

TRAGEDY

P. T. - Sunoco. Thursday, May 17, 1945.  
(Given by Dr. Andrews.)

Tonight we hear from the British Admiralty for the first time the story of one of the great naval tragedies of the war. Incidentally, we ~~hear~~ <sup>learn</sup> that in addition to losses already announced, one hundred and sixty-three of His Majesty's men-o-war were sunk. None of them was a capital ship. The last big vessel that our Allies lost was the twenty-two thousand ton aircraft carrier EAGLE, torpedoed in the Mediterranean on August Eleventh, Nineteen Forty-two. Before then, the Royal Navy suffered quite heavily in capital ships; battleships, battle cruisers, aircraft carriers, nine capital ships in all.

One tragedy which shocked thousands of eye-witnesses, including Americans, was an accident. The escort cruiser <sup>CUR-20</sup> CURACOA, four thousand two hundred tons, was convoying a number of transports including the luxury liner QUEEN MARY. She was crowded with American troops on that day, October Second, Nineteen Forty-two.

TRAGEDY -2

Something went amiss with the signals. The CURACOA <sup>Cur-a-20</sup> suddenly cut across the bow of the QUEEN MARY. The seventy-eight thousand tons of the great liner smashed into the light cruiser and cut her in two like a knife shearing through cheese. In seven minutes, the two halves of the cruiser and her crew were at the bottom, while American doughboys aboard the QUEEN MARY looked on in horror. The cruiser carried a crew of four hundred; only fifty-eight were saved.

The food situation in the northeast continues to grow worse, particularly in New York City. Restaurants are beginning to close down. By the end of the month, four hundred of them will be suspended. And the President of their association announces that if supplies continue to fall off at the present rate, there will be eight hundred to a thousand shut down by the First of July. That will mean twelve to sixteen thousand workers out of jobs.

## COAL

Here is good news about coal. The <sup>anthracite</sup> ~~anthracite~~ miners and operators have come to terms. It is a compromise which will give the men a dollar and thirty-seven cents more a day.

It is high time this happened, because the strike of seventy-two thousand hard coal miners has already lasted seventeen days. According to Secretary Ickes, that means a loss of enough coal to heat twenty thousand homes all next winter.

The men expect to go back to the mines Monday.

*large*  
Air officers in the Pacific believe that the last two raids by our Superforts have wiped out the core of Japan's aircraft industry at Nagoya. More than a thousand B-29s took part in these two raids, and they dropped over one million, a hundred and forty thousand incendiaries. And the Japanese themselves report that besides that, some forty light planes, based on Iwo, raided the industrial district just southeast of Tokyo.

The photographs that were taken to show the results of Monday's raids and today's, were not <sup>very</sup> clear. That was because of the huge blanket of ~~smoke~~ that clouded the entire city. The ~~men~~ of the Twenty-First Bomber Command are sure that when clear pictures can be taken, they will show Nagoya wiped out so far as being a part of the Japanese war machine. Japanese radio broadcasts make light of the raid and say the fires were all brought under control by dawn. *Of course they would say that.*

*Change*  
A significant bit of news from Tokyo

reports the disbanding of the "Imperial Rule Assistance Association." That was an organization launched five years ago, modelled after the Fascists in Italy and the Nazis in Germany, a totalitarian outfit. Apparently the Japanese government decided that the collapse of Fascism in Europe is the writing on the wall and the signal that their own version of Fascism is not workable.

The great importance of this news lies in the fact that the Imperial Rule Assistance affair is believed to have been a creature of the Japanese army. There is strong reason to believe it has been disbanded as a result of pressure from the big industrialists. If that is true, it means the Army is beginning to lose its domination of the government.

Tokyo also reported today that a British task force had sailed through the Malacca Strait between Malaya and Sumatra, for the first time in almost three years. The Japanese indicate that there was a naval battle, in which the Nipponese sank one British destroyer.

## OKINAWA

On Okinawa, United States marines <sup>are</sup> ~~were~~ pushing right into the heart of the capital of the city of Naha. They fought their way over heaps of Japanese dead lying in the streets.

