

L. T. -- SUNOCO, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1945

(4)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

All over the world the Army Air Forces -- Uncle Sam's airmen, are celebrating today. At every air base and every air center that our people have, right round the Globe, this is happening. And I am broadcasting from one of these -- at the Pawling Air Force Center -- the first one established by General Arnold and General Grant, I believe. Sitting in front of me are airmen who have come home from all over the world -- and their wives and sweet-hearts. So, let's start with today's big air news.

The greatest air blow to date was struck today on Air Forces Day. Japan hit by eight hundred B-29's, the greatest fleet of superfortresses ever to fly to the attack. And they hurled six thousand tons of bombs - incendiaries, and two-ton blockbusters - the greatest tonnage of bombs ever hurled in one operation. The

largest previous figure for the B-29's was four thousand tons in one raid. In the European war, the record was fifty-six hundred tons - when the British Royal Air Force hit Dortmund shortly before the end of hostilities in Europe.

Today's assault blasted five targets - four of which were Jap cities that had been forewarned, cities on the list announced as marked for destruction. The Fifth target was a big Jap oil center.

That's how the B-29's in the Far Pacific celebrated Army Air Forces Day - by hurling an all time record weight of bombs upon Japan.

BIG THREE

The meeting of the Big Three has ended - Generalissimo Stalin, President Truman and Prime Minister Attlee bringing the Potsdam conference to a close. They have concluded their labors by drafting an announcement of the decisions arrived at.

It is understood that the announcement will concern European affairs only - and make no mention of the war in the Pacific, in which Soviet Russia so far is neutral.

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There had been a lot of speculation about the possibility of a startling announcement concerning Russia's plans ^{to get in the fight with} ~~in the war, against~~ Japan - rumors of a Soviet Declaration of War. But at Potsdam now these guesses have died down, and the belief tonight is that the communique ~~is~~ to be issued by the Big Three will not disclose what Russia intends to do. The Japs will find out about ^{that} ~~it~~ when the time for action comes.

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There is nothing definite tonight, of course, about what the Big Three announcement will state, but the word from Potsdam is that there is every reason

to believe that President Truman considers the conference a success. We hear that the President has won a series of concessions, which can't be mentioned at the moment. And all the indications are that ^{Mr.} Truman is highly satisfied.

The official announcement is expected on Friday - the communique held up for a day or so after the end of the conference. By that time, President Truman will be on his way home - after a meeting with British King George at an English port.

CHURCHILL

In London the new House of Commons assembled today - with its two-to-one majority for the labor party. Former Prime Minister Churchill, as the Chief of the defeated conservatives, started out on his new job - as the leader of the opposition.

Churchill received a rousing reception from his fellow conservatives. They cheered him, and they sang "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow".

As for The Labor majority ~~did not join in the~~ *the laborites*
~~ovation. In fact, they~~ held a counter-demonstration of their own, singing the labor international anthem, the song called - "The Red Flag". *in the staid old House of Commons.*

Then, after the singing of the "Red Flag", the Commons, in accordance with the parliamentary custom went to the House of Lords, to hear the reading of the King's commission authorizing the new Parliament.

The contrast presented was curious - the singing of the "Red Flag", *then* and the visit to the House of Lords.

WAR CRIMINALS

It is announced that the international war criminal trial will bring only some twenty-five top ranking Nazis to justice.

The inter-Allied Military tribunal is to begin its job in London this week. And, meanwhile, the prosecution has been cutting down the number of war criminals who will face the court. This is to keep the trial from bogging down in a mass of legal detail.

The number, twenty-five, is based on the experience of the United States Department of Justice - in handling mass conspiracy cases. The Department of Justice has found that twenty-five defendants is about the maximum that can be handled.

Many leading Nazis will not appear on the list of twenty-five. ^{But a} number of them will be turned over _^ to countries that have strong cases against them. Hitler-rulers of occupied nations, will be tried in the countries that they once oppressed - Carl Herman Frank in Czechoslovakia, Hans Frank in Poland, Seyss-Inquart in the Netherlands.

The guiding principle of the international trial is to inflict justice on the master minds who plotted the European War - and, on that basis, Italian Fascist leaders will not be included. This is the word from London, and the explanation is that the satellites of Mussolini are not considered to have been key figures in the Axis conspiracy to violate the peace of the world. Mussolini would have ^{been} ~~have~~ tried, if justice had not already been inflicted on him by his own people. But the lesser Fascists are rated as having been mere pawns in the Axis game, and not really influential in the Nazi plot for conquest.

