

IWO JIMA

L.I. - Standard. Fri. Feb. 28, 1945.

On Iwo Jima, the battle is shaping up for its final and inexorable end. The Jap main force is ~~XXXXXXXX~~ concentrated near the northern end of the island, and is prepared for a stand to the last man. The words is that the Jap command^{ers} will die with ~~the~~^{their} troops - no attempt to evacuate high ranking officers. These are prepared to perish at the corner of the island, that is destined to be the scene of the culminating catastrophe for the Japs.

That corner is a powerful stronghold - steep rising hills as natural defenses. And the Japs have built intricate fortifications that include great underground blackhouses, two stories deep. These protrude only a foot or two above the ground, ~~xx~~ and are described as ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ "mammoth vaults". They seem to have no exits. The Marines figure that the Japs have sealed themselves in - detachments of suicide troops ~~xx~~ who have given themselves no escape, intending to defend the underground blackhouses to the end.

FOLLOW IWO

The latest tonight tells us that ^{the} Marines scored an advance today of several hundred yards, driving through the center of the main defense line of the Jap stronghold.

MACARTHUR

The battle for Corregidor is over, with General MacArthur announcing that the reconquest of the rock, at the entrance of Manila Bay, "is practically complete." It was accomplished at surprisingly light cost, only thirteen Americans killed, five hundred and thirty one wounded, and eight missing. As for Japs, more than four thousand of their dead have already been counted. And many others are entombed in the underground caverns, some buried alive in the subterranean passages. A number of these were blown up by the Japs themselves.

PHILIPPINES

But there ^{still is} ~~is~~ fierce fighting ^{going on} in the

Philippines - on Luzon. MacArthur's troops continue their drive into the mountains East of Manila - the towering Sierra Madrae Range. The Japs are holding a front of twenty-five miles, and troops of two American divisions are advancing in the face of heavy mortar and artillery fire - as they push for the East coast of Luzon.

DEMOBILIZATION

Tonight brings a denial of a statement about the demobilization of soldiers after the defeat of Germany. Brigadier General Hines, the Veterans Administrator, told a Congressional Committee that as soon as the European War was over, a quarter of a million soldiers a month would be discharged. But now the General is rebuked by Secretary of War Stimson, who declares that the statement was, in his words, "Both unauthorized and without foundation."

"The Army," ^{Sec. of War Stimson,} ~~the~~ Secretary, "intends to use every soldier and every piece of equipment to defeat Japan." And he added: "Any suggestion that large numbers will be coming home for discharge immediately after the fighting stops in Europe, can only lead to cruel disappointment."

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Hugh, give us your Stan. of Cal. message and then we'll take a look at the war in Europe.

WESTERN FRONT

A shot was fired today that rings with symbolical meaning. Private Donald Slevin of the Bronx pulled the lanyard of the big field gun, and a few seconds later the first Allied artillery shell of the war burst inside ~~of~~ the city of Cologne. The G.I.'s understood the significance keenly, and had done one of their whimsical things. On the shell they had chalked a name - Eau De Cologne.

^{Am}
~~So~~ the historic city on the Rhine is under American artillery fire tonight. The batteries have been ordered to keep their shells away from one target - the most prominent thing in Cologne, the great Cathedral, the twin spires of which dominate the view for many miles across the plain. Cologne under artillery bombardment, but the cathedral won't be destroyed, if the American Command can help it.

~~All this follows the break-through about which we heard last night. American Troops were at the Erft ~~xxxxx~~ River last night, and today that stream was crossed. One bridge across the Erft was~~

FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

The latest indicates that the Nazis are going to make a last stand in Cologne. Dispatches say that a hundred thousand civilians have been put to work digging trenches for bitter defense -- The Nazis intend apparently to put up a street by street fight in the great cathedral city.

~~was found intact - the Germans getting out too fast to blow it up.~~

Apparently the Germans are abandoning their fight for the Rhineland, and are pulling out ^{- and what they can -} while they can - across the river. American officers believe ^{Hitler will not} ~~that they won't~~ be able to extricate more than half of the ^{German} Rhineland Army, ^{not} more than half of some twenty-five divisions.

These are the general facts - in addition to a lot more that we don't know. The security blackout about which we heard last night is still on - ~~military censorship concealing the latest moves.~~ But it isn't hard to guess - ~~the Germans have lost their great industrial Rhineland, and~~ ^{that} everywhere the Allies are ~~xx~~ pushing to the River of Legend, the Rhine. Undoubtedly the next German stand will be along that ~~broad and~~ formidable stream - their last great line of defense in the West.

