

L.T. SUNOCO. FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1941

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

No further word about the sinking of the destroyer REUBEN JAMES. No description of the torpedoing, no word of survivors. All we know is what the Navy Department announced this morning -- that the United States destroyer was attacked while on convoy duty west of Iceland.

The blank of information that has followed the first announcement, is much the same as in the previous case of the torpedoing of the destroyer KEARNEY. Then it was explained that the KEARNEY was not likely to flash us any news and give its position away. And today the same thing goes for the ships that may have picked up survivors of the REUBEN JAMES and probably could tell us exactly what happened. So it may be days before the complete story comes through. However, it would appear that the picking up of survivors should not have been too difficult -- since the REUBEN JAMES was in convoy, along with other vessels.

Relatives of a sailor aboard the REUBEN JAMES are quoted today as saying that he had told them in a letter that the destroyer had

DESTROYER-2

been engaged in convoying British vessels.

47
The warship was one of the old destroyers built during the previous ~~war~~ war and launched in nineteen twenty. ⁰⁷ ~~She was of~~ the same class as ~~twenty~~ of the fifty destroyers transferred to the British last year. There is comment to the effect that her silhouette would be much like that of ships now under the British flag. However, the Navy Department states that the attack took place at night, in which case silhouettes wouldn't mean anything much. ~~It is probable enough that the U-Boat launched the torpedo without, looking--aiming by means of sound devices.~~

The Reuben James was named after an American Naval hero, and recalls a brilliant affair in the United States war against the Barbary Pirates, more than a century ago. Reuben James was an American sailor who saved the life of Commander Stephen Decatur, so famous in American ~~Navy~~ Navy history. ^{the} ~~So~~ That's ~~an~~ historic angle, and there's a human slant too. The Reuben James was commanded by Lieutenant-Commander Haywood L. Edwards, famous ~~Navy~~ Navy athlete. He was a light heavyweight wrestler at Annapolis, and was on the United States wrestling teams in the Olympic Games--Nineteen twenty eight and nineteen thirty two. He was captain of the nineteen thirty

DESTROYER-3

48
- two wrestling team. He has a brother-in-law, Lieutenant R. B. Ellis, also in command of a destroyer--a sister ship of the Reuben James, and tonight Commander Ellis is navigating his ship in those waters where the Reuben James was sunk. It would be dramatic if one brother-in-law had participated in the rescue of the crew commanded by the other.

More important is the news of the reactions--because the torpedoing of an American warship ~~might~~ might well be ^{a cause for} ~~a cause for~~ war. Three American destroyers have now been attacked, one with no result, the other heavily damaged, and now the third--sunk. It's a part of the shooting war which President Roosevelt announced today, the most important person to be queried for reaction was the ~~President~~ President himself. He stated in a news conference that the sinking of the Reuben James does not produce any fundamental change in the international situation. That situation remains about the same. And he refused to support the suggestion that this new incident might result in the breaking off of diplomatic relations with Nazi Germany.

49
In Congress, comment was divided in the usual fashion. Administration supporters denounced the torpedoing as a new outrage of Nazi piracy. While isolationists said it was a logical result of

the President's order to shoot first.

McKellar
Senator ~~McKellar~~ of Tennessee expressed himself as follows: "I hope that Secretary Knox will be instructed to take our ships and clean up the seas--to destroy the pirates of the ocean."

The most drastic statement on the other side was made by Senator Aiken of Vermont. He declared that President Roosevelt was responsible. ^{→ he} He used these words:--"Personally responsible for ~~what~~ whatever lives are lost." The Senator continued with this severe statement about the President: "His disregard of the Constitution is a greater threat to Democracy than war itself," said Aiken.

On the other hand, Senator Norris of Nebraska, announced that the newest attack would cause him to vote for the Neutrality law changes the Administration wants. ~~High~~ Hitherto, Senator Norris has been regarded as highly doubtful on the question of permitting American merchant vessels to enter the war zones. How, however, he'll vote for it.

