

TUNISIA

L.I. - Sunoco. Wed., May 12, 1943.

The Battle of Tunisia has ended in an astonishing fantasy - surprise, bewilderment, almost a farce. The grim and bitter conflict terminates with a hail and hurrah - and not only the jubilation of the victor, although there is plenty of that. The vanquished, too, are jubilant. ~~And~~ this once so savage clash of modern war comes to a close with almost a laugh.

The final chapter was written today with the surrender of the Nazi Commander-in-Chief, General von Arnim - and the capitulation of the last fighting Nazi group, which was holding out in the southern sector. These were Rommel's veterans, the North Afrika Korps, and they resisted, surrounded and without hope, <sup>resisted</sup> until their supplies were exhausted. The fight put up by this fragment of Rommel's veterans was the exception. The rule was the opposite - eager surrender <sup>by</sup> rejoicing of prisoners of war.

On the Cape Bon Peninsula, where Nazi Commander von Arnim was captured, stupefying scenes were witnessed today, as the conquering forces were virtually overrun by prisoners coming in, prisoners eager to submit. ~~They~~ ~~were~~ Both Germans and Italians. Hitherto, Mussolini's men when captured became prisoners gladly, while the Nazis in captivity kept the stern visage of soldiers. But today the Germans joined their Fascist allies in a carnival of prisoners, as if captivity were a three ring circus. <sup>π</sup> They didn't even wait for advance parties to reach them, but flocked forward - looking for them. They surrendered to anybody who wore an Allied uniform. They swarmed out of their positions, holding up their hands and waving ~~a~~ white flags.

The last remnants of the Hermann Goering Division, named after the Nazi Number Two man, staged a dramatic show before they surrendered. They mustered all

their cannon and let out a terrific blast of fire, <sup>to</sup>  
*use up the ammunition they had left.*  
Then they calmly walked out into the road with their  
hands up.

Parties of prisoners arrived in trucks, while  
others walked. They stopped Allied tanks, and asked for  
directions. Sometimes <sup>a British - or an American -</sup>  
~~an American and British~~ officer  
would tell them to go back and bring in more of their  
comrades, and they would obey.

Further back, German and Italian trucks ran  
a regular <sup>itiner</sup> shuttle service along the roads, Axis drivers  
rushing truckloads of their comrades to concentration  
<sup>— a war bus line,</sup>  
points for prisoners. They would go back and forth,  
<sup>almost crowding</sup>  
~~threatening to force~~ Allied armored equipment off the  
roads. <sup>TP tonight</sup> The prisoners throng without guards, and some  
times look hurt <sup>if</sup> four or five British ~~or~~ American  
soldiers are set to guard four or five hundred captives.  
They laugh and cheer, and make signs of "V" for victory.

*R part of final salute.*

The word has got around that large numbers of the prisoners of war will be sent to the United States and Canada to work on farms, and this cheers them mightily.

~~The~~ Captured German soldiers explain that they have relatives in the United States, and hope to get a chance to see them. Some ask what would be their prospects of remaining in the <sup>U.S.A.</sup> ~~United States~~ <sup>TP</sup> after the war. The

Italians are particularly happy about it, and ask impatiently - How soon will they leave <sup>for New York?</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>Mayor La Guardia's town?</sup>

One Italian soldier said to a couple of Americans on guard: "Why are you laughing at us - we're going to the United States, but you have to go to Italy!"

What is the meaning of it all - this almost comic end of the devastating battle? We <sup>know</sup> ~~know~~ that Italian morale <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ down to zero, but does it also mean that German morale is cracking? One might think so.

Today a British officer, while speaking of the Nazi troops at Cape Bon, declared: "They had plenty of guns. They had good positions. They had millions of mines. They could have made a deuce of a fight, but they just packed up - and nobody seems to know why." <sup>P</sup> There is an interesting point of speculation - why?

## CONVOY

London tells of a pitched battle between U-boats and a convoy, and it certainly sounds like one of the biggest on record. The convoy was westbound, coming this way. The long lines of ships left a British port, and then for a period of eight days and eight nights were under constant attack - not by <sup>one</sup> a U-boat wolf pack, but by a mobilization of wolf packs. <sup>TP</sup> Early in the battle, eight submarines began a series of at least thirty attacks. Then the <sup>Undersea</sup> ~~force~~ force increased until there were times when at least <sup>twenty-five</sup> ~~twenty~~ U-boats were assailing the convoy simultaneously.