There are still more than thirty thousand Japanese soldiers left alive in the southern end of the island. They are fighting back so fanatically that our men are killing fourteen hundred every day. Nine Japanese dead for every American casualty!

The Three Hundred and Eighty-Second Regiment of Infantry is closing in on the town of Shuri, which is the key position in the enemy's defense line. The doughboys ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ are all ready for the final attack. Meanwhile, the Seventy-Seventh Division is fighting toward Ishimmi.

In Naha, our bombers have literally torn the streets and sidewalks wide open. The town is dotted with bomb craters all over. A combat photographer says

it must have been a beautiful up-to-date city once,  
but today it looks like a trash dump.

Buildings that the Japanese erected later. At that time  
I believe very few of the inhabitants had ever seen any  
other white men except an American missionary and his  
family. I particularly remember the great curiosity  
of the people. They crowded around us, feeling over our  
clothing and wanted to touch our hands and faces.

We had been warned to look out carefully for  
the snakes which infest the island. They are really  
vipers, about the size of our copperheads, and it seemed  
that almost every rock crevice was the home of one of  
these serpents. Just walking up the path to the palace  
we saw one of these crawling inches on the  
stones.

Even in Hiroshima they were the top news and  
controlled the island for some years. They  
travellers to cross all these mountains as they



ADD OKINAWA

In Nineteen Ten when I was there, it was a native ~~village~~<sup>town</sup> with small shops and none of the modern buildings which the Japanese erected later. At that time I believe very few of the inhabitants had ever seen any other white man except an American missionary and his family. I particularly remember the great curiosity of the people. They crowded around ~~me~~<sup>me</sup>, feeling ~~on~~<sup>my</sup> my clothes and wanted to touch ~~my~~<sup>my</sup> hands and faces.

~~I~~<sup>I</sup> had been warned to look out carefully for the snakes which infest the island. They are deadly vipers, about the size of our copperheads, and it seemed that almost every rock crevice was the home of one of these serpents. Just walking up the path to the <sup>Shuri</sup> palace we saw five or six of them sunning themselves on the stones.

Even in Nineteen Ten, when the Japanese had ~~had~~<sup>had</sup> control of the islands for only a <sup>comparatively</sup> short time, they realized its great military importance as a stepping

stone to the main islands of Japan. As a result, they were being extremely careful about allowing anyone to go beyond certain prescribed limits.

## ADVENTURE FOLLOW OKINAWA

A couple of U.P. Newspapermen took a long chance on Okinawa. They ~~took~~ <sup>went for</sup> a ride along the fighting front in a jeep, with two officers. It was a pleasant Spring morning, and the countryside looked to them like the Hudson Valley, as they drove down the coastal road that runs parallel with the East China Sea. After they had passed the Machinato Airfield, a military policeman flagged them down and said: "Beat it, this road is under fire." At that moment a Japanese shell splashed in the backwater alongside the road. They decided that the order to beat it was not a bad idea. The only question was, should they drive or fly?

So they turned back east and went to another part of the front. As they came to a graveyard, they were greeted by a creeping barrage of white phosphorous shells. Great red fire balls appeared out of nowhere. ~~Theyxthey~~ So they turned away again, still going east.

They parked the jeep as far near the front as non-combat vehicles were allowed, <sup>Then they</sup> ~~and~~ made their way on foot single-file up to the highest point on the whole islands. There they saw the whole panorama of battle. Behind it was a huge curtain of smoke. Not far away, tanks were maneuvering. ~~Wxxx~~ Thin lines of dirty soldiers were climbing the slopes or scrambling over rocks. Other groups were resting, eating, massaging their feet or taking a nap, wherever they could find shelter.

From the top of their hill they could see the hopeless plight the Japanese are in. But no one expects them to surrender. They cannot retreat and our tight naval blockade ~~shuts~~ shuts off any reinforcements. The men who are doing the actual fighting believe the Nips will have to be blasted and burned out of their holes one by one. To the newspapermen, it seemed that the deadly job was not half over.

## PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, the Thirty-First Division of Yank infantrymen is now near the important airbase at Valencia on Mindanao. For almost three weeks, the Thirty-First has been fighting up the highway from the south. According to the latest report, they are only eight miles away from the airfield.

At the same time, the Fortieth Division is driving down the main highway from the north. Four days ago, it took the air base at Del Monte. Tonight it is several miles further south.

It looks as though the two columns will join up before long. When they do, we shall control every important highway on the island. The Twenty-Fourth Division long since got possession of the main road from east to west, across southern Mindanao.

On Luzon, American infantrymen and the cavalry are surely, though slowly, ending Japanese resistance.

The Forty-Third Division is attacking the last enemy line twenty miles northeast of Manila. The First Cavalry Division is only three miles away from the seaplane anchorage at Port Lampon, on the east coast of Luzon. That is forty miles ~~away~~ from Manila.

Last Monday we heard triumphant news from China, that a Chinese army had recaptured the important port of Foochow on the east coast. The crowing was too early, because today Chungking admits that the Japanese got reinforcements and threw the Chinese out again. It took a battle of two days to do it. <sup>Nevertheless</sup> ~~However~~, the Chinese are still fighting hard outside the city.

## EUROPE

Our Navy is to have control of two big German ports, Bremen and Bremerhaven nearby, according to a story from London. Bremen, of course, is the second largest in Germany. Through them will flow supplies for our armies occupying Germany.

In spite of the destruction caused by the bombing raids of the R.A.F. and our own strategical air forces, the wharfs and cranes at Bremen are relatively undamaged. One of the chief obstacles to the immediate use of the harbors is the number of sunken ships, mostly scuttled by the Germans themselves. Nevertheless, there is hope that our engineers will be able to clear both Bremen and Bremerhaven so that they can be used inside of three months. Through Bremen alone will pour ten thousand, five hundred tons of cargo a day.

It will take months to clean up the American army job in Europe. Many necessary things cannot be done



until the expected conference between President Truman, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin settle a number of problems that are pending. On this subject Stalin refuses to say anything. Among the immediate problems are the consolidation of our occupation, making the Germans start to produce food, the control of German industry, the exchange of prisoners of war, and the prosecution of war criminals.

Robert Patterson, Under-Secretary of War, told newspapermen today that the United States is pledged to a policy of being tough wherever it is in control. On his visit to occupied Germany, said Patterson, he found German civilians on the whole well clothed and well fed.

The seriousness of the army's problems is going to be hard on our generals in Germany. Without a single exception, they want to go to the Pacific. But there is so much still for them to do in Europe, it will not be

possible for all of them to go. One thing is definite, Eisenhower will remain in command of all necessary forces in Europe.

*change well,* the Nazis are still busy spreading hostile propaganda. A radio station somewhere is broadcasting stories, whose purpose is to create quarrels among the Allies. The Federal Communications Commission is monitoring the broadcast and attempting to locate the station. It calls itself the "Transmitter of the German High Command Lindemann."

WAR CRIMINALS

1/2 min.

The latest German cruelty to come to light is proof that they confiscated Red Cross parcels intended for Allied prisoners. This evidence was literally dug up in a rather curious fashion. A bomb disposal squad was at work near Garmisch-Partenkirchen. There, in a trench, they found a hidden supply of about a hundred Red Cross parcels intended for American and Canadian prisoners. They were still in their original cartons, the contents partially spoiled.

OKINAWA

L.I. - Sunoco. Friday, May 18, 1945.

(Given by Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews) (C.I. writes to Pacific three near East.)

The greatest bombardment of the Pacific war

thundered on Okinawa today. American troops <sup>have</sup> ~~had~~ fought their way into three places of key importance - Naha, Shuri and Yunabaru. This latter point <sup>is</sup> described as an anchor of the Japanese line. The battle <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ raging with savage intensity. The Japs ~~behind~~ Naha, Shuri and Yunabaru are firing with every gun they can bring to bear, hurling as might a cannonade as they can muster. In reply, massed American land artillery and the guns of warships off the coast are hurling tons of shells, while bombing planes add their own high explosive to the pandemonium.