50
A dramatic move was made today in the Senate debate on the Neutrality changes. Senator Lee O'Daniel of Texas arose and proposed that there be no further debate--that a vote be taken immediately

concerning the Neutrality changes. But the Senator described it as more than that. He put it this way -- "To determine whether this country is neutral," He explained in the following words: "It is time that this body announce whether it is neutral or not, so that the officers and men of our ships may know how this nation stands before they go down in a watery grave -- as some possibly did last night," declared the Senator.

An immediate vote, however, required a unanimous consent, and this was refused. Senator Maloney of Connecticut spoke up in opposition and that blocked the attempt to close the debate. Whereupon the speech making continued, with Senator Capper of Kansas declaring that he was opposed to American ships going into the war zones, just as he is opposed to the Administration foreign policy.

An announcement was issued by the German Admiralty today -- a statement that a U-boat attack on a convoy in the Atlantic had sunk a large tonnage of merchant vessels, a destroyer and a couple of other escorting boats. The destroyer might be the

REUBEN JAMES.

Just off the wire:- London reports that the Germans have broken through south of Moscow and have encircled the important town of Tula.

The Germans claim too that their armies in the Crimea are pushing on. Little resistance, the Soviet forces disorganized and retreating, says Berlin.

-----0-----

The claim from France is that there was little if any observances made of General DeGaulle's proclamation of a five minute protest against the Nazi hostage executions. So says Vichy, which, is thoroughly hostile to the DeGaulle movement. The Germans jammed the radio appeal from London as much as they could. Of course, the people are forbidden to listen.

STALIN

One of the interesting sidelights of the news these days is the change of attitude toward the Soviet number one man -- Stalin. For years the Red Dictator has been presented as the blood gripping tyrant of the Kremlin, the arch Communist villain, the monster killer. But now the tone has changed.

For example, take the new issue of the American Magazine. It prints two articles about Stalin, both by leading personalities of American Statecraft -- President Roosevelt's personal Emissary Harry Hopkins, and former American Ambassador to Moscow, Joseph E. Davies. Neither of these Magazine pieces is at all like the past pictures of the Red Dictator.

Hopkins writes a thrilling story of his visit to Moscow as the President's representative, and describes vividly his talks with Stalin. He tells of the Stalin smile. (Hopkins writes: "He welcomed me with a few swift Russian words. He shook my hands briefly, firmly, courteously. He smiled warmly.")

5-3

But the Stalin smile was not so warm when the master of the Kremlin talked of Hitler. Harry Hopkins puts it this way: "It~~x~~ was only when he mentioned Hitler that he discarded his sauve assurance. Then his body grew tense. He didn't raise his voice-- rather it went as cold as his eyes. And the mellow harshness of it became grating."

With this impressionistic bit, Harry Hopkins gives us an important point in contemporary history. He says that Stalin ~~xxxxxx~~ believes that the sudden blitzkrieg launched against the Soviets was the doing of Hitler personally. ^{He, Stalin,} ~~He~~ has no rank ^c ~~or~~ against the German people or against the Nazi General Staff. He doesn't think they had any part in the decision to assault Russia-- so ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ suddenly, so unexpectedly, without any intimation to Stalin. He is convinced that Hitler did it, Hitler alone--in one of his spells of maniacal rage. Hence the relentless hatred that Stalin feels--as in the case of two partners, when one partner ~~xxxx~~ turns against the other.

^{Am} ~~The~~ article by Joseph E. Davies ^{in American Magazine} gives us a new interpretation of the Stalin blood purge, those garish Moscow trials and the orgy of ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ executions. As

54

Ambassador to Moscow, Davies attended the trials, and he says that he then thought the way most other people did--Stalin killing his political enemies and enforcing his power by terror and shooting. Now, however, the former Ambassador has changed his mind. He says he now realizes that it was a case of Stalin eliminating the Fifth Column in Soviet Russia, blotting out pro-Nazi elements. Speaking of the Moscow trials, he notes that most of the world construed them to be what he called "outrageous examples of barbarism, ingratitude and hysteria. "But now," Davies goes ~~on~~ on, "it appears that they indicated the amazing foresightedness of Stalin and his close associates."