One enemy craft was ramméd and sent to ~~the~~ the bottom by a destroyer, another <sup>rammed</sup> by a corvette. A destroyer depth-charged and <sup>sank</sup> ~~sank~~ a third submarine, while a corvette did the same to a fourth. Four U-boats sent to the bottom, while four others were "very probably sunk," and four more "probably sunk" - the destruction of ten

being certain or likely.

London states that the convoy fought its way through, and the majority of the cargo vessels reached port safely.

## ICEBERGS

When you think of convoys on the North Atlantic, you also think of Nazi U-boats. Right now, <sup>in some areas</sup> however, the submarines are the lesser of two evils. The greater evil is that old Nemesis - the iceberg. This past winter was a bad one, cold and long, so that now the icebergs are worse than usual - more and bigger. This we are told in a United Press article by Lieutenant-Commander George Lawrence of the Royal Canadian Navy. "For weeks," he relates, "the ice has been drifting down the Labrador current in huge fields," <sup>says he,</sup> "We think exclusively of bergs, but he mentions - bergs, growlers, hummocks and pressure ridges. The old ic<sup>2</sup> demon in many forms.

~~When the great frozen masses meet the Gulf Stream on the way flowing north, there is a formation of dense fog, thick and soupy.~~ "A whole convoy has been caught and imprisoned in the fields of fog and ice", writes Lieutenant-Commander Lawrence. And he tells how in that



convoy one cargo vessel hit a berg and had a whole knocked in its hull. Another ship reported "jammed in the ice field."

There is one good thing about it - the Nazi U-boats cannot operate in the ice. "A submarine," writes the Canadian naval officer, "wouldn't last long bumping its way through bergs or icefields." So they <sup>convoy</sup> have only one enemy at a time. - It would be too much to dodge both icebergs and submarines.

The fight against the ice is led by planes and corvettes. Scouting planes report the bergs and <sup>also the</sup> lanes of open water in the drift ice. And the corvettes then lead the convoy - showing the way. ~~through the perils of~~  
~~ice.~~

BENES

Tonight the White House has still another distinguished guest, in addition to Prime Minister Winston Churchill. President Benes of the exiled Czechoslovak government, ~~arrived late this afternoon for a brief visit with President Roosevelt. He will discuss matters pertaining to his own country, and central Europe in general.~~

Today, by the way, the State Dept. announced that our minister to the exiled government of Czechoslovakia, has been raised to the rank of an ambassador.

CHURCHILL

It isn't often that we get a clue to what is going on in a secret conference of state - a clue as suggestive as the one we have concerning the Roosevelt-Churchill talks. *This however* ~~It~~ is to be discovered in the list of the dignitaries that Churchill has brought along with him.

The London Prime Minister is accompanied by ~~top officers of the British high command and that's~~ ~~natural, since his talks with the President would~~ ~~obviously concern plans for waging the war. But in the~~ ~~Churchill party, there seems to be a highly significant~~ ~~number of military, naval and air command personnel.~~ ~~These are headed by~~ Field Marshal Sir Archibald Wavell, British Commander-in-Chief of India; Admiral Sir James Somerville, Commander-in-Chief of the British Fleet in Eastern Waters; and Air Marshal Sir Richard ~~P~~Parse, who commands the British Air Force in India.

Draw your own conclusion, and you'll surmise that plans of action against our Far Eastern enemy have a Number One position in the White House conferences between the President and Prime Minister. <sup>TP</sup> Moreover, there is a large probability that American Far Eastern experts are in on the military confabulations.

Lieutenant-General Stilwell, United States Commander-in-Chief in China, Burma and India has been in Washington recently, and there is considerable belief that he is in the national capital right now - joining in the talks. The same goes for Major General Claire Chenault, Commander of the Fourteenth United States Army Air Force, in China. And then there is American Ambassador Phillips, who returned from India only this week, and had a conference with President Roosevelt yesterday, shortly before Churchill arrived.

Of course plans for invading Europe must be

in the forefront - especially after the brilliant Allied victory in Tunisia. But it is pointed out, that invasion plans were supposed to have been settled at the Casablanca conference - the previous Roosevelt-Churchill meeting. And presumably there is not so much need of going into the hit-Hitler program right now. ~~★~~

~~Casablanca the promise was made that heavy blows would be ~~im~~ launched against Japan, and these require definite planning. Hence, the meaning that is everywhere being attached to the presence of Far Eastern experts, as the President and Prime Minister hold their war talks. ~~★~~ The inevitable assumption is that assaults against the Jap enemy are being prepared.~~

ADD CHURCHILL

London gives us the specific point that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill will probably decide just how to divide a lot of Allied shipping that has now become available. It is estimated that the opening of the Mediterranean by shortening the route to the Near East <sup>will</sup> released some two million tons of United Nations cargo vessels. What to do with these two million tons? What proportion to keep in the European theatre, and how much to divert to the Far East for blows against the Japs? *That's the question.*

GREW

The story has often been told of how the Jap war party used political murders as a way to gain power in Tokyo, <sup>and to</sup> accomplish their purpose of forcing a war. That band of extremists and assassins called the Black Dragon Society, is notorious on the record of infamy.

