

L.T. SUNOCO. JUNE 28, 1944, Wednesday

CONVENTION

First a hurried summary of events here at the convention today. Right now we are all waiting for the climax, the arrival of Tom Dewey and his speech. The delegates, of course, have finished the serious part of their job, after those dramatic scenes at the Chicago Stadium this morning.

The convention really began to come to life last night when Ex-President Hoover made his dignified, statesmanlike and inspiring speech. The high point of which came when he announced that the fortunes and future of the party and of the country are now in the hands of the young men and women of the G.O.P. Many people today are saying that it was the best, the most telling and the most human speech ever delivered by Herbert Hoover. But he has made many effective speeches in recent years. And he writes every word of them himself. Then there was Congresswoman Clare Luce; many a professional actress might envy her presence, and her

diction, and her looks. In all that heat, she looked as cool and immaculate when she finished as when she entered the hall.

Still and all, last night's proceedings, although interesting and even stirring, were preliminary. And they were rather clouded by the news that Governor Warren of California had declined definitely to run in second place. But those clouds were dispelled in a hurry this morning when it became known that Governor Bricker had agreed to the extremely sportsmanlike and patriotic act of accepting as number two on the ticket.

6 We ~~had~~ been told that, in spite of the overwhelming majority in favor of Dewey, the convention would stick to the routine of nominating all the other candidates. Up to the last minute the managers of Bricker, Stassen, and MacArthur stuck to their guns, said they would fight to the last ditch.

But after Governor Dwight Gorwoldo of Nebraska had finished nominating Tom Dewey there followed the scene almost without precedent. Governor Bricker

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came to the stand, and thereby precipitated a tremendous demonstration. Chairman Joe Martin, had a hard time of restoring order and he only succeeded after the Ohio Governor himself joined in begging his followers to let him speak. Whereupon Governor Bricker gallantly seconded the nomination of his successful rival.



He did it in a speech that was nothing short of magnificent, by long odds the greatest speech yet heard at this convention. In fact, looking back over the last twelve years it was the greatest convention speech ^{I have ever} ~~I've~~ heard, ~~so far~~. It was unprepared, without any manuscript, without even a note on the cuff. John Bricker evidently was speaking as he felt, interrupted every other minute by ringing cheers. The delegates and spectators were applauding ~~the great act of American~~ ^{a superb} sportsmanship, ^{here} and sacrifice. For ~~him~~ was the man who aspired to be President himself, deliberately stepping down and ~~agreeing~~ ^{agreeing} to take second place on the ticket, ~~to his successful rival~~ and, ~~to~~ help win the campaign with everything he had in him. As he put it himself, it was more important to him for the sake of the country to defeat the New Deal ^(theory of absolutism) than to be President of the United States.

PRECEDE FRANCE:

The late communique from Allied Supreme Headquarters tonight tells us that British armored forces have won the biggest tank battle of the invasion. In their smash forward at the Eastern end of the line, the British broke into open country, and beat off nine counter-attacks by German tanks. In other words, they smashed through and held their ground.

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FRANCE

The British drive in France is impressive and not only in the matter of the ground gained. Montgomery forces at the Eastern end of the battle front drove ahead today for another four miles-ripping a big gap in the enemy front. In fighting of savage violence, they crossed the Odon river on a five mile front, and drove on in a thundering drive that approached the Orne.

That stream flows through the embattled city of Caen, which has been a major objective ever since D-Day.

At Cherbourg, all organized resistance has been wiped out with the surrender of the Germans who were defending an airport. They finally gave up.

CASUALTIES:

Today we have the official figures for Allied losses in the invasion. The total is forty thousand, five hundred and forty-nine ^{that} many killed, wounded and missing. Five-thousand-and-two-hundred killed; , twenty-three- thousand wounded; and twelve thousand missing. The latter-prisoners, mostly.

Of the casualty total of forty thousand, more than twenty-four thousand are marked down as American;-about three-fifths. This high percentage is explained by the fact that the American losses were particularly heavy at one point during the landings. At a beach they happened to encounter a German division which, by sheer chance, was engaged in anti-invasion maneuvers. And there resistance was the strongest, fighting the most bitter. Another reason for the high percentage of American casualties is the fact. that our troops have been driving in swift attacks, the slashing assaults that captured Cherbourg. This-while British and Canadian's were merely holding the line for the new offensive that has now been launched. ^{At present} ~~for~~ the situation is reversed; the American's having things quiet for a while in the Cherbourg sector, while the British and Canadian's are bearing the brunt, doing the attacking.