American

This, the former Ambassador reasons, has had a great effect in the present war. "There are no saboteurs, secret agents, or Fifth Columnists to cooperate with the invaders," he writes, "~~xxx~~" because the Russians were sufficiently far-sighted~~xxxx~~ to eliminate them before it was too late. That," he concludes, "is a fact which other liberty loving nations might well ponder."

55

Yes, it all represents a considerable change. Time was~~xxx~~ when some Americans used to say, "What this country needs is a Mussolini." The next thing you know we may be hearing, "What this country needs is a Stalin."

LABOR

56
President Roosevelt said today that the defense labor situation has grown worse in recent weeks. He added, however, that it is not as bad as it was some while ago. The President stated that in some cases there has been considerable slowing down of defense production because of strikes.

Meanwhile, the mediation board is starting on the job of trying to effect an agreement in the coal dispute. The miners flocked back to work today - on the job, pending a decision by the Board.

56
At the air associates Plant, Bendix, New Jersey, the Government was in control of the big aviation factory today. Last night, everything seemed to be settled, the strikers going back to work. But later trouble proceeded to develop between the returning strikers and the employees who had not gone out. Fights broke out - impossible to operate. The situation became so bad that the President took action. The Army moved in. Officers announced that every worked ^{ru} was discharged, and began to rehire the employees - on an individual basis.

CRASH

A joint-United States-Canadian investigating commission today began an inquiry into the disastrous airplane crash in Canada last night. The second major disaster to an American airliner in the course of twentyfour hours. Last night we had the tragic story of the accident in Minnesota, fourteen killed. A mere few hours after that time a great airliner smashed into the ground in Ontario, and burst into flames and twenty lives were lost. Thirty-four air-crash casualties in twenty-four hours.

MINE

57

The sombre story of a mine explosion comes from the Canadian Province of Alberta. At the town of Nordegg. The men were working in the coal pits today, when suddenly there was a violent blast. Apparently it was coal damp, that old demon of black pits. Shafts were caved in, and the miners underground were trapped. It is unknown whether there may be any survivors. After desperate labor, rescue ^crews broke through barriers and got into the ill-fated shaft. Thus far they have found none alive, and it is believed that the death ⁺oll may be as high as thirty.

At White Plains, New York, there's a lawsuit concerning four inches of a dog's tail. The value of the four inches is placed at a thousand dollars, two hundred and fifty dollars an inch. Quite a tail for any dog to wag.

The pooch in question was a Great Dane named Prince Adonis - a blue ribbon prize winner. ^{TP} One of the most notable features of Prince Adonis was his twenty two inch tail. That's what made him a dog show ~~Adonis~~ Adonis.

Calamity came when owner Frank Hughes sent Prince Adonis to board at the establishment of a veterinary named Sol Shapera. There, the majestic tail proceeded to develop an infection, and the Doctor had to amputate four inches. So now it was only eighteen inches long.

Owner Frank Hughes declares the lopping off of the four inches ruined the Great Dane for show purposes. Who would dream of hanging blue ribbons on a mere eighteen inches? So he feels he was damaged to the extent of a thousand dollars.

58
He stated in court today that it was ~~xxx~~ all because of the kennel in which Prince Adonis was kept -- too small a kennel. The dog was a friendly pooch and a great tail wagger.

He loved to swish around with those twenty-two inches - and that took ~~in~~ room. The kennel was so narrow, says the complaint, that the tail wagging was nothing but a series of thumps and bumps against the sides of the kennel wall. Hence the infection.

The defendant, however, ~~was~~ has another version. He points out that Prince Adonis had a way of chasing his tail - and biting it. He'd go round and round for long minutes in pursuit of that long drawn-out prize ^{winning} ~~winning~~ ^e ~~winning~~ appandage, and then he'd finally catch it and bite it. And maybe that caused the infection.

The most disinterested party in the whole business, is the Great Dane, Prince Adonis. We don't know ^{whether he has} ~~either he~~ ^{even} ~~ever~~ missed the four inches, ~~and~~ Anyway he was hit by a car last Monday and passed along to the canine paradise -- where perhaps the length of ^a ~~the~~ dog's tail doesn't mean so much in a blue ribbon sense.

- Now Hugh what important news have you about our blue ribbon Nu Blu?

8 1/2

59

59 1/4