It is believed that the end of Okinawa is not far off. The powerful Japanese defending force has been cut down to hardly more than one-third of an original eighty thousand men.

The Japs report intimations of another American naval thrust. Tokyo announced that a powerful American fleet has steamed from bases in the Mariana Islands,

~~and is~~ <sup>it is</sup> on its way to strike a blow - where, the Japs do not know. Their constant jittery surmise is - an invasion of the Japanese home islands, which they say they expect sooner or later.

## JAP CRUISER

The British announce the sinking of a Japanese cruiser, <sup>in</sup> A naval battle last Wednesday, off the Malay Peninsula. The Japs had previously reported the engagement and made their usual claims. The British now announce an eight-inch-gun enemy cruiser was sunk, a warship of the Nati class. The enemy vessel was first attacked by air bombs, and hit -- whereupon British destroyers assailed it with torpedoes and sent the cruiser to the bottom.

## FRANKLIN

All day long, newspapers and radios have been telling the epic story of the FRANKLIN - the aircraft carrier which, erupting in infernal explosions, seemed to be a ship ~~doomed, a ship~~ without hope. There were incredible deeds of heroism, ~~and accounts are given of how the men of the FRANKLIN acted when an inferno of detonation seemed to be blowing the carrier apart -~~ <sup>the Franklin</sup> after ~~it~~ was hit by Japanese bombs in the China Sea.

Two of the stories I think should be repeated again and again. <sup>One - an</sup> ~~The~~ exploit of Lieutenant Donald A. Gary of Oakland, California, <sup>It is</sup> ~~who was~~ one of the heroes that the Carrier commander, Captain Gehres, is recommending for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

The following account is ~~f~~ given by United Press Correspondent Richard W. Johnston, who was aboard the FRANKLIN. "Lieutenant Gary, stumbled into a compartment where three hundred men

~~men~~ were trapped in pitch darkness and smothering smoke. He sought and found an exit, and then returned three times to lead the three hundred to safety - man following man, hand on shoulder." *So writes Johnston.*

~~And ~~then~~ it was Lieutenant Gary who later dared to make his way down to the smoke filled engine rooms and started the boilers ~~ganging~~ which permitted the stricken carrier to get into motion.~~

Another hero recommended for the Congressional Medal of Honor is the Chaplain, Lieutenant Commander O'Callahan - <sup>He is a</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>and</sup> Jesuit <sup>^</sup> before the war was a professor of mathematics. ~~The skipper of the FRANKLIN relates a~~ ~~long series of incidents about the Chaplain,~~ <sup>He</sup> ~~who~~ led in the fire fighting, took charge of medical work, and comforted the wounded with the rites of religion. Lieutenant Commander O'Callahan directed fire fighting at one point where ~~a line of great air bombs~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>^</sup> so hot they



might blow up at any moment. He ordered a fire fighting crew to spray water on the hot bombs - but not directly.

Because the <sup>force of</sup> direct impact ~~might~~ might explode them. He <sup>instructed</sup> ~~told~~ them to shoot <sup>a</sup> stream of water

onto the deck, so that it would be deflected like a shower on the bombs <sup>and</sup> ~~to~~ cool them. He <sup>said</sup> ~~told~~

~~that~~ - "take no unnecessary risks." ~~That~~ One sailor

<sup>in that</sup> ~~moment~~ moment of life <sup>or</sup> ~~and~~ death, remarked with a

wry twist of humor: "No, Father, don't let's take any unnecessary chances."

CHINA

A story of the deepest "hush hush" variety has come to light -- a swindle game in China. It appears that an American loan to China of Five Hundred Million Dollars was made the occasion of a huge speculation, ~~in which~~ <sup>Un</sup>scrupulous Chinese financiers staged an operation that made and broke millionaires, in a wild boom. <sup>PH</sup> The American loan of half a million which was made three years ago, was used in part to boost the value of Chinese money.