Of the twenty-four thousand American casualties,

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three thousand are listed as killed, thirteen thousand ~~as~~ wounded and nearly eight thousand ~~as~~ missing. . Because of the large percentage of missing, nearly one-third, it is believed that the American figure for losses may be reduced- this on the assumption that many of the missing are men, who, in the confusion of the Cherbourg drive, may have got mixed up with other units than their own .

AIR WAR:

The air war was on again today in full blast, with seven thousand Allied planes hurling eight thousand tons of bombs. Twelve hundred and fifty American bombers and fighters based on Britain smashed at German transportation centers from Paris to the border of Germany-ripping at the enemy life-line from Naziland to the battlefields in Normandy. All in accord with the Allied air strategy of strangling German armies by choking their supply lines.

And British heavy bombers too were ^{off on} a daylight raid, although the R.A.F. has hitherto confined its ponderous operations to night assaults. Recently, though, the British heavies have been ⁱⁿ daylight action, and today a large force of Halifax bombers, escorted by fighters, assailed the Nazi ^s in Northern France.

And from Italy, too, Allied air power struck once again, with American bombers flying to targets in Bulgaria and Rumania-especially Rumania, blasting the all-important oil wells there.

Most interesting of all is news of a raid that can be called double shuttle. American bombers based on Britain landing in Italy, after a flight from Russia, taking off from British bases, they began with a shuttle bombing attack on Berlin, giving the Nazi capital another blasting. Then they flew on to Russia, to American built

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bases in Soviet territory. There they took aboard gas and bombs, and continued for a second shuttle raid-this one hitting those Rumanian oil wells again. After which they flew to Italy and landed at bases there-for a double shuttle.

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Today's story from

~~Germany~~ German-occupied France ~~we have a story that~~ indicates grimly the state of feud and terror that exists, as the anti-Nazi underground wages relentless war against the stooges of the German conqueror.

In Paris there is a large building which houses the Ministry of Propaganda of the Vichy government-headquarters of pro-Nazi propaganda that sings the song of stooge Laval. Early today, fifteen men in the uniform of the militia of the Vichy government went to the propaganda ministry. They created no suspicion, not with that uniform of the militia recruited to serve Laval and the Nazi's.

The band of fifteen walked in boldly, then suddenly drew pistols and covered the guards on duty. Twelve remained downstairs, while three went to the second floor, to the door of a bedroom there. It was the bedroom of Laval's propaganda Minister, Henriot-who, as the Chief mouthpiece of pro-Nazi publicity, has been hated hardly less than Laval.

The three men knocked at the door, and in a moment it opened-there stood the Vichy Propaganda Minister in his pajamas. Shots rang out, and Henriot fell dead-in front of his wife, who was in the room.

Today Laval described the killing of his Propaganda chief in these words-"An act of civil war." Which sounds rather like a threat to take murderous action, at least what action Laval can, against the Anti-Nazi,

Anti-Vichy underground.

RUSSIA:

In Russia, the Soviet offensive is sweeping all before it, and ~~the Germans are sustaining either a disastrous defeat or making a fast withdrawal.~~ Tonight's late bulletin from Moscow states: "The whole German defense line in White Russia is disappearing under the Russian avalanche."

Soviet troops today captured Mogilev, one of the important points on the White Russian front. And they have smashed to within twenty-six miles of Bobruisk, the last big stronghold on the line the enemy held when the offensive began. The city is described as virtually encircled, and so are five German infantry divisions-which face speedy capture.

Bobruisk is described as the gateway to Minsk, and that city is called the gateway to Warsaw and the West. Moscow says-the way to Minsk is open.

CHINA:
The ominous word from China takes a new turn today-equally ominous but in a different way. The Chiang ^{Kai}-Shek government makes an accusation against the Chinese Communist Army-declaring that the Chinese Red forces have refused to fight the Japs.

This is the latest in the long continuing feud between Chungking and the Communists, who control the Northern province of Shensi. The Chinese Reds charge that the Chiang Kai-Shek people have been persecuting them, while Chungking replies by saying that the Communist forces have been acting on their own, in defiance of the Nationalist government.

Today's Chungking accusation is tied in with the Japanese drive into Southern China, which is making rapid progress and threatens to cut China in two. When the assault began, Chiang Kai -Shek ordered the Communist Army in the North to launch a drive against the Japs- to take the pressure off the Nationalist force in the South. This the Communists failed to do. They didn't make a move- they didn't even reply to the Chiang Kai-Shek order. So declares Chungking today-in a formal charge that seems to indicate new bitterness between the two Chinese factions, the Nationalists and the Communists.

