

The enigma of France is still unanswered tonight. Laval, the pro-Nazi collaborationist, was at Vichy conferring with Marshall Petain today. What will Laval do? The leaders of the United ~~Nax~~ Nations are thinking anxiously of the French Fleet, the number of powerful warships that France still has. Will Laval try to turn these over to the Nazis? And if so, *then* what will happen? Will the French Fleet permit itself to be handed over to Hitler? And what will the allied nations do about it? What can they do? Is there any possible action for them to take to forestall a plan to give the French warships to the Nazis?

These questions remain unanswered. Laval himself gives no inkling. He has not yet announced the ministers that he will appoint to posts in the new Vichy Government that he now heads.

Laval in Vichy today was protected by strong cordons of police and a force of personal ~~hex~~ bodyguards. He ~~realized~~ realizes the violence so many Frenchmen would like to exercise against him - something on the order of the shot that wounded

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him months ago. For there <sup>is more</sup> ~~is more~~ ~~terrorism~~ terrorism in France now than ever.

A new wave of anti-collaboration, anti-Nazi attacks have broken out since the return to power of Laval. The most serious incident was the sabotage of a German ~~troop~~ troop train in Normandie. It was wrecked by anti-Nazi ~~pl~~ plotters, and thirty five or forty persons are reported to have been killed.

And, a series of other incidents are reported. There was an outbreak of fighting between German soldiers and civilians at Lens, an industrial region north of Paris. Some civilians wrenched a rifle away from a Nazi ~~senti~~ sentry, and that caused a riot. At another place nearby, a bomb was hurled at Nazis. Near Vimy, site of the Canadian World War Memorial, a German tried to stop a couple of Frenchmen on bicycles. They shot him, and in Paris two hand grenades wrapped in ~~ma~~ newspapers were tossed into a German headquarters.

All of which indicates a seething of suppressed violence, and adds emphasis to <sup>the</sup> ~~official~~ <sup>just</sup> ~~advice~~ given to Americans, to

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leave France. Today in Washington, Acting Secretary of State  
Sumner Welles stated ~~that~~ that ~~it~~ was <sup>only</sup> just a matter of  
routine - American Consular officials in unoccupied France  
telling American citizens to go home. The Acting Secretary told  
a press conference that American diplomatic missions in Europe  
have standing instructions to use every opportunity to tell  
Americans to leave, and the present situation comes under the  
heading of another opportunity. However, everything points  
to the belief that our government considers France to be an  
increasingly perilous place for Americans. Greater disorders  
seem likely under the Laval régime, and the United States  
may break relations with ~~the~~ Vichy Government at any time.

I heard the diplomatic situation described with a  
clever remark. Paul Kern <sup>saying that</sup> ~~said that~~ our State Department's  
Vichy-Washy policy is rapidly landing us in a bed of ~~neurosis~~  
neurosis.

On top of the neurosis is the possibility of an allied  
invasion of France. The Nazis, apparently, are not blind to such  
a prospect. The news today ~~it~~ tells us that one of Hitler's

Number One Generals ~~jax~~ has been appointed to<sup>the</sup> command of the German forces in France, Field Marshall Von Rundstedt. ~~He~~ ~~has been~~ transferred from the southern Russian front to bolster German defenses against the peril of a British landing. His command, in fact, includes all possible invasion points - not only in France, but in the northern countries also. A Vichy dispatch states that Von Rundstedt has been given charge of the entire German-held-coast from the frontier of Spain to the northern tip of Norway.

To ~~mak~~ complete the strange and melodramatic picture that France presents, the news tells of violent air raids. Today, again, for the fifth consecutive day, the R.A.F. blasted in their non-stop attacks against German objectives along the French coast and inland. A hundred-and-thirty-two hours of almost constant day and night assaults - and today more than four hundred spitfire fighting planes took ~~part~~ part in air battles, guarding flights of bombers. The raids extended on into Germany, to the great Krupp Armament works at Essen. The R.A.F. assault was really an international affair -

strikingly so, with British, American, Canadian, Australian, Polish and Czech pilots flying in the battle together. In their five-days-~~around~~-around-the-clock-attack, the Royal Air Force shows a loss of forty-seven planes - as against fourteen Nazi aircraft shot down. London air officials say that the British loss of forty-seven is very moderate, considering the number of planes engaged in the non-stop sky offensive.

