

C.I. - Standard. Tues., Sept. 5, 1944
Sunoco.
Montgomery, Alabama
Gunter Field.

~~Ewell Thomas.~~

~~Montgomery, Ala.~~

Substitute Lead. France-

Word tonight is that American Troops may have captured the German cities of Saarbrucken and Aix - La- Chapelle. This is in no sense confirmed. In fact, official news from headquarters is conspicuous by its absence - hardly more than an announcement that Namur in Belgium has been taken,

~~The allied command has gone into another of its periods of silence, etc, etc.~~

~~8:00P.~~

France-

~~in northern France,~~ The allied high command has gone into another of its periods of silence. And today a ~~veil~~ ^{veil} of official concealment was cast over the moves of the armies that have been driving so swiftly. Don't let the Nazis know they have lost command of the air so completely that they can't send planes for scouting. So, silence was the word today at Allied Headquarters. An official news blackout.

Nevertheless, there are plenty of reports to indicate that the lightning progress of the offensive is continuing.

British troops that drove so swiftly into Holland are on their way to the Great harbor of Rotterdam. The Americans are said to have pushed into Luxembourg, that small grand duchy which occupies so strategic a position with relation to France and Germany. They have also driven to the Ardennes forest, that sector through which the Germans more than four years ago launched their decisive blow that overturned France.

Further south, General Patton's armor is said to be lined up in front of the German frontier, standing before

the fortifications of the Siegfried line. One report tonight is that the Americans are across the German border near the city of Saarbrucken.

Thus the ring of armor is being tightened around Germany on the west and northwest, along the frontiers of the Low Countries and the border of France. And we can now say that the allies are poised for the final battle, the storming of the German fortress. When will this happen? What form will it take? Perhaps there will be a mighty frontal assault against the Siegfried line, which is supposed to cover Germany all the way.

But there is still another possibility, which is mentioned by London tonight—that allied air power will muster for a culminating stroke. Today fifteen hundred american planes hurled heavy assaults against key German positions not far behind the bristling front—such places as ^{the city of} Karlsruhe in the Rhineland, where great oil refineries were blasted. ~~and with this news we have a London report that the allied high command may give~~

And with this news we have a London report that the allied high command may give Berlin a final ultimatum saying- surrender unconditionally at once or the full air power of the allies will be unleashed to reduce Germany to a shambles. This might indeed ^{be} the strategy-with the allies now in possession of air bases right along the border of Germany.

A smaller but highly dramatic sector of the battle is along the English channel, the area of Calais. There the Germans on the rocket coast are isolated. Still holding such cities as Calais, Boulogne and Dunkirk, they have been trapped by the ~~swiss~~ ^{it} British-Canadian sweep across Belgium and into Holland. Today the Canadians were said to be within three miles of Boulogne and other forces were within three miles of Dunkirk.

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The name of that latter town tells what the trapped Nazis are trying to do-trying to evacuate by sea using small boats. In other words - attempting another and a smaller Dunkirk in reverse. It isn't likely that they'll have the success that the British had in the great Dunkirk four years ago.

France - 4.

For the allied command of the sea and the air makes it appear certain that only minor fragments of the German forces along the rocket coast can escape.

Today the British across the channel, people standing on the White Cliffs of Dover, could see the smoke and hear the thunder of victory across the narrow strip of water. But the whole story was not so pleasant for England-for the rocket bombs came over again. Which put a damper on a lot of London optimism. There hadn't been a robot plane for eighty hours, and that led to the belief that the inhuman terror campaign had come to an end. But today more robot planes flew, - not many, and a considerable proportion were shot down. But it was a shock for the over-optimistic in England. ^{And it's} ~~It's~~ not believed that the robots came from the rocket coast across the channel. The supposition is that they ~~base-bombs~~ were launched from some place ~~that~~ the Germans still hold in Holland.

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Italy-

In Italy, the focus of battle is along the east coast of the peninsula, south of the Medieval city of Rimini.

The Germans in Italy continue to put up fierce resistance, and this is especially stubborn in the sector of Rimini- because an allied break-through there would mean a plunge out of the mountains and into the great open valley of the Po. British troops are driving savagely to get to the level land, which would enable them to swing around and flank the Axis gothic line.

The latest is that the Break-through is at hand.