SAIPAN:

The news from Saipan still indicates that the battle there is likely to be the greatest and most violent in the Pacific Island war thus far. From the lofty altitude of Mount Tapotchau, the American's ^{now} can see the other half of Saipan lying before them—a series of jungle ridges. And in there the Japs have some twenty thousand troops concentrated.

Today's news tells of a stubborn fight for Garapan, the largest city in the Marianas. Patrols of Marines are in the town, where they are finding a lot of Japanese ambushades. The enemy positions in and around Garapan are based on a rocky height that bears the picturesque name of Flame Tree Hill. So named—because its crest is crowned with a mass of flower bearing trees, a thick clump of woods that blooms with the bright glowing flowers of the tropics. *The flametrees of* Flame Tree Hill . . .

around him, and the chances of rescue seemed nil.

So what did he do? Commander Martin is the industrious type of Naval officer and being there-he wouldn't waste his time. He did a job-took advantage of an opportunity. Here were reef and beach formations that would face the landing forces, and knowledge about them would be most useful. It didn't seem of much use, ^{but,} he proceeded to investigate. *- anything that he might do;*

He started examining the lay of the land and water -noting the character of the shore, the kind of coral formation, the various features that might cause difficulties. Hours went by, five hours-and the busy officer made the best use of the time. He had gathered a lot of information, when the unexpected happened. An American destroyer appeared, dashed in, and picked him up.

Whereupon Commander Martin reported to the invasion leaders, and presented the data that he had gathered. It helped a lot-and now he is given a goodly share of the credit for the successful landings on Saipan.

CONVENTION

Now back to the Convention; some of those seconding speeches, had their amusing points for instance, the lady from Idaho who said she ~~spx~~ spoke for the women ~~f~~ and for the West. What we want, is youth and virility, and Tom Dewey has 'em! The heat caused several speakers, including my radio colleague, to mix up names. A couple of them said Willkie when they meant Bricker, some said Bricher when they meant Dewey. One of the delegates who seconded for Bricker for Vice President spoke entirely about Dewey and never even mentioned Bricker's name.

Some of the chairmen of state delegations seized the opportunity to put in a plug for their states. There was the spokesman who said that all the delegates from the Cold state of Florida cast their votes for Dewey.) There was the gentleman who said that the entire delegation of the entire delegation of the ever Republican State of Vermont was for Dewey. There was also amusement in the staunchness of the lone delegate from Beloit, Wbsconsin who voted for General

MacArthur, and thus prevented Dewey from having a completely unanimous vote.

Well, there seems to be great enthusiasm over the nomination of Bricker, for Vice President. Some have been telling me that he is so effective a speaker, so popular among southerners that he will enable the party to break into the solid south. But that is probably wistful thinking.

Another highlight of today was the announcement of Willkie's generous telegram of congratulations to Governor Dewey in which he told him he had the greatest opportunity in history.

The New York Governor and his party are expected at the Chicago airport in an hour or so, unless the storm delays them. It's raining. Dewey left Albany by plane at three this afternoon. He is scheduled to arrive at the convention, at nine o'clock tonight.

And now Hugh, have you a nominating speech or something.

~~isell Thomas~~

FOLLOW SAIPAN.

In the invasion of Saipan, the landing parties were helped by some bits of special knowledge, first hand information about the character of the beaches, the reefs, the depths of water, which points to one difficulty of the war in the Pacific. ^{we} ~~we~~ have known so little about the ^{real} far off islands. Even the Navy ^{people} ~~have~~ been none too well informed about places like Saipan, concerning which the Japs have maintained a careful secrecy. So how did it happen that the landing forces had that special information- which had been freshly procured? The answer is, one of the exhilarating adventure stories of the war.

The day before the invasion, American bombers hit Saipan- a preliminary blast before the seaborne assault. One of the Navy planes was piloted by Commander William I Martin of Washington, D.C- a squadron- leader on a carrier. And Commander Martin had tough luck- or so it seemed. Over Saipan, his dive bomber burst into flames, and he had to bail out. He took to his parachute, and came down inside of the barrier reef of Saipan- the island having the usual coral formation off its shore. The water there was not deep, just up to his shoulders- a shallow section between the reef and the beach. A tough spot- where the young officer seemed certain to be killed or taken prisoner. Jap shells were landing all