

L.I. - Sumner. Friday, May 14/43.

Late this afternoon Secretary of the Navy Frank

Knox stated that the American offensive against the Japs on the ~~uttermoost~~ *island of the Aleutians*, the Island of Attu is progressing okay, ~~"is"~~ "going very satisfactorily", said the Secretary.

A veil of the closest military secrecy surrounds our newest blow against the ~~Japs~~ Japs. The assault on Attu was announced by Tokyo eight hours before our own government made any mention of it. And then a belated Navy Department communique merely stated that our forces had landed and were ~~at~~ fighting the Japs - just that one single fact.

To this brevity, Secretary Knox now adds a little. He discloses that the operation is a joint affair -- Army⁷-Navy₁. "The Navy supplied the ships", said he, and added: "The attacking forces are Army men". In other words, the fleet transported, ~~the~~ protected and landed the invasion force of soldiers. The Marines are not in it, not as at Guadalcanal.

The strategic aspects of the assault at Attu are obvious. The main Jap base in the Aleutians is Kiska, which the enemy holds in strength. Attu, a subordinate position, is beyond Kiska, a hundred and seventy-two nautical miles west of

Kiska. So Attu lies along the enemy line of communications between Kiska and Japan.

The Japs seized Kiska and Attu at the time of the Battle of Midway, when they launched two simultaneous drives - one in the mid-Pacific against Hawaii, and the other to the north against the Aleutians.

They sustained a shattering defeat in the Hawaiian theatre - the Battle of Midway. In the Aleutians they were able to seize two of ^{our} ~~the~~ westernmost islands. And

~~Since~~ since then we have been ~~hammering~~ hammering them unceasingly, bombing without end, in spite of the ferocious weather in those parts. The recent intensity of the air ~~assaults~~ assaults gave one ~~of~~ the suspicion that the bombing was in preparation for an offensive thrust. And so it turns out - with today's news of American troops landing in Attu.

Tonight our soldiers there are fighting on one of the most ferocious battlegrounds on earth - a nightmare of a place. Like the other islands of the long Aleutian chain, Attu is the top of a lofty mountain that rises from the floor of the ~~deep~~ deep sea. Its waters are studded with rocks and

reefs which are swept by strong currents. The island rises steeply to snowclad mountains, with beaches at the base of the peaks. The beaches are bad ground - foul and swampy. They afford no natural cover - flat and open with sparse and ~~scrubby~~ scrubby vegetation. There are no trees, but there is an abundance of cranberries - which would be okay - if this were Thanksgiving and the boys had the turkeys.

There are underground streams and sometimes the subterranean rivers are separated from the ~~surface~~ surface by only a thin crust. If a soldier takes an unwary step - he may break through into the water ~~half~~ below.

Attu is one of the rainiest places on earth @ the yearly average being about ninety percent. There may be two hundred and fifty rainy days a year and an almost perpetual fog envelopes the island which has as few as eight clear days a year.

Attu gives us another of those twisters in the form of a name - another name most ~~are~~ peculiar to American ears. Along ~~is~~ the north coast of the island is a bay. And its name is - Chicagof. That is, Chicago with an "f" added. It's a Russian name, and we know how the Moscovites go in for names

AIR WAR - follow the other North African story

The last enemy soldier in Tunisia ^{has} surrendered. ~~yesterday~~
~~morning - eleven forty-five A.M. Tunisian time.~~ The last Axis
position ^{was} ~~had been~~ captured on the ~~previous day,~~ Wednesday. However,
a few exhausted German stragglers were still left in the hills; and
one after another they came trudging down to yield - the last ~~one~~
~~is now in.~~
~~one yesterday morning.~~

They say there is no rest for the weary, and nowadays
we might rephrase that and exclaim - no rest for the war fliers.
The ground troops in Tunisia are having time to relax, but for
the bomber crews the victory means new exertions.

The news today tells of a series of heavy air blows
~~by Doolittle's Raiders.~~
struck at Fascist Italy, ^A particularly violent raid blasted
the Sardinian base at Cagliari. Other sorties were against
Sicily and Naples.

~~by Doolittle's Raiders~~
An especial salutation was given to the Island of
Pantelleria, in the middle of the Channel between Sicily
and Tunisia. That key fortress had been bombed repeatedly,
and now has been bombarded. I suppose that's a proper verbal
distinction - planes bomb, while warships bombard. Units of
the British fleet appeared off the rocky shore of Pantelleria,

and gave the place twenty broadsides - each ship in the battleline hurling twenty salvos against the Italian fortifications.