However, Italian Fascist leaders are on the list of war criminals - and, according to the schedule, are to be tried by nations that suffered from Italian aggression - notably Yugoslavia. However, it is noted that some of the Yugoslav list of war criminals, are now office holders in the present Italian government. That ^{should} ~~would~~ complicate things a bit.

PETAINE

At the Petain trial in Paris, a powerful blow was struck today in behalf of the aged Marshal. This ~~was~~ in the form of a letter to Petain from American Admiral Leahy, who is now presidential Chief-of-Staff, and who was American Ambassador to the Vichy Government for more than a year, at the time when Petaine was running things. It was evident ~~ix~~ in those days that Admiral Leahy thought well of the French Marshal, and this is borne out by his letter.

It is dated ^{this} June the twenty-second - a time when Petain was preparing to face ~~ix~~ his trial for treason in France. First Petain wrote to Admiral Leahy, sending him a note by a mutual acquaintance. This the Admiral answered with the letter introduced into the trial today.

Speaking of his ~~term~~ ^{term} as Ambassador, Admiral Leahy wrote to Petain: "During that period, I held your personal friendship and your devotion to the French people in very high regard. You often expressed to me the fervent hope that the Nazis would

be destroyed.

("During that period", continues the Admiral, "you did on occasion, at my request, take action in opposition to the ~~ax~~ desires of the Axis and favorable to the Allied cause. On every instance when you failed to accept my recommendations to oppose the Axis, you stated that the reason was that such positive action would ^{re} result in the additional oppression of your people.) I had then and have now", states Admiral Leahy to Petain, "the conviction that your principal concern was the welfare and protection of the helpless people of France".

All of which is high recommendation, and is accompanied by only one qualification, as follows:-
"However, I must in all/honesty," the Admiral tells the Marshal, "repeat my opinion expressed to you at that time - that positive refusal to make any concession of the Axis demands, while it might have brought immediate hardship to the French people, would, in the long run, have been to the advantage of France".

Meanwhile, we hear that it is unlikely

that the ~~Ex arch~~ collaborationist Laval will testify

The Arch-collaborationist Pierre
at the Petain trial. Laval was brought to Paris today,

a prisoner charged with treason. His arrival coincided

with a statement of both the prosecution and defense

in the case of Petain, both sides declaring that they

did not want to call Laval as a witness.

AIR FORCES

~~This is Air Forces Day, and an apt~~

For Air Forces Day

An apt reflection is that thirty-eight years is not a long time - but, how things can change.

It seems almost impossible to believe that on August First, ~~now~~ only thirty-eight years ago, the Army assigned ^a ~~an~~ Captain and two enlisted men to look into a question that didn't ^{then} seem very important. The apparent lack of importance is illustrated by the rank and magnitude of that committee of inquiry - one Captain and two buck privates.

They were instructed to make a report on a new fangled contraption that was being talked about, and give an opinion on the possibility of adopting it to military use. The contraption was - the flying machine, newly invented by the Wright Brothers. That was the beginning of the Army Air Forces - in Nineteen Seven.

23 Luckily, the Captain and the two soldiers reported - yes, *that* the newly invented flying machine did seem as if it might have military possibilities.

Ten years later, things were still fairly

primitive. I recall listening to a famous Lieutenant General tell how he became an army flier. Back in the last war, Jimmy Doolittle, then a California student of mining engineering, decided to enlist and wanted to become an aviator. He had seen one of those old-time flying exhibitions, on the order of a barnstorming air circus, and had caught the thrill of it.

To become an Army aviator, he had to enlist as a Private in the Signal Corps. At that time, military aviation was a branch of the Signal Corps. The idea being at that time was that the main purpose of the flying machine was - communications, scouting, a Signal Corps operation.

~~Jimmy Doolittle enlisted as a Private, with the promise that he would get a chance to go to flying school. If he made good, he would be commissioned as a pilot. He did make good - and presently was a Second Lieutenant in the Air Corps. By that time aviation was considered important enough to be a separate branch all by itself, the old Army Air Corps.~~

Pretty soon, second Lieutenant Jimmy

Doolittle was flying planes at Rockwell Field, California which was commanded by a ^{young West Pointer,} ~~Colonel~~ the name of whom will not be unfamiliar. ^{He was known to all his associates} ~~He was Colonel H. H. Arnold,~~ an officer who had a glowing vision - a vision of future air power. "Hap"

In fact You could virtually write the history of the Army Air Forces in the form of a biography of Hap Arnold, ^{who back when I first knew him was} ~~then a great~~ pioneer in an art that was just beginning; and today ^{is the} ~~a great~~ commander of the mightiest military striking power for swift and concentrated devastation that the world has ever seen.

