

HITLER

L.T. - Sunoco. Friday, March 19, 1943. *Cur*

Here are a couple of additions to the crop of Hitler stories. One concerns U-Boats, and the other - champagne.

From Stockholm ^{today} we hear that Hitler has taken personal command of the German submarine campaign. The story relates that the only way the German generals could get him to stop master-minding defeats in Russia, was to let him turn his intuitions toward the wolf packs of the Atlantic. ~~Which~~ Which might be taken as good news for the Allies, if Hitler can do to the U-boat fleet what he did to the German war machine in Russia.

The bubbly theme of champagne sounds odd in connection with the homicidal mystic of Berchtesgaden, who has been known far and wide as a teetotaler. However, there ^{have been} ~~were~~ stories that Hitler was thrown into such deep depression by the

Stalingrad defeat, sinking into such morose and lugubrious melancholy that he took to tippling and became a drunkard. Well, Stalingrad would seem to be enough to drive any Feuhrer to drink.

Today we are told that the rumors of a dipsomaniac Hitler are slightly exaggerated, and that the Brown Shirt Dictator's inbibings have gone no further than moderate quaffing of champagne -- guzzling the bubbles a bit. Well, His Foreign Minister, master-mind, von Ribbentrop is an old champagne salesman. He probably sold the idea to Hitler if not the wine. Anyway we hear that after Stalingrad Hitler did indeed fall off the lifelong wagon and started calling for a chilled quart now and then; shrieking in fact. But he hasn't quite turned altogether into a fuddled Fuehrer, although he has ceased to be a totalitarian teetotaler.

AIR RAID

Today we are informed that last night's American bombing raid against Germany was the most ambitious that our air forces have ever launched. Flying Fortresses and giant Liberator bombers hit the big submarine building center at Vegesack, which is near Bremen, and did huge damage. ^{TR} This is the farthest that our big bombers have flown into Germany - an eight hundred mile raid. The number of planes constituted the largest air fleet that we have sent to the assault thus far. They dropped the greatest ~~h~~ weight of bombs, and shot down more German planes than ever hitherto -- losing two of their own. Altogether last night's raid established a new all around record for American air attacks against Nazi Germany.

ARNOLD

Tonight this country has another full general -- H.H. Arnold, Commander of the American Air Forces. This makes him the fourth four-star general on active command duties, the others being -- Marshall, Chief of Staff; Eisenhower, North African Commander; and MarArthur, United Nations Commander in Chief in the Southwest Pacific.

The raising of ^{Hap} ~~General~~ Arnold to the rank of full general is a token of recognition of the supreme role that air power has in this war.

RUSSIA

The news from Russia indicates that the Germans are making advances from the recaptured city of Kharkov, and Berlin claims capture of an important point -- Belgorod. The enemy war machine has pushed to the Donets River, which makes a bend -- as do other Russian rivers in those parts. Moscow admits the loss of an important bridgehead along the Donets, and says the Germans have got across the stream ^{at} ~~in~~ one point -- though in small force.

NORTH AFRICA

We are all fairly familiar with the fact that our battle line in Tunisia runs parallel to the north and south length of the Tunisian coast. That is -- the Axis enemy stands with his back to the shore. So, by driving a wedge forward and thrusting to the coast, we could cut the hostile forces in two. ~~Then~~ The shorter the distance we'd have to advance, and the better the prospects would be. And there's one section where the distance is the shortest, The north to ~~xxxxxx~~ south stretch of the Tunisian Coast makes a bend inward in the area of the port of Gabes, ~~and that~~ shortens ^{ing} the distance between our lines and the shore. And ~~that~~ ^{its} exactly the area where the American forces are advancing in the sector of Gafsa.

Having captured Gafsa, their forward progress would keep them on to Gabes. ~~thereby driving across the shortest distance to the coast for the purpose of cutting the enemy forces in two.~~ All of which

emphasizes the significance of our latest advance --
~~of~~ an American column capturing the town of El Guetar.
That place is beyond Gafsa, and on the road to the
coast. El Guetar was captured ~~xxxxxx~~ without
resistance, the Nazis pulling back. Of course they
must have a defense line established as strong as
they can make it -- for a desperate fight to keep
from being cut in two. And hard fighting lies ahead
before the Americans can lunge ^{on} to their goal. ^{also} A lot
of slush and mud lies ahead, ~~also~~ -- the weather in
Tunisia still being terrible.

The war news today brings ^a ~~the~~ name that will
ring reminiscent to those who recall that previous
World War. The name -- First Division. The Army
in Tunisia has revealed the identities of American
outfits in the battle, and foremost among them is that
First Division, which fired the first American shots
in France in Nineteen Seventeen-Eighteen. ~~The~~ ^{It}
~~Division~~ was in the forefront then, and now again ~~it~~ --
the First Division keeping up its reputation of being
first.

MARRIAGE

Over in North Africa, Lieutenant Bertram Froehly of the Air Corps and Lieutenant Elaine Bost, an Army nurse, got married. There was no use of trying to escape romance and matrimony any longer - the way luck and army orders were breaking. Bert Froehly and Elaine Bost went together down in Georgia, and then he was ordered to Britain with ~~the aviation~~ ^{his} outfit, ~~in which he served.~~ They postponed their wedding indefinitely, until he got back.