GIRAUD

When Tunis fell there was one Allied soldier who went hunting for a woman and four children in the captured city. He was a mustached Frenchman, whose handsome features and reserved military bearing rather remind one of the Commander in that other World War, Marshal Foch. He was General Giraud, French North African Commander, and he sought his daughter and four grandchildren.

Giraud's wife and three other daughters are in France, held by the Nazis. His two sons are officers in the Army that fought in the Tunisian battle. The daughter in Tunis was seized ~~to~~ together with her husband and four children when the Nazis ~~xxxxxxx~~ came. So what did General Giraud find, when Tunis was captured?

He was informed that a month previously his daughter and her family had been taken across to Europe - to be held by the Nazis as hostages.

PRISONERS

The destination of the German and Italian prisoners captured in Tunisia was discussed today by President Roosevelt, who stated that he assumed a large number of them would be brought to the United States. The estimates are that a hundred-and-seventy-five-thousand have been captured, and the North African word has been ~~many would~~ ^{that many will} be sent across the Atlantic to do farm work in the United States and Canada.

According to the Geneva ~~convention~~ convention that regulates the treatment of prisoners of war, the captives may be used for agricultural labor but not in the production of munitions. ^{Also -} They may not be compelled to work; - only volunteers may be used. And, they must be paid.

We have, ^{of} ~~on~~ course, a farm labor shortage over here, and many of the prisoners are from the farmlands of Germany and Italy. In the last war, tens of thousands of German ~~prisoners~~ ^{prisoners} were employed on British and French farms. In this war, the same sort of things has already been going on, and it is to be increased greatly - thanks to the victory in Tunisia with its hundred-and seventy-five thousand prisoners. Prisoners on the farms - would seem to be a logical thing, and President Roosevelt confirmed the idea today.

INVASION

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With all the profound secrecy surrounding plans for invading Europe, here is an angle that becomes clear. In one respect at least, the offensive against the Nazi controlled continent will be like the Allied North African offensive.

When the Americans and British struck so ~~in~~ suddenly and powerfully into the French colonies, their way had been prepared by a lot of undercover work in the territories thus invaded. Allied agents, like our own General ^{Mark} Clark, operating in collaboration with elements favorable to the United Nations. The disclosure of this came as a dramatic surprise, and something of the same sort is scheduled to develop when the invasion^{of} Europe begins.

A dispatch from London today tells us about the huge Fifth Column that is ready in the countries under the Nazi heel - underground organizations waiting for the ~~XXXX~~ hour to come. The secret anti- Nazi movements are different from the Hitlerite Fifth Columns the Germans used when they struck out. These were small ~~subversive~~ subver^sive groups, Nazified minorities.

3 The United Nations Fifth Column, on the other hand, consists of a majority of the people in the oppressed countries.

Hidden fighting groups ~~xx~~ have been organized everywhere. They have the eager support of the masses of the ~~xx~~ population, and are directed by the legitimate governments ~~xx~~ in exile. Secret agents of the United Nations circulate among them, getting the underground ready to strike when the invasion comes - strike with sabotage and guerrilla work. All of this is under a centralized direction in London, and the business of coordinating the secret anti-Nazi groups in the various countries is one of the war's most closely guarded secrets.

For long months, the central control of the underground has been holding the anti-Nazi elements in check, keeping them from acting too soon. Avoiding premature outbreaks - which would be disastrous. Once, however, the invasion begins, the anti-Nazi forces will be unleashed, and the occupied countries will flare against the Nazi tyrant.

We ~~xxx~~ saw how North Africa¹ was prepared for the coming of the Allies, and a similar disclosure is due when the offensive against Hitler's fortress of Europe begins.

SUBVERSIVE

A Congressional committee today cut off the pay of three government officials - charged with subversive activities. Previously, the three officials had been accused by the Dies Committee of ~~affiliation~~ affiliation with Communist groups. Two are employed by the Federal Communications Commission - Goodwin B. Watson, and William E. Dodd, who was United States Ambassador to Germany. The third official is Dr. Robert Morse Lovett, Secretary of the Virgin Islands, ^{who} ~~he~~ is charged with having been a member of six organizations ~~aggrated~~ alleged to be subversive, communistic. The House Appropriations Committee today passed an amendment to a bill to provide a hundred and thirty-four million dollars for various government agencies. The amendment decrees that the salaries of the three accused officials ~~will~~ shall be eliminated.