EASTERN FRONT

The Eastern Front still features the Soviet drive into Pomerania, the province that stretches along the Baltic Sea. Stalin announces the capture of the stronghold of Neustettin, one of the more than fifty towns and villages taken during the day.

The German radio indicates that the Red Army has battled its way to the great seaport of Danzig, stating that the German garrison at Danzig ~~is~~ defending the southern part of the city.

FRENCH HORSE RACES

The Nazis have had a lot of goofy ideas, and today we hear of another, ~~one~~. Not content with setting themselves up as a race of superman, they planned to create a race of super-horses. Well, maybe we'd find the super-horses less disagreeable than the super-men.

The story comes from Paris, and states that the Germans during their occupation of Franceⁿ, took away, among other treasures, the best French thoroughbreds. They looted the stud farms, and shipped the horses to Germany. They did the same in other conquered countries - their idea being to take the prize thoroughbreds from each occupied nation and use them to develop a super breed of race horse.

This ~~inspiration~~ is attributed to a friend of Hitler's, a Munich horse expert named, Weber. In nineteen forty-one, Weber went to France, and with expert knowledge picked out the finest of the thoroughbreds for breeding purposes, ^{and} sent them to

stables at Munich. And there, with the prize race horses from ~~the~~ other countries, the experiment got under way - the production of the super-horse.

One of the French thoroughbreds taken was the renowned Pharis, son of the famous English stallion ~~xx~~ named Pharos. Pharos, in his time, won every big race in Europe.

In addition to the thoroughbreds the Nazis took, other famous French horses disappeared in other ways. For example, there was Clairvoyant, a much admired three-year-old. Clairvoyant was eaten by French soldiers during the frantic retreat that attended the fall of France. And then there was Corrida, a thoroughbred that had won a score of great European races. Corrida was last seen hitched to a German artillery wagon, pulling it along the road during the Nazi retreat in France after D-Day. That aroused great indignation among French horse lovers. Bad enough for thoroughbreds to be taken away in the Nazi effort to produce the super-horse. But to be

Pulling a German wagon - and that was the dirtiest
Nazi trick of all. The news dispatch from Paris
informs us that today the leading turfmen of France
formed an organization. They appointed what they call -
a "repatriation commission." They are going to
repatriate the horses. The moment the downfall of
Nazi Germany occurs, the horse repatriation commission
will go to Germany and seek out the stolen French
thoroughbreds.

Prime Minister Churchill won a victory in Parliament today when the M. P.'s ~~upheld~~ upheld the Yalta agreement by a vote of three hundred and ninety-six to twenty-five. The minority of twenty-five represented a revolt in Churchill's own conservative party - a group in opposition to the big three decision on Poland. Their argument was that Great Britain had gone into the war to defend Polish territory against Nazi aggression, and now about half of pre-war Poland ~~was being~~ ^{has been} annexed by Soviet Russia. - (The Soviets having seized it in collaboration with Nazi Germany.) They offered a resolution deploring the treatment of Poland at Yalta, and the resolution was put to a vote - with the result previously mentioned. (It was, in effect,) a vote of confidence.

FRANCE - CONFERENCE

The French government agreed tonight to participate in the San Francisco World Security Conference - as one of the sponsors. This announcement is made after a delay - a delay because France was not invited to the meeting of the Big Three at Yalta. DeGaulle didn't like that, and later refused to meet President Roosevelt. But now his government accepts the invitation to be one of the sponsors of the United Nations Conference at San Francisco.

ROOSEVELT FOLLOW CHURCHILL

President Roosevelt's return to Washington from the Yalta Conference brings a prompt announcement that the President will do a thing that he has never done before - he will go immediately before Congress and give an account of what he has done. In Britain the Prime Minister must report on important matters to the House of Commons. Our constitution does not require any such thing of the President. He'll do it, however, in the case of Yalta. He'll appear before a joint session tomorrow, and make a statement on the conference of the big three.

President Roosevelt returned to this country aboard a warship, and is described as in excellent health, although ~~xxxx~~ there had been reports to the contrary. The busy days at Yalta tired him out, and he missed a good deal of sleep. But he made up for that on the way back, ~~xxxx~~ catching up with his sleep aboard the warship and enjoying the ~~xxxx~~ sunshine of perfect weather across the Atlantic. - (though that homeward voyage was saddened

by the sudden death of Presidential Secretary
General ^{Pop} Watson.)