Word of the government financial ~~speculation~~ <sup>operation</sup> leaked out, and Chinese financiers took advantage of it, --

<sup>They did</sup> a lot of buying at the right place at the right time. Knowing that money values were to be altered by the huge American loan, they speculated -- and cleaned up millions. <sup>PH</sup> One newspaper at Chungking charges that Chinese government officials likewise were in the deal, A group of officers are said to

have made more than forty-five million Chinese  
dollars in one transaction.

The <sup>scandal</sup> ~~thing~~ has hitherto been hushed up

by Chinese censorship, but now it comes to light, ~~with~~

*The Chungking Government*

~~Chinese~~ promises that suitable punishment will be

dealt out to the financial ~~geniuses~~ geniuses who took

advantage of the American loan to China to stage

an orgy of speculation.

## GERMAN SUBMARINE

In naval war of the past, it was not uncommon for a ship to be captured by ~~boarding~~ ~~submarine~~ ~~with~~ a boarding party swarming onto the deck. That sort of thing is exceedingly rare in modern war, and might seem to be impossible in the case of a submarine. Yet tonight we have a story of how a German U-boat was captured by a boarding party. The sub was seized, and then the boarding party navigated it for two thousand miles from the west coast of Africa to Bermuda.

The German undersea craft was detected by an American escort vessel, which attacked it with depth ~~charges~~ charges, forced it to the surface, and then shelled it. The German crew scrambled into the sea after setting demolition charges. These were placed so as to blow up and sink the sub, ~~when~~ <sup>when</sup> the crew had got off. Meanwhile, something went wrong with the steering mechanism, and the U-boat ~~was~~ <sup>ed</sup> circled around on the

surface of the ocean.

Aboard the American vessel, a party of nine volunteers, headed by Lieutenant Albert Leroy David of Madison, Wisconsin, put out in a whale boat - for the ~~purpose~~ purpose of capturing the submarine by boarding her. They drew up to the craft, as it went around in circles, got onto the deck, made a quick search, and found the demolition charges - which were about to go off at any minute. Working fast, they ripped out the wires, and neutralized the charges.

Whereupon, acting on instructions from their own ship, they proceeded to navigate the submarine - and took it all the way to Bermuda.

The story was revealed today, with a recommendation <sup>for the</sup> ~~of a~~ Congressional Medal of Honor for Lieutenant David.

## WAR CRIMINALS

The war criminal story takes on its most fantastic aspect today -- with the German world of medical science involved. It has been stated previously that in the Nazi horror camps, unfortunate victims were made guinea-pigs for experiments -- vivi section and the injection of drugs. Now we ~~we~~ hear that this was on an organized scale, with the leaders of German medicine having a part in it.

According to the story a medical research center was set up by Doctor Bernhardt Rust, Minister for Science and Education. ~~Some~~ Important German scientists were enlisted to form plans for mass experimentation, with horror-camp victims as human guinea-pigs. This project of sinister science was put into practice in an inhuman way. One major purpose we are told was to ~~investigate~~ investigate tuberculosis. It seems incredible that eminent

medical men engaged in such work as research in tuberculosis could have lent ~~themselves~~ <sup>themselves</sup> to any such atrocities. ~~xxxx~~ Today it was announced in London that an Allied Committee had been appointed to investigate the whole thing with a view to inflicting punishment. And they say that some of the most important German scientists are likely to be prosecuted.

Other war-criminal news today ~~xxxx~~ tells of a proposition made in London by Lord Van Sittart, a leading advocate of a stern peace for Germany. Lord Van Sittart demands a mass indictment of the entire German Gestapo and Storm Trooper organization. That would mean a mass indictment of hundreds of thousands.

And still another story tells us that Hitler wanted to shoot all war prisoners. There had

been under cover reports in the past that there were Nazi plans for a mass murder of prisoners of war -

~~the~~ Gestapo Chief Himmler was named as the instigator.