BURMA

In Burma ~~xx~~ the British and Chinese are still withdrawing, and at last reports the enemy was only ten miles away from the rich Burma oil fields <sup>on</sup> ~~near~~ the Irrawaddy River.

The Japs apparently have engaged in an all-out ~~affix~~ offensive.

Their forces in the Burma drive are said to number one hundred thousand, five and a half divisions. A Chinese spokesman tells

us that last Sunday a huge <sup>convoy</sup> ~~convoy~~ more than forty enemy vessels, was sighted near Rangoon. They must have been

transporting at least two full ~~fi~~ divisions. As for ~~■~~ the prospects on the battle front the Chinese ~~px~~ spokesman today described them with the word - "unpredictable".

MACARTHUR

Today for the fifth time ~~Our~~ General MacArthur's flyers based on Australia hit the Japanese airdrome on Timor Island. The big U.S. bombers flew across three hundred miles of Timor Sea and smashed ~~and-smashed~~ the installations of the enemy flying field.

~~We~~  
^ We have some new facts about the stupendous American air raid against the Japs in the Philippines. Today Brigadier-  
*Ralph*  
General Royce, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ who commanded the flight, stated that *his*  
^ thirteen American bombers dropped one hundred and ten tons of high explosive on the astonished enemy. They sank four transports and probably a fifth. Over Manila Bay they looked for Jap cruisers and destroyers, but couldn't find any. That was their only disappointment.

*They also picked up a number of our people in the Philippines and flew them*  
*nt to Australia.* IP Today's news from MacArthur gives us one puzzling item. A spokesman for the General stated that MacArthur has still received no precise statement from Washington ~~is~~ informing him of the area of his command or the extent of his authority over the forces of the United Nations. We have been hearing from Washington that MacArthur has had full information

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on the subject. But his spokesman ~~is~~ today repeated the statement of yesterday - that no ~~are~~ definite word from Washington has been received.

In London today the exiled Government of the Netherlands formally accepted MacArthur as Supreme Commander.

Dutch forces evacuated from the East Indies to Australia were officially placed under General MacArthur's command.



PHILIPPINES

A late Army bulletin states that the Japs have landed at Panay - the island that gave its name to the memorable <sup>U.S.</sup> ~~united~~ States Gun Boat PANAY? THE ONE THAT WAS bombed and sunk by the Japs in a sensational episode of pre-war days.

Panay is a rich sugar island and the enemy landing there means that they're ~~xx~~ out to exploit the natural resources of the Philippines.

The War Department tells us that Corregidor was bombed again today, as it has been every day for weeks now.

The Japs have dropped a huge lot of high explosive, but have done little damage to the fortifications of the island. However, their bombs did sink an American ship - a mine sweeper. This was announced officially in Washington today.

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## TREASURY

The Secretary of the Treasury today spoke against the forced purchase of War Bonds. He says he prefers the system of voluntary bond buying.

Congress is considering a new tax bill to raise more billions for the war, and the proposal is to increase the taxes for Nineteen Forty-Two. The law makers, however, hesitate to boost the tax bill above the present amount, As an alternative, they prefer a plan for compulsory bond buying, compulsory saving -- as a means of raising the money. The Administration, however, is opposed to the compulsory idea. Secretary Morgenthau said today that war bond sales hit a peak right after the Pearl Harbor attack. The high point was a Billion Dollar total in January. Since then, the sale of securities has fallen off.

However, the Treasury Department has plans for boosting the sales. Secretary Morgenthau stated to the House Ways and Means Committee that Thirty Million

workers in fifty-four thousand industrial plants will soon be given an opportunity to buy war bonds as a means of voluntary saving -- the price of the bonds to be deducted from their pay envelopes.

Secretary Morgenthau today told how the Treasury Department is going "to ring every doorbell in America." That was the way he put it. The doorbells will be rung at least once a month to promote<sup>a</sup> nationwide war bond campaign.

SUGAR

The government today announced how much sugar we'll be allowed to have - when rationing begins next month, one pound per person for a two week period. That is, during the space of fourteen days, each person will be allowed to buy one pound of sugar. Each member of a family will be permitted to have the one pound allotment. Thus, a family of three can get three pounds of sugar during a two week period.

All this applies to the first month of rationing. Thereafter, the amount of sugar allotted to each person may be different. The office of Price Administration has not yet determined the amount - after the first month.

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Under rationing, each individual will be entitled to a ration book. The first books will contain twenty-eight stamps. When you want to buy sugar, you must present your ration book at the store.

