

RUSSIA

Standard
Sunoco. Fri, Jan. 19, 1945

*The Russians seem to think that
it looks like Germany
is collapsing. At any rate"*
~~Eastern Front~~ This was the greatest day in the Red
Army's history", says a ~~late~~ dispatch *from Moscow.*

Stalin issued five orders of the day, each announcing a victory in Poland. And each was hailed by the customary salute of gunfire in Moscow. The Soviet Capital tonight was listening to the thunder of guns for five hours. Guns that fired twenty-eight thousand, nine hundred and ninety-two times -- as a salute to the events of today.

The Moscow radio states: "Catastrophe has fallen on the German armies in Poland. The entire Eastern Front has collapsed. Only immediate ~~surrender~~ surrender can help the Germans now".

Stalin's orders of the day announced the fall of the great fortress of Lodz, which is the second largest Polish city. And Krakow was taken today, the fourth largest Polish city.

And, Stalin further announced the capture of Schlossberg, in East Prussia - not to mention a

a whole string of other places.

The Red Army has thrust to the border of Germany itself, and the Nazis report fighting inside the great German industrial province of Silesia.

All of which may mean that the end of the Nazi Monster is approaching; - although it may be that the Germans are ~~now~~ conducting a vast retreat for a bitter stand at the border of their own country.

FOLLOW RUSSIA

The latest announces the capture of another big Polish city -- Tarnow. And Moscow tells of the Red Army seizure of a total of twenty one hundred towns and villages. In addition to which the Russians drove thirty one miles into East Prussia, and all along the immense front, advanced for gains up to thirty miles -- a vivid sign of the speed of the Soviet advance. The drive to the German province of Silesia carried the Russians ahead for twenty-three miles. They are within sixty miles of the capitol of the province, Breslau, and are two hundred and twenty eight miles from Berlin.

WESTERN FRONT

On the Western Front the German salient shrank still further today -- the Nazi pushed back all along the line of what remained of their bulge. They lost twenty towns.

And to the north in Holland, advances were scored too -- as British forces thrust ~~xxxxxx~~ ahead in ^{an} offensive designed to bite off a neck of land that the Germans hold in Holland. British Tommies advanced in what is described as the worst blizzard the Western Front has known. Hanging onto ice covered tanks with their fingers almost frozen the Tommies rolled ahead by night in what is called "artificial moonlight".

United Press correspondent Richard MacMillan describes this by saying that powerful searchlight batteries threw their beams up into the low hanging clouds of the blizzard. And the ~~xxxxxx~~ search lights reflected from the layers of clouds produced a kind of moonlight.

~~and~~ MacMillan adds a culminating touch

of the fantastic: "the artificial moonlight" says he, "produced the phenomenon of a midnight rainbow -- toward which the ~~xxx~~ tanks drove eastward firing all their guns". Like a terrifying ~~xxxx~~ dream of war -- a midnight rainbow in the artificial moonlight.

In the south in Alsace the American Seventh Army has suffered a serious setback -- the Nazi^s expanding their bridgehead across the Rhine and establishing a solid forty mile front for a new salient in the South. At last reports the Germans in their offensive in ~~the~~ Alsace were within six miles of Strasbourg.

MAGINOT LINE FOLLOW WESTERN FRONT

The news from that Southern Sector reminds us that every once in a while something happens to vindicate a bad name - in some small degree at least.

~~History~~ ^{Historians} will tell you that even Nero had some good points, and scientists may discover praiseworthy characteristics in the man-eating shark. ^P Something like this occurs today, in the case of one of the most abused things ^{we know of -} ~~on this earth~~ - the Maginot Line. Ever since the fall of France, those ² once admired fortifications have been a mark for opprobrium, mockery and jeers. Yet today's news gives a good word even for this Maginot Line.

On the warfront in Alsace, where the American Seventh Army is battling against that persistent German offensive, the soldiers have put the old Maginot Line fortifications to effective use. They have established themselves in great concrete bunkers sunk underground ^d - which provide excellent shelters, easy to hold. And today's dispatch states that powerful German panzer attacks in the sector of the town of Bitche (Beesh) have shattered themselves against bunkers of the Maginot

Line, manned by American Troops.