A little later Elaine, now in the Red Cross, was ordered to Britain. So they met there, and courtship continued. It was discontinued, when Lieutenant Froehly was ordered to North Africa.

He was flying and fighting in the Tunisian campaign, when he heard that a shipload of nurses was due in port. He had a hunch. He met the boat at the dock, and sure enough, as the nurses trooped down the

gangplank, there she was - Elaine.

I suppose they figured that they might as well get married - because Army orders were throwing them together all the time anyway. Today word of the wedding was received by the mother of the bridegroom, together with further word that ~~Rxxx~~ Flyer Froehly had been wounded in action. But he is getting well - after getting all tangled up with the darts of Dan Cupid and the bullets of the enemy.

POST WAR RESOLUTION

President Roosevelt today spoke in favor of the proposed ~~Senate~~ resolution to pledge the Senate in favor of American International Cooperation after the war. ~~This resolution, which is sponsored by two Republican and two Democratic Senators, also proposes the immediate establishment of a United Nations Council for Post War Planning.~~

Before it was introduced, the proposal had been discussed ~~xxxx~~ in a conference with the President, and the statement was made that the President had given his okay. However, administration supporter Senator Connally of Texas, who had attended the conference at the White House, declared that he had no assurance that the President was in favor of the resolution -- and ^{Connally} ~~he~~ spoke against it.

Today the matter seems to be settled, with President Roosevelt declaring that he approves of the resolution advanced by the four Senators. He denied that he was cool toward the idea, as some had ~~supposed~~.

DRAFT

This afternoon a Congressional Committee put its okay on the Kilday Bill, which would forbid the drafting of fathers until all childless men were taken into service. Earlier in the day strong War Department opposition was expressed, with Secretary Stimson making a statement to the Committee -- the Rules Committee of the House of Representatives. The Secretary of War declared that the Kilday deferrment of fathers would be "administratively impossible." This -- because it would be impossible for draft boards to ascertain when every childless man in any district had been drafted. ~~"It would result," said he, "in a complete breakdown of the selective service system."~~

In spite of that War Department opposition *the* committee went ahead and voted to okay the Kilday bill.

COMPULSORY LABOR

President Roosevelt today spoke against the proposed National Service Act, which would provide compulsory labor. That is, he's against it -- with qualifications. The President stated that we might eventually have to come around to a system of assigning workers to war jobs -- ~~if~~ as is provided in the Austin-Wadsworth National Service Bill.

But he said he hoped ~~xxxx~~ to avoid such a thing as long as possible. He spoke of regimentation, and added that we have to have a certain amount to win the war. But he hoped that we would not have to resort to so much regimentation as compulsory labor.

The President was reminded that his own Secretary of War and the Under-Secretary, ~~of War,~~ Messrs Stimson and Paterson, have spoken in favor of the Austin-Wadsworth bill. Doesn't that seem like difference of opinion as between himself and the War Department? President Roosevelt said "no", and explained that they were all in agreement about what might have to be done eventually. It was only a question of -- when.

RICKENBACKER

Captain Eddie Rickenbacker had some more downright things to say today. He told the Senate Military Affairs Committee that a lot of men are working at industrial jobs to keep out of the Army.

~~"I know this to be a serious accusation," said he, "but I stand by my statement."~~

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Captain Rickenbacker claimed furthermore that five and a half million men could be taken from their present jobs and placed in the armed forces if industry went on a ~~per~~ piece work basis. In other words -- if war workers were paid on a basis of the actual work they do.

CIVILIAN GOODS

It looks as if we are going to get more civilian goods than are available right now. This was indicated today by War Production Chief Donald Nelson. He stated that the ~~in~~ government will soon permit the production of ~~for~~ various civilian items that now are banned. The presumption is that this means such things as refrigerators and other household appliances. The Production Chief stated that the home front is important, and 'should be looked after -- though with not too great an abundance. He said the home front should be kept in his words: "sound, though lean."

TUGWELL

Today in Washington, the epoch of the professors seemed to have returned, with a ^{name} ~~two fold~~ headline ~~on an era~~ most reminiscent ^{-- Prof. Rex} of Tugwell. Remember

53' the early days of the New Deal when the professors of the Brain Trust were the targets for showers of innumerable bricks? In ~~that dear departed era, when the alphabetic agencies were beginning, no professor, was assailed by larger numbers of verbal cobbles than Rexford Guy Tugwell. Rated as the handsomest of the New Dealers, he was also the arch Brain Trustee.~~

Today the personality of Tugwell was on the Washington scene again in two ways. Once - the spectral spooky way, the ghost of Tugwell. This was in connection with the Farm Security Administration, of which the Professor used to be a leading light. ~~in the halcyon days of huge farm surpluses, disastrous over-production of food, crop limitation, the principle of plowing under,~~

~~and the killing of the little pigs,~~ Right now, the F.S.A. is being investigated by a congressional sub-committee, and today Committee Chairman Congressman Cooley of North Carolina spoke of ectoplasm and the spirits. "The ghost of Rexford ~~Guy~~ Tugwell," he cried, "is still running the F.S.A."