SPEED RECORD

This war is accomplishing incidental things that  
in ordinary time <sup>3</sup> would make thrilling headlines - new aviation  
records, for example. The other evening we had a story <sup>of</sup> how  
the speed record <sup>for</sup> ~~of~~ the trans-Atlantic flight had been shattered

by a bomber flying across to Britain in the ferry service, <sup>crossing</sup>  
the Atlantic in 6 hrs. and some minutes.  
This is followed tonight with the news of the breaking of still

another record for speed - around the world. <sup>And</sup> It happened

strictly ~~as~~ as a by-product of an important war task. They  
<sup>not</sup> weren't <sup>at all.</sup> out to set a new mark. They just did it because it  
was a case of moving ~~fast.~~ <sup>fast.</sup>

Today, in Washington, six officers and six enlisted  
men were decorated by the War Department. <sup>The</sup> ~~They were the~~  
crews of two Army planes, ~~that carried a diplomatic mission,~~  
last September, ~~The Harriman group went from Washington to~~  
~~Moscow to confer with the Soviet government. The two planes~~  
<sup>flew the Harriman group</sup> ~~flew them~~ across the Atlantic and on into Russia. ~~At a fast clip.~~

Then one plane turned back, homeward bound. The other, however,  
was ordered to continue on to the East, and survey air routes  
and landing fields across Asia - then back home across the Pacific.

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Pacific.

Obviously, this work ~~was~~ was hardly the kind ~~to~~ to establish a speed record for the circumnavigation of the earth. The flying men had other things to think of, <sup>and</sup> didn't even consider record-breaking. However, the rapidity of their job did the trick. The total elapsed flying time ~~for~~ for the plane that went on around the world was a hundred and twenty one hours and fifty five minutes;- around the world in about five days ~~of~~ actually flying time. And that appears to be a new world record.

WOMEN'S CORPS

The House of Representatives today passed a bill to create a women's Auxiliary Naval Reserve Corps. This would be the Naval equivalent to the women's Army Auxiliary Corps, which has already been okayed by the House of Representatives, In other words, women sailors for the Navy as well as women soldiers for the Army. That is - in a way, to some extent, in a manner of speaking.

The women enlisting in the Navy would not become fighting bluejackets aboard warships. Chairman Vinson of the House Naval Affairs committee explained today that the feminine ~~contingent~~ contingent would be recruited for shore duty only. They'd fill such posts as warrant officer. They wouldn't go to sea for battle on the ocean, but would be used to relieve men for sea duty.

*No girls manning the pom poms*

*or throwing the ash can at U-Boats.*

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SLACKS

At Michigan State College, the co-eds today came to a decision on the subject of slacks. The girls out there have been going around in those floppy pants that look like a cross between a gentleman's trousers and a pair of pajamas ready for the wash. And there has been a lot of argument. As a result the girl students' association that governs campus affairs of the co-eds, went into conference. That was three days ago - three long days of fervent debate.

We are now told <sup>about</sup> the number one <sup>that was</sup> argument raised against the slacks. The professors complained. The masculine members of the faculty registered vigorous opposition to girls wearing pants. Does this mean that, in slacks, the co-eds didn't learn their anthropology and trigonometry so well? ~~(It is hard to see how the style of nether garment ~~raised~~ could make any difference, because anthropology and trigonometry come under the heading of brain work. Even a professor would know that.)~~

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However, It wasn't the scientific part that disturbed those men of learning. They complained that the girls ~~were~~ ~~not~~ were not so beautiful in trousers. "Only one woman in a



hundred looks good in pants," they argued. They didn't say which one in a hundred. I wish they had, because I'd like to see her. Anyway, the professors were displeased.

Of course, the more serious of us might growl:

"Look here, Professor, when you're teaching higher mathematics, you're supposed to keep your eyes up. What have slacks or skirts got to do with astronomy"?

However, the professors win. Slacks are banished.

(~~The co-ed council report, issued today, declares. "Campus and faculty sentiment is definitely against wearing slacks to classes".~~)

*Mich. State Co-eds swinging*  
So that's that, and we can see the ~~co-eds~~ prancing

into the classroom with a swishing of skirts, and calling out,

"Hello professor, do you like us now?"

And now our Sunoco diplomat, Professor Hugh James who likes the ~~gaddes~~ whether they are in ~~slacks or~~ skirts or slacks.