British forces are said to be within six miles of the southern edge of the valley of the Po. ~~(They are slipping in on Rimini, and the next objective will be Bologna-the historic university city, which is the hub of the railroad and highway system on the open plain.)~~

End.

Follow Italy.

Word from underground sources in North Italy relates that the Germans have laid plans to evacuate the entire Italian Peninsula. The story is that yesterday Hitler's Commanders met secretly and drafted a schedule for wholesale retirement - getting out of Italy.

8:35p.

Rumor-

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Today's armistice^r rumor was false, but still interesting because of a story attached to it, one of those dramatic episodes of war. The false armistice rumor, broadcast from Brussels, was due to a mix-up - The Belgians misinterpreting an allied announcement of the surrender of some ten thousand Germans near the city of Mons. The Belgians got the story tangled, thought it meant that all Germany had surrendered.

The trap near Mons caught two German divisions. The prisoners include one major general and two brigadier generals, and final count of captives is likely to run far above the ten thousand announced - may turn out to be double that number. In other words, the americans have made the largest single capture of prisoners since the invasion began.

But it was no single surrender, no case of the whole outfit capitulating at once. The prisoners were taken in batches here and there, big batches, droves. One American infantry battalion alone took five thousand, and one single company captured eleven hundred - which sounds like a record.

Rumor - Sheet #2

It was in this latter exploit that the dramatic episode of war occurred.

The heroes were two venturesome Americans, ^DDonald Lobban of Westfield, Mass. and John Lewis of Philadelphia. Private Lobban is a medical corps man and last night he and Lewis were far out in front, giving aid to American wounded. In the swirl of battle, they were cut off, surrounded, made prisoners.

Whereupon they kept right on with their job, helping the wounded - German wounded, this time. They worked in a farmhouse, by candle light. And, enlisting the aid of an enemy Captain and two German fliers, they gave medical treatment to more than six hundred German casualties.

While this was going on, a German Lieutenant Colonel appeared, and informed the Americans that he wanted to get in touch with the American forces. He realized that his unit was in a hopeless position, and he wanted to surrender. Whereupon the two Americans got a message through to their company commander, Captain Edgar Simons, of Newark, New Jersey.

Presently Captain Simons appeared, and a surrender was agreed upon. There were four hundred Germans in the unit, and it was arranged that they should come to the American line in groups of fifty, at intervals of ten minutes.

That arrangement, however, went haywire. Other Germans heard of what was going on, and they came creeping in droves to be in on the deal. By the time the total of prisoners was counted, the figure came to eleven hundred.

And that's an incident in the story behind the false armistice² rumor that created excitement today.

~~SECRET~~

And now a message from
Stan. of Calif, by way of Montgomery,
Alabama.

Russia-Bulgaria

indeed:-
Here is news-in Europe today a decl^aration of war was issued. Soviet Russia declares war on Bulgaria. That's a surprise-because with Hitler satellites getting out, you'd expect moves for peace over there. With Rumania out, Finland out, Bulgaria was supposed to be next.

That Balkan kingdom has been in a state of war with the United States and Great Britain, but not with Russia. The Bulgars, though allies of the Nazis carefully refrained from getting into formal hostilities with the Soviets. And several days ago, with Rumania turning against the Nazis, Bulgaria followed suit halfway-by proclaiming neutrality toward the United States and Great Britain, thereby breaking away from Nazi Germany.

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Negotiations for peace were initiated, negotiations at Cairo.

These have been all tangled up-the Soviets not putting any stock in the Bulgarian talk about being neutral. The Russians hold that Bulgaria is still helping the Nazis, and ~~the~~

today the Soviets lost patience - Moscow issuing a declaration of war.

This, with the war going as it is, would seem to be a rather superfluous gesture, but I suppose it paves the way for a Soviet push into Bulgaria. The Russians in Rumania are drawn up along the Bulgarian frontier and can walk in at any time. This, we hear, they will do-with the Bulgarians not likely to attempt any resistance.

End..

Finland-

There seems to be some confusion in the case of Finland with charges that the Russians have violated their armistice agreement with the northern republic. The Finnish high Command claims that Soviet troops have been continuing hostilities-twenty five hours after the Finns themselves gave the order of "Cease Firing".

According to the Finns the armistice went into effect yesterday, while Moscow stated ^{it} that was not to begin until this morning. Thus far today there has been no Moscow mention of the end of the fighting with the Finns. And now Finland claims that the armistice has been violated.

End.