Today's news is that the instigator was Hitler. We

hear that the Swiss President of the <sup>International Red Cross</sup> ~~the~~ ~~has~~ has

stated Hitler proposed to shoot all war criminals,

*He actually*  
~~was~~ gave the order, but the German Army refused to

carry it out. They insisted on sticking to the

rules of war as applied to prisoners.



## GERMAN INFILTRATION

In Paris, the news was disclosed today of a German invasion of France last December - an invasion that got all the way to Paris. It was an infiltration of German agents, including women, who had been especially schooled in sabotage, espionage and assassination. Some of them wore American, British and French uniforms. Some were dropped by parachute, and others got through in captured American jeeps. This was at the time of the German break-through in Belgium and Luxembourg, the "Battle of the Bulge." With the military drive the invasion of saboteurs was designed to cooperate. The whole thing was apparently under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Otto Skorzeny, the ace Nazi secret agent who recently has been <sup>named</sup> ~~disclosed~~ as the author of a plot to assassinate ~~Eisenhower~~ General Eisenhower.

That Eisenhower angle was <sup>discounted</sup> ~~discovered~~ today - with the explanation that the major objective of the scheme was

a disruption of communications and a <sup>reign</sup>~~ring~~ of sabotage terror behind the Allied lines.

So serious was this situation, that roads were blocked and thousands of American troops were stalled. Battalions of picked ~~American troops~~<sup>soldiers</sup> were put on patrol, and searched thousands of buildings. Combat leaves to Paris were suspended. Cabarets, night clubs and theatres were closed. Paris was like the scene of a spy thriller. Wild rumors were in circulation, including one about the attempted assassination of Eisenhower. There was plenty of excitement, until the Allies were able to get the secret invasion under control, and ~~round~~<sup>round</sup> up the Nazi agents.

## GERMAN REFUGEES

In Central Germany a mass exodus is reported -- tens of thousands of people streaming westward. ~~The explanation is the same as before -- trying to get away from the Russians. As the war ended, one phenomenon was the boards of Germans trying to get to the Americans, as the Russians advanced. This time, a mere rumor has started a new~~

~~exodus.~~ Word got around that Central Germany was to be ~~put~~ put within the zone of Soviet occupation, and that started a vast migration westward, toward the Americans.

KUHN

They are sending Fritz Kuhn back to Germany - and that would seem to be like some more war-guilt punishment for the Germans. Fritz Kuhn, who was Fuehrer of the Nazi Bund over here during the time before the war. He did a lot of ranting and heiling, and set himself up as a minor fuehrer. Finally, he was sent to jail for ~~embezzling~~ embezzling the funds of the Bund, and lavishing the cash on girl friends, the funds of the Bund becoming funds for the girl friends. He was deprived of his American citizenship as well as being made to serve a term in the cooler, and now is eligible for deportation.

Back in Germany he may, I suppose, embezzle the funds of some other bund, and give the money to some other girl friends. In any case, Fritz is hardly likely to be an asset to the defeated nation.

## RADIO CITY

Here in Rockefeller Center, there is an interesting version of the old story of a son who takes a position of authority above his father - as in the case of a father who is a colonel while his son becomes a general.

At the Center Theatre, the San Carlo Opera Company is giving another of its Spring seasons, and the troupe directed by Impresario Fortune Gallo has a new conductor.

He is a young fellow named Nicholas <sup>Ra-shun-go</sup> Rescigno, and in the orchestra that he directs his father plays the trumpet.

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In other words, it is the story of the old orchestra player who raises his son to be a musician - and then the boy takes command over the father, as the orchestra conductor.

The situation can have possibilities - Suppose papa should play a sour note, what would sonny boy do? Would he scowl and give father a bawling out? The question is all the more pointed when papa plays the trumpet - one of the loudest of instruments, on which a sour note can produce a most devastating effect.

Some of the more cynical opera goers are attending San Carlo ~~Opera~~ performances in the hope of hearing a noisy bobble on the trumpet - junior conducting and a sour note from father!

*And now back to Hugh James.*