafted by the Nazis. He served in Russia, in Norway and France. He was decorated, and then, ~~was~~ captured.

^{So} There he sat with his Iron Cross and Fordham class ring, hoping that he would be one of the prisoners of war sent to the United States. Well, if so, he will find it the same old U.S.A., ~~the same~~ ~~old Fordham football team with all those~~ same old Fordham football team with all those polish names, *same old beautiful Brooklyn.*

— o —
And now a closing burst of sunshine from you, ~~Hugh~~ Dave.

Taken from early bc. 3/14/45.

RUMANIA

The question of Rumania is a theme of international discussion behind the scenes. In London it was disclosed today that the Big three are having a diplomatic consultation concerning the political crisis in that Balkan kingdom. This was stated in the House of Commons by Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, who spoke in cautious terms- the whole thing being of a ticklish nature. Eden talked as if verbally walking on eggs.

Some little while ago, the government of Premier Radescu, which was established after Soviet forces pushed into Rumania, ran into a political storm. Whereupon, the Soviet commissar for foreign affairs went to Rumania and there denounced the Rumanian premier- claiming that he had failed to suppress pro-Nazi activities behind the Russian lines. That, of course, finished Radescu who not only resigned but took refuge in the British embassy in fear of his life. He said that he was seeking British protection, or his political enemies would kill him.

Today in answering preliminary questions, foreign secretary Eden declared in the most careful terms that the British had no evidence that the ousted premier Radescu had engaged in any activities

RUMANIA-2

hostile to the Allies. He said that events in Rumania were concealed by a heavy Soviet censorship, and added that Great Britain and the United States were consulting with Moscow concerning affairs in Rumania.

only one arm has made records as a star fly-chaser and hitter.

At the time, the inevitable remark was that a one-armed ~~was~~ outfielder playing in the major leagues should certainly be an inspiration to soldiers and sailors who return from the war minus a limb.

And it seems now that
~~we~~ we can make that reflection all over again, doubled and redoubled with the news that a fighter pilot ace of the air war, who lost a leg, is trying out as a pitcher and infielder with the Washington Senators, and may make the big league grade.

GERMAN ARMISTICE-2

there may never be any surrender of Germany. They think it more likely that the Nazi forces will just disintegrate, unit by unit - with some survivors joining underground forces to continue the war in secret.

~~Note to Mr. Thomas: The husband detective story of last night can be held as a filler, as can some of the foregoing items which you may not be able to use. Trooper~~