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From London comes grim and evil word about anti-semitic atrocities in Warsaw. The statement is that the entire ghetto at Warsaw has ^{now} been wiped out, a section that contained forty thousand Jewish people.

The story is told by Rabbi Irving Miller, who today informed a London press conference that he had the facts from

Polish sources. (The ghetto in Warsaw resisted the Nazi killers, the forty thousand Jews fighting with what few weapons they could procure. It was a ten day battle, with Nazi tanks rumbling through streets, their guns blazing. They ^{overpowered} ~~exterminated~~ the feeble weapons of the defenders - until the last flicker of resistance was suppressed.

"Every living soul", states the London Rabbi, "was either butchered or uprooted and moved to some other parts of the country". ^{HP} After the ten day battle, the ghetto of Warsaw was no more.

FLEET

Here is a headline with a startling sound: "The United States fleet no longer exists". Has the American Fleet been wiped out? Yes - ~~np~~ wiped out by the tactical developments of naval warfare. Today, Vice-Admiral ~~R.A.~~ Horne is quoted as saying: "The fleet, as such, no longer exists - that is, as an operational unit".

The Admiral gave this opinion to an appropriations committee of the House of Representatives, and added: "The Naval battle - battleship against battleship, big fleet against big fleet - is out of the picture for the future". And he went on to explain in these words: "Missions in modern ~~xxx~~ naval warfare are generally accompanied by task forces".

He went on to say
~~He said~~ that battleships are still mighty useful as major slugging units, but the task force consists essentially of cruisers and aircraft carriers - the 'flat-top' now being the backbone of the Navy. *So recognized by the Admirals.*

That bit of expert testimony is something to prepare us for the later news - that the House Appropriations Committee has okayed the largest naval appropriation bill in history. And its dominant theme is - aircraft carriers. Twenty nine billion

~~and~~ four hundred and sixty three millions of dollars for building more sea power - with accent on flat-tops.

I am in Watertown, Connecticut, tonight, at the famous Taft School -- founded by Horace Taft brother of William Howard who was one of ^{our} the country's most popular leaders both as President and ^{as} Chief Justice. ~~of the Supreme Court.~~

Although I have broadcast from foreign capitals, from mountain tops, from mines, from airplanes, and from universities too, this is the first time I have broadcast from a famous American preparatory school. Before me are some four hundred boys, Headmaster Paul Cruikshank and other members of the faculty, and a few of their neighbors, here in one of the most charming small towns in Eastern America.

Unfortunately the present war ^{is almost sure to} ~~probably will~~ last long enough so that some of the boys sitting before me will have a chance ^{to fight} ~~to go~~ in it. But at the moment I am thinking of the other boys, the younger lads, on whom we ^{are going to} ~~will~~ have to depend for leadership, in ^{is to} ~~that~~ new world that ~~will~~ emerge from all this chaos.

Recently in Washington, while talking to Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles, I asked Mr. Welles if he didn't think our foreign service would have to be greatly enlarged

after this war. And ~~however~~ I asked him how he thought we should go about preparing for the days ahead when we are going to be compelled to play a much larger part in the affairs of this planet. Mr. Welles answered that ~~he thought~~ this was ^{sure} ~~going to~~ be one of our great problems, the training of young men to ~~represent~~ represent Uncle Sam all over the world, and to train other young men who, although they remain here at home, will understand world affairs.

And the Dean of our diplomats, Former Ambassador Hugh Gibson, ~~as~~ remarked to a group of us the other evening, that the only way to get men for our rapidly growing diplomatic corps~~es~~ and for other branches of our foreign service, and to understand world affairs in general, is to ^{start training} ~~get~~ them young.

That as I see it is the present day mission of the Taft School ~~where~~ where I am tonight, and of other great schools like it, such as Exeter, and Andover, Hotchkiss, Deerfield, Choate, Lawrenceville and so on. And, I am delighted to find that ~~that~~ is what they ~~at~~ are starting to do here at Taft. ^W We've simply got to have a new ~~new~~ race of young men --- lads who from their early youth are taught all about the affairs

1/2 of this globe which has changed, and is ^{still} changing, in such an incredible way, largely because of the era of aviation, and because of the radio, this medium that I am now using, and which enables me to stand here before several hundred boys ^{and} talk to them, and at the same time ~~through~~ talk to their parents, in Georgia, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and to millions of other people as well.

And now back to New York,
and e-l-u-Monday,