Warsaw-

We heard that the Polish patriots in Warsaw have been virtually overcome by the Nazi garrison, and that the battle for the city has now turned into a number of small isolated fights. General Bor's army of partisans is still resisting but seems to be at the end of its resources. This-as new quarrels are reported among the Poles, because of charges by the Polish Command that the allies have abandoned the patriots of Warsaw to their fate.

End

Russia-

News from the eastern front tells of continued Russian progress in the great drive north of Warsaw. Soviet forces moving to outflank the Polish capitol have seized an important Nazi fortress twenty eight miles to the northeast.

In Romania, Red army troops have captured the large city of Craieva and are now within fifty four miles of ^JUgoSlovia. They are moving for a junction with the Yugoslav partisans commanded by Marshal Tito.

End

German General-

Today brought a story saying that Hitler ordered the murder of Field Marshal Von Reichenau, one of the most prominent of German generals. First we had a brief dispatch, and then came a fuller account, which gives highly dramatic details.

The story emanates from a German prisoner of war in Italy, a soldier who states that he at one time was a telephone operator at Hitler's headquarters. That was an interesting spot, and the soldier made the best of it. He says he used to amuse himself by listening in on Hitler's telephone conversation with his generals - doing a bit of eavesdropping. And he heard a lot of interesting things, as you might well expect.

The prisoner says that, as the war in Russia went sour Der Fuehrer used the telephone to ^{bawl} ~~beat~~ out his generals, giving them the devil in the most brutal terms - and the German language is rich in terms of brutality. As the Nazi defeats in Russia increased, Hitler became more abusive with his commanders. And then finally came a bit of telephone talk

concerning Field Marshal Von Reichenau, who commanded a German army in the Ukraine.

Von Reichenau was the perfect example of the Prussian officer type, with all its merits and its evils. Tall, arrogant, with a monocle ^S screwed in his eye, he stood like a caricature of a Prussian general, hard and cold. He was an athlete too, and made a fad of physical culture. He took icy baths every morning, and during a campaign was known at times to swim a river at the head of his troops - when the engineers had not yet completed a bridge. All of which made him an outstanding figure in the German army.

The prisoner of war in Italy tells how one day, he was doing a usual bit of eavesdropping, and heard Hitler talking to a General Hasenloder. Der Fuehrer was shrieking with rage. He yelled abuse and finally shouted " I desire that within six hours I no longer find this Reichenau among the living."

Thereby giving a six hour deadline for the murder of the Field Marshal.

Three days alter, the German high command announced that Von Reichenau had died of a heart attack, and Hitler ordered a state funeral-with solemn honors.

This account, given by the prisoner of war, ties in with a thing the Russians have been saying all along-that Von Reichenau was murdered by the Gestapo because his army had been defeated in the Ukraine.

end.

Southwestern Pacific

The assaults that MacArthur is launching against the Japs on Celebes Island are continuing - with a constant succession of blows against enemy shipping in those strategic waters, and how effective those blows can be is illustrated by news tonight - that in the great week end bombing assaults thirteen boats and barges loaded with Japanese Troops were blasted, sunk or heavily damaged, and a later story gives a total of 37 enemy craft knocked out in the wide - spread week - end assaults delivered by MacArthur's air Force.

820p.

WFB

There is word from
~~it was announced in~~ Washington tonight that as soon as the
War in Europe is over, nearly all controls will be taken off
civilian production. The production of civilian goods will be
unrestricted except for regulations absolutely necessary in
beating Japan. This is announced by the War Production Board,
with WFB Chairman Cruger stating that American industry will
be allowed, in his words "to make whatever people want in its
own way." this - as soon as the European war has ended.

~~8-18-45~~

Mrs. Roosevelt-

The news today gives us a letter written by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt on the subject of the race question. It is an answer by the First Lady to a letter from Mrs. Catherine Stallworth of Evergreen, Alabama, in which Mrs. Stallworth suggested that Mrs. Roosevelt did not understand the negro situation in the South. So what has Mrs. Roosevelt to say?

She replies that she has never believed in the social equality of the races. Her letter states : " I have never advocated social equality. In a democracy, however, " she adds, "We cannot have twelve million people who are denied the rights of citizens."

And then Mrs. Roosevelt goes on to enumerate the rights. She says they are:- equal opportunity for employment, for education and for justice before the law, and for participation in government through the ballot.