~~On the other hand, the Germans have been using similar strong points, and launched their offensive in Alsace from a salient in the old Maginot Line - both sides relying on the fortifications that have been ridiculed so much. Which, I suppose, should lead to the reflection that there is hope for even the most sullied reputation, when the news brings a good word about the Maginot Line.~~

CHURCHILL

In London, Churchill got another vote of confidence today, overwhelming - three hundred and forty to seven. However, as in the case of the last previous vote of confidence, ~~xx~~ a large number of labor members stayed out of it - abstained from voting.

Today's event reflected the improvement of Churchill's position in Parliament - this largely because of the great address he made yesterday. His Parliamentary opponents were simply flattened by the power and bite of the Churchillian oratory. Also - the improvement of affairs in Greece has strengthened the Prime Minister. That - and the universal British condemnation of the Greek Left Wing policy of holding hostages. The slaughter of hostages does not sit well with the British conscience.

STETTINIUS

It was disclosed today that Secretary of State Stettinius will accompany President Roosevelt for his next conference with Churchill and Stalin. There had been some report that he would not.

It will be the first time that an American Secretary of State has attended one of those big international meetings - though Cordell Hull made a brief appearance at one Quebec Conference. - However, the schedule is that Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin will take along the American, British and Soviet Foreign Ministers.

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It's your turn now Hugh,
and then I'll be ready again, in
a moment.

SUBSTITUTE PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines -- a new ~~advance~~ advance today toward Manila, a push of six miles. And that carried MacArthur's main invasion force to within seventy six miles of the Philippine capital. It is apparent though, that the push could be much faster, if MacArthur so desired -- Japanese resistance being still absent. However, the American commander has to make sure his flank positions are secure -- the line along the eastern side of the invasion.

There the Japs have been attacking -- ~~in~~ in the biggest flare-up of enemy activity thus far. They struck at the town of Rosario, occupied by the Americans on Wednesday, The Japs had tanks, and there was a spurt of violent fighting - in which the enemy assaults were beaten off with heavy losses.

We have heard previously that the Japs might abandon Manila without a fight and today dispatches give a surmise that the enemy plan might be to ~~fight~~ battle it out in northern Luzon, or

perhaps in the southern part of the island -- more
as a delaying action to win time than anything else.

aircraft factory. The superfortresses have been
concentrating on Japanese air power production.
A big plant at Arashi was blasted and
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described as "light to moderate".

SUPERFORTRESSES

The latest B-29 raid hit a target that has not been molested thus far and again it was an aircraft factory. The superfortresses have been concentrating on Japanese air power ~~and~~ production.

A big plant at Akashi was blasted and not a B-29 was lost although the bombing was done at a lower altitude than usual. There was little fighter opposition and the anti-aircraft fire is described as "light to moderate".

JAP SUB

Tonight's account of a Japanese sub comes as a surprise - we hadn't heard of any enemy undersea craft operating so near our Pacific Coast since Nineteen Forty-two. But there's no surprise in the fact that the Japs committed atrocities after sinking an American ship.

The freighter John A Johnson was torpedoed between California and Honolulu - tonight's bulletin doesn't say just when. Some survivors found refuge in a life boat, others on a raft, while still others hung on to floating sacks of flour. The sub came to the surface and opened fire on them with machine guns - the Japs on deck shouting and dancing with savage glee. The submarine likewise ramm'd the life raft, ~~and~~ deliberately. Ten American sailors were killed in cold blood. The rest - some sixty - were spotted by an American plane and rescued.

F.B.I.

The F.B.I. gives us a new warning about Nazi spies - saying that three enemy secret agents are believed to be under orders to enter the United States. F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover tells us that these three were trained at a Nazi Espionage School last summer, where they were associated with the two spies, German Eric Gimpel and American William Colepaugh - who were captured in New York after having been landed on the coast of Maine by a German submarine. We may surmise that in the investigation of the two secret agents who got into the country, J. Edgar Hoover acquired information about the other three.

The public is warned to be on the lookout for these three, and descriptions of them are given - descriptions that have their turns of oddity. One Nazi secret agent is described as a former Hitler storm trooper who speaks only a little English, but is fluent in French and Portuguese. He has a tattooed picture of clasping hands on his right forearm -

and is a whiz with cards, a regular card shark, and may be posing as a gambler.

Another of the three spies is described as having two scars on his right forehead, and he has a habit of cracking his false teeth. So if somebody with a handclasp tattooed on his forearm should ask you in French or Portugese to join a poker game, while his pal has scars on his forehead, cracks his false teeth - don't laugh, notify the F.B.I.