At the same time, you could measure the swift growth ^{both} of the Army Air Forces ^{and of civil air transport} ~~by reference to that~~ ~~young fellow who enlisted as a private in the Signal Corps and who today is the Lieutenant General in command of the Eighth Air Force. All of which calls to mind~~ another old-timer ~~who had a great day today - Eddie Rickenbacker. At Columbus, Ohio, Eddie's home town,~~ ^{turning that city upside down} they have been ~~having ceremony and a pageant~~ in honor

of America's Top Ranking Ace of World War Number One. For in Columbus, Ohio today they celebrated Air Forces Day by staging the world premiere of a motion picture feature based on the career of a flier who has made history. The name of the film is: "Captain Eddie". As a part of all the Columbus hullabaloo, airplanes scattered one million Captain Eddie souvenir cards over Columbus, and the streets tonight are aglow with Captain Eddie displays. General Arnold sent a telegram ~~praising~~ praising Eddie Rickenbacker's contribution to aviation. And ~~Capital~~ Capital University in Columbus awarded the degree of Doctor of Humanities to the ace flier in World War Number One, who since has been a power of progress in the world of aviation. So when he pitches for my ball team, The Nine Old Men, against the Pawling Air Forces Team, as he did a year ago, we'll have to call him "Doc" instead of "Rick".

On this thirty-eighth birthday of the Army Air Forces, it's appropriate to reminisce about the old times, but let's not forget to bring the picture up to date.

In the European War, recently concluded, the Army Air Forces hurled two million tons of bombs, destroyed forty-three thousand enemy planes, and together with the British R.A.F. wrecked from thirty to eighty percent of the fifty largest cities of Germany. I visited most of those German cities and can testify to the ~~xxx~~ devastation. True, they didn't destroy every building and industrial plant in Germany. But the German Commander in Chief, Von Rundstedt said that American and British air power, by disrupting transportation and knocking out German war plants did make it impossible for Germany to fight on. And Von Rundstedt ought to know.

I myself got a vivid impression of the incredible development of our Air strength when I flew around the world only a few weeks ago.

Except for flights from Guam to Okinawa and back in Navy planes, and back and forth to aircraft carriers in the waters of The Japan Sea, all of my round-the-world flying was done in Army Air Force planes. C-54s, C47s and 46s, B-25s - in fact from the smallest L 5 messenger plane, to the biggest - the Superfortress, the B-29s - that was between the Marianas and the Volcano Islands - Iwo Jima. And from what I saw of our Air Forces, on five continents, and on the islands and above the oceans between those continents, I can say that the size and power of our Air Forces is almost too great for the mind of man to grasp.

In Brazil, in Africa, in China, no matter how remote the spot, there I found men of the Army Air Forces.

I hope somebody will do a book, a readable book, telling us the story of this wartime expansion of our air power ~~all~~ over the world. I'd like to tackle it myself. It's one of the great stories of all human history - wings over the world.

VETERANS' REWARD

In Washington today, still another proposal was made for rewarding the veterans of this war - and the ~~xxx~~ reward suggested made me blink my eyes. Senator Downy of California proposes to give the veterans a chance to travel, make trips to foreign countries. He plans what he calls - "a serviceman's tourist period". This would last for five ~~xxx~~ years, during which the government would finance trips overseas for veterans, enabling them to see the world.

I don't doubt that the Senator's idea is a good one, but I can only think of what I saw on my recent trip to India, China, and the war zones of the Pacific. If you were to suggest to the boys ~~xx~~ out there that, when they got out of uniform, the government will give them a free trip to foreign countries - they'd, well, *scribble* a lot of them would tear their hair.

To most of them the idea of heaven is to stay anchored in Dubuque or Topeka or Pawling - for the rest of their lives.

Once our millions of veterans of Europe

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and the Pacific ^{get} home, I wonder how grateful they'll be if they're told - "boys, you're going to have a free trip to Normandy, the Rhine, Salerno, India, China,

the Philippines, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Iwo Jima and Okinawa." *Do you think they'd*

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~~Won't they~~ vote for a candidate running on that plank? *What do you think, Hugh?*