Occupation plans for ~~fx~~ defeated Germany were disclosed today. Russia will occupy the eastern part of the country. Great Britain - west and northwest Germany. The United States - Southern Germany, with a corridor to the North Sea at Bremen. The American Zone will include the Provinces of Wurtemberg, Baden and Bavaria. This plan, however, is subject to change, depending upon French participation in the occupation of the defeated enemy country.

President Roosevelt indicated that ~~the~~ Allied control of Germany will last for a long time, maybe as long as fifty years - and that also applies to Japan. Those two countries must prove that they have become normal and peaceful before supervision ceases. The President remarked that both Germany and Japan once were peaceful, and had become militaristic and warlike only after a long

period of years. Therefore, he reasoned, that they could become peaceful again. But it would be a long time before the world could be sure of this, maybe as long as fifty years.

MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE

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The United States has offered a proposal to the Inter-American Conference at Mexico City - ~~a proposal~~ in the nature of a compromise. Latin American countries have advanced the plan for each American nation to guarantee the frontiers of every American nation. This was a ticklish thing for the American delegation, because it would involve a commitment to go to war whenever a majority of the American nations so decided. -- (and, of course, the United States can go to war only by a vote of Congress.)

So a compromise was advanced by Secretary of State Stettinius, providing a guarantee of frontiers during the period of the present war. That could come under the heading of a war measure. The United States proposal would postpone a peacetime guarantee of Inter-American Borders until the formation of the World Security Organization.

IBN SAUD FOLLOW ROOSEVELT

We have some new details about the Presidential meeting with Ibn Saud, King of Saudi Arabia. The first announcement of this affair of state gave us a picturesque account of the get-together of F.D.R. and the lord of the desert, and now we have some more splashes of color.

I must confess that I have a partiality for the lore and legends of Araby - having adventured among the bedouin in the days of Lawrence of Arabia. I suppose I am something like the lady who once had a high old time in Honolulu and never gets tired of telling of her enchantment of Hawaii. However, let's see if you don't think that today's additions to the Ibn-Saud-Roosevelt story are worth passing along.

We heard the other day how an American destroyer brought the potentate of the burning sands to the Presidential ship on the great bitter lake - Suez Canal. Ibn Saud boarded the Destroyer at Jidda, the seaport of Mecca, Holy City of Islam, and we heard about the royal entourage that accompanied him.

Today we are informed that it included the Royal Astrologer and Fortune teller, the Royal Food Taster, the Royal Server of the ceremonial coffee, and the Assistant Royal Server of the ceremonial coffee.

The previous account related how the Monarch of the desert refused a ~~lx~~ cabin, and had his Royal tent pitched on the deck. To this is added the detail that the Destroyer, on its way to the great bitter lake, had to cut down speed, just creep along. Because, if the warship had buzzed along at thirty or forty knots, the wind would have blown the Royal tent right *- right out into the Red Sea -* off the deck [^] leaving the Sovereign of the bedouin in a most embarrassed position.

The former stories, together with the newsreel pictures that we have been working on over at Movietone, have featured Ibn Saud's Golden Throne. On the warship deck he sat on his gleaming throne, his feet buried in priceless Arabian rugs - like a potentate out of the Arabian nights. Then, when he met President Roosevelt, Ibn Saud beheld something

more wonderful than his throne of gold. He gazed with admiration at the Presidential wheel chair. That was something the Arabian nights never knew - a throne on wheels.

The Royal surprise and wonder was such, that the President responded graciously. Today's news dispatch informs us that he gave to Ibn Saud ~~one of~~ his ~~own~~ wheel chairs - a spare ~~that~~ he had brought along. And the monarch was overjoyed.

He is a mighty man, towering about six feet, and brawny with muscle. But Ibn Saud is getting along in his ^{late} sixties, and he isn't as spry as he used to be. Moreover, a famous warrior, he has been wounded nine times - and those ^{old} wounds ache when he walks. He explained ^{that} the Presidential wheel chair would save him a lot of steps. In his Royal Palace, ~~so~~ far away on the Arabian Desert, ^{at the wall city of Riyadh,} he won't have to do so much walking. Pushed by slaves through the stately palace halls, he'll go rolling around - on that throne on wheels.

And now here comes Hugh to talk about wheels, - or maybe what makes 'em go round.