~~The third spy is completely uninteresting. He speaks excellent English and looks like a conservative business man. There are a lot of conservative business men in this country, and some of them speak excellent English - so it may be more difficult to identify spy number three.~~

~~Follow this with previous spy story.~~

To cap the climax ^{of all this} mystery about spies,

here's ~~an~~ a weird one telling of a Nazi secret agent base on an island in Galveston Bay -- right outside ~~of~~ one of the most important harbors of our gulf coast, Galveston, Texas. And the story intimates further that two army men were held prisoners there -- in nineteen Forty-two.

All of this comes from a note in a bottle, said to have been found by a boy. The note bears the signatures of Lieutenant James Monroe and Sergeant Nolan Coleman. It states: "Are being held prisoner on an island in Galveston Bay by German agents, send help. Do not know exact location". Unless the note in the bottle is a hoax perpetrated by some crackpot, it would seem to represent about as fantastic a story as this was [^] has brought forth: - enemy spy nest in Galveston Bay.

INAUGURATION

A prelude to tomorrow's inauguration was held in Washington today. The one thousand club had its first meeting, and organized as a permanent affair.

During the election campaign, there was plenty of debate about the One Thousand Club - made up of some two hundred and fifty Roosevelt supporters, each of whom had donated a thousand dollars to the Fourth Term Campaign. The prospectus that solicited thousand dollar members had some large sounding things to say about the privileges they would enjoy. And the Republicans charged that the whole thing amounted to a sale of political influence.

Well, today one of the privileges of the One Thousand Outfit came to light - the Club, two hundred and fifty strong, will attend the inauguration. The ceremony, as we know, will be small and semi-private - The President taking the oath on the White House back porch, while a number of guests will watch - standing on the lawn. I suppose it would be undignified to

speaking of the White House back yard. Nearly all of these guests will be Government officials, with that one shining exception, the members of the One Thousand Club. They'll be allowed to stand there in the open - hoping and praying that it doesn't rain or snow.

Then a further privilege will be granted them. Together with other guests on the lawn, they will go inside for some White House luncheon - chicken salad. And then tomorrow night they in turn will entertain the President and Vice President at a banquet - a big affair of one thousand guests, the One Thousand Buck Club having the President to dinner.

ADD INAUGURATION

Here is the latest - a row has been stirred up because some other Democrats who contributed a thousand dollars or more to the Fourth Term Campaign are trying to horn in on the banquet. There are political contributors who donated their cash, not to the Thousand Club, but through other channels. Some officials think that they, too, should qualify as members of the club, and help ~~to~~ entertain the President

Why not?

at dinner. [^]The Club members, however, reject the contention - the other cash contributors having merely forked over the ⁱⁿ money in the ordinary commonplace way, ~~of garden variety politics.~~ *whatever that is.*

Maybe you can solve that one, Hugh?

ODDITY

Here is another to add to your collection of Washington mix-ups. In Boston today, manpower officials were twisting their brains around a ruling from Washington, a ruling concerning employees in restaurants. which are essential and which are not?

The ruling in question classifies dishwashers as essential employees. At the same time, that same ruling classifies chefs as unessential. Dishwashers essential - chefs unessential.

Now figure that one out. If you don't have chefs to cook the food that makes the dishes dirty, of what use is a dishwasher? ~~Sounds like~~

~~strepitus or something. What do you say # - ?~~

Maybe you can solve that one, Hugh?

SPIES

Here is a sardonic touch to add to the story of the two spies, who have been captured and will soon go to trial before a military court. In New York, while they were hanging around ~~in~~ expensive places, trying to pick up information for the Nazis - they wanted to rent an apartment. They went to a real estate office and inquired, and were most interested in one particular apartment -- interested particularly in the address, the street and house number.

The story is given to me in a letter from Harold C. Samuels, who runs the real estate office in question. He writes that the apartment house in question was in Greenwich village, and the address was - Number Ten Downing Street.

Yes, there is a Downing Street in New York, ~~named~~ and it has a number ten - thereby duplicating that historic address in London, the residence of the British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill's home right now.

When the spies ~~heard~~ heard, "Number Ten

Downing Street", they looked at each other, and grinned. Were they interested in living at that address? They certainly were. They had a sardonic sense of humor - amused at the idea of having their spy headquarters a New York counterpart of Prime Minister Winston Churchill's official address in London.

However, it did not work out that way - because the F.B.I. stepped in and arrested the two spies. If this had happened somewhat later, we might have had the ironic headline - arrest of Nazi spies living at number ten Downing Street!