~~Which is a spooky, spectral way of saying that the Farm Security Administration is still controlled by the policies of Tugwell, policies which are denounced as Socialistic, if not Communistic.~~ The Committee Chairman avers that the F.S.A. promotes collectivistic ideas of farming. Talking of the resettlement projects run by the F.S.A., he states: "The tenants are ~~now~~ not allowed to own their own farms. F.S.A. officials are on record as opposing individual ownership of land."

~~In other words, the Farm Administration is accused of using the resettlement business to promote~~

~~experiments in agricultural Communism. And the sub-committee Chairman states they're going to stop all that, root out the Socialist theories and chase away the ghost of Tugwell. It ought to take an interesting assortment of incantations and exorcism to drive out the spook of the professor.~~

In another section of Congress today, Tugwell was denounced as not a ghost at all, ~~but as a palpable reality~~. The erstwhile Brain Trust professor is now Governor of Puerto Rico, and he was being assailed for what he is doing right now on that poverty stricken island which the Spaniards of old misnamed - "rich", Rico. ~~In other words, some congressmen are accusing~~ Tugwell for what he did in the past and others for what he is doing now. All that is needed is to heap some damnation on him for what he is going to do in the future - and you couldn't lambast a sinner for more.

~~Tugwell's~~ ^{And his} work ^{there} in ~~Puerto Rico~~ evokes ^{the} ~~those~~
same terms of odium - Socialistic and Communistic.
~~Not to say collectivistic.~~ And ~~The~~ Rules Committee
of the House of Representatives today voted an
investigation. ~~Congressman Cox of Texas described the~~
~~Professor in these words~~ - "conscienciously an advanced
~~Socialist."~~ Describing what Tugwell wants to turn
Puerto Rico into, ^{one} ~~the~~ Congressman said: "the guinea pig
for a world W.P.A."

Another Congressman, Delaney of New York,
made a statement about how the world W.P.A. guinea pig
is working. He said that food relief sent to Puerto
Rico is being bungled. "They are getting big shipments
of breakfast food," said the Congressman, "and the
natives don't know what to do with it. They feed it to
their chickens," he added.

What do the Puerto Ricans have for breakfast?

The chickens, maybe. If so, they breakfast on the chickens, that breakfasted on the breakfast food - which may come to the same thing in the end. Perhaps the Puerto Ricans are smart.

Anyway, the ghost of Tugwell was ~~wiped~~ ^{pushed}

around today and so was the physical Tugwell - and what more lambasting could you ask? It would take a professor to answer - Professor Tugwell, for example.

RACKET

Today a gangster of evil underworld renown was found shot to death -- ~~He~~ was Frank Nitti, nicknamed -- The Enforcer. ~~He was~~ One of the big shots of the old Capone mob in Chicago -- called its master mind and also called its executioner. Nitti, the Enforcer, lorded, masterminded and killed during the prohibition days when the Capone gang was supreme.

Today, a headline broke when it was announced in New York that eight members of the old Capone gang and a labor ~~xxx~~ union official had been indicted on charges of extortion -- this in connection with the motion picture unions. The story was told how, after the end of prohibition, the Capone mobsters turned from the liquor racket to the labor racket and extorted millions of dollars from the motion picture industry. The authorities

tied this in with the case of labor leaders,
 Bioff and Browne who were convicted of motion
 picture labor racketeering. The number one name
 among the eight former Capone ^{gangsters} ~~gangsters~~ who
 were indicted today was ^{that} ~~the name~~ of Frank Nitti,
 The Enforcer. And, this afternoon his body was
 found in Chicago beside the railroad tracks
 near his home. Apparently he had shot himself --
 suicide. He had the death pistol in his hand --
 the end of a notorious racketeer on the day of
 his indictment.

RED CROSS

In case any of you folks happen to be impelled to do your bit for the Red Cross, in its present drive for funds, here's a hint. In Cabarruth County, North Carolina, Red Cross Chairman E.H. Sharp attended a church meeting and made an appeal for funds. What kind of appeal? When the pastor of the church introduced him, he offered the Red Cross Chairman the option of praying, preaching or singing. Mr. Sharp figured he was not so good at preaching, and he did his best praying silently. So he elected to sing - that is he offered to sing a hymn if two church members would contribute twenty-five dollars each to the fund.

Two people promptly agreed, and Mr. Sharp proceeded to warble. He sang the hymn with deep fervor. - a little

flat
sharp maybe.

When this was done, he had another bright idea.

"How much," he called, "am I bid not to sing any more?"

The response of the congregation was enthusiastic. A hundred and fifty dollars ~~was~~ instantly subscribed! *if he'd stop singing.*

~~The Red Cross does a work of mercy, and it~~
How's that Hugh?
~~was also a work of mercy for Mr. Sharp to stop singing -~~
Suggest anything?
~~making everything quite appropriate.~~

~~You see the hint - make people kick in with~~
~~Red Cross contributions to keep you from singing.~~