Today, we have a new slant - this in the form of a statement by our former Ambassador to Tokyo. He discloses that Japanese political assassins plotted to kill him, the American Ambassador. And they sought also to assassinate - Charlie Chaplin.

Ambassador Grew, writing in the Harvard Alumni Bulletin, states that all this occurred back in Nineteen Thirty-Six, when Japanese political terrorists murdered various moderate politicians. At their <sup>Tokyo</sup> trial, the evidence revealed that the conspirators had also planned the assassinations for the purpose of bringing on war. Ambassador Grew was on their blacklist, a

young naval officer appointed to kill him.

At the time, Charlie Chaplin was <sup>towing</sup> ~~pulling~~ in Japan; <sup>the little fellow with the baggy trousers</sup> ~~and he was~~ marked down as a victim. At the trial, <sup>came was</sup>

the judge asked one of the assassins the reason why.

To which the witness replied: "Charlie Chaplin is a popular figure in the United States - and a darling of the capitalist class. We believe that killing him would cause a war with America."

The description of Charlie Chaplin as the idol of the capitalist class is a little odd, considering Charlie's lack of passion and enthusiasm for capitalism - <sup>excepting his own ten million.</sup> All of this is an example of the fantastic workings of twisted Japanese mentality - such as brought about the reign of international terror in the Far East.



PANGBORN

I have just been hearing about what appears to have been the first and original of all plans to bomb Japan. The one who thought it up was Clyde Pangborn, who still remains the only aviator who has ever flown across the Pacific Ocean - non-stop. Pang has been telling me how he worked up a project for raiding Tokyo by air<sup>a</sup> way back at the time when the war between China and Japan had just begun. <sup>Pangborn</sup> ~~He~~ approached representatives of Chiang Kai-shek, and handed them a proposal to gather a force of American planes and pilots in the service of China - these to strike at Japan from Chinese bases. The cost ~~was~~ <sup>to</sup> be a million dollars. <sup>TR</sup> The agents of Chiang Kai-shek thought well of this. ~~They~~ <sup>P</sup> They said Okay, and Pang proceeded to line up the planes and pilots. For planes he proposed to use the Vincent Burnelli all-wing type, a squadron of these to be built. The pilots were old-time pals of Pang's, veterans who were ready for any desperate

adventure - for a suitable compensation. Pang, himself, was in the familiar position of a celebrated aviator, who had to make a living, and his scheme for bombing Japan was a business proposition -- with a slight ~~touch~~ <sup>touch</sup> of sentiment; for the Japs had once locked him up in Tokyo. ~~Anyway,~~ <sup>Anyway,</sup> a million bucks paid by China would provide a reasonable profit for Pang and his pilots.

Last year when Jimmy Doolittle and his fliers raided Tokyo, they scrupulously refrained from bombing the Imperial Palace - striking at military objectives only -- which courtesy the Japs paid back with murder. But the original Pangborn scheme was different. He proposed to concentrate on the Tokyo Imperial Palace, and not only that - they'd go after the various other imperial palaces. The idea was - get the Jap Emperor. Which was what the Chinese representatives over here liked the best.

The project was all set, and all that was needed was the final okay of the Chinese Finance Minister

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T. V. Soong, who would put the million bucks on the line. Soong was on his way to this country, and when he arrived, Pang went into a conference with him - expecting the documents to be signed then and there. Chiang Kai-shek's Finance Minister nodded his approval, said he had studied the plan, and thought it was quite feasible. There was only one difficulty. He said he would <sup>accept</sup> ~~expect~~ Pang's proposal for bombing the Jap Emperor, if Pang at the same time would provide China with an army capable of withstanding the Japanese reaction. That would mean only a few million men with full armored equipment and a huge air force - to stop what the Jap army would do when the string of imperial palaces were bombed, Jap Emperor and all.

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So that was the end of the first plan for bombing Japan. The second went through on schedule. And the third is now being arranged, and here's Hush.