

P.T. - Standard. Tuesday, Oct. 10, 1944.  
Sunoco.

Substitute Pacific

Tonight's news of the latest naval blow against the Japs rather startles us - - if we look a name up on the map. The name is Ryukyu, and the map will show you that it applies to a long string of islands stretching from Formosa almost to the main islands of Japan.

The Ryukyu group is the enemy's natural line of defense screening the east China Sea, and constitutes Japan's immediate rampart to the south. The Ryukyus extend to within two hundred miles of Japan's southern big island of Kyushu, and are right in the enemy's home defense.

So we could hardly have expected the American fleet to steam right in there, and hit the Japs there with a powerful carrier air blow. But that's what Admiral Halsey's task force did, raking the Japs along the line of the Ryukyus.

Tonight's account tells of thirty-eight enemy ships blasted and eighty-nine Japanese planes destroyed. What about our losses? we might expect a dangerous brand of Japanese resistance at a point so close to home for them. Yet - - the American losses are almost negligible. Tonight's bulletin states the damage we suffered was surprisingly light. No harm to the warships. - - ~~and only a~~

Q few planes failed to return.

This newest and boldest assault is <sup>the</sup> a climax to date of the far ranging audacity of our fleet, which has been reaching far-ther and farther into enemy waters. And now Halsey has hit all the way to the Ryukyus - - a name that it will be well to remember.

## Blunder

The latest big news blunder has an amusing explanation. Last night a thrilling bulletin was flashed - Admiral Nimitz announcing a mighty victory over the Japanese fleet in waters off Korea. Now, Korea is mighty near the Jap home islands, and an American Naval triumph there would just about spell the end of the far eastern enemy. But it was all a mistake - - something to go along with the false armistice of the last war and the premature liberation of Paris in this one.

Admiral Nimitz did indeed recite the story of a great Naval victory over the Japanese off the Korean coast. And he told it with dramatic effect and suspense - Keeping the kicker until the very close, a surprise ending. The Japanese fleet was defeated by naval forces of the Koreans and Chinese in the year fifteen ninety two -- just a hundred years after Columbus discovered America. The Nimitz point in telling the story of that medieval event was to illustrate elements of enduring strategy in the far Pacific.

However, the story was committed to the ~~UK~~ cable bit by bit, and on this side of the water the first flashes of the Jap defeat in fifteen ninety <sup>two</sup> ~~two~~ were taken to mean today -- nim teen forty

Blunder #2

-four. These earlier bits get to a radio station, and were put on the air. The incorrect announcements of the armistice in the last war and the liberation of Paris in this -- were premature, ahead of time, a few days early, while last night's bulletin about victory off Korea was three-hundred-and-fifty-two years late.



## China

The Allied world today paid homage to China, on the occasion of this year's anniversary of the outbreak of the Chinese revolution - - the revolt that made China a republic. President Roosevelt issues a message hailing Chinese "Courage and fortitude." And a presidential representative who is soon to go on a mission to China, predicts that the far eastern war will be won in that ancient land.

Congressman Mike Mansfield of Montana is about to leave for China, and today he said that the decisive and final conflict of the war will occur in that same sector where the Chinese-Japanese war began - - the Chinese province of Manchuria. And he added: "The stronger you make the Chinese, the smaller effort the Allies will have to make in China, and the more American lives we will save."

## Western Front

On the war front in Germany today, two officers and a private soldier stepped out of an American position, and walked toward the enemy line. The private soldier carried a white flag, a big one that fluttered from a pole - a white flag six feet square, made of a bedsheet.

They picked their way through the rubbish of shell craters and shattered houses. Everything was quiet, no sound of rifle or machine gun fire or of bursting shells. The Americans, under the flag of truce, were on their way to present a demand for the surrender of Aachen, far famed Aix-la-chappelle, the coronation place of medieval German emperors.

~~The three Americans in this historic ceremony were Lieutenant Cedric Laffey of Enosburg Falls, Vermont, Lieutenant William Boehme, of New York City, and Private Kenneth Kading of Lagrange, Illinois.~~

They came to the wrecked underpass of a railroad at the eastern edge of Aachen, and there several german soldiers appeared. ~~The Americans told them - they came to demand the surrender of the city.~~

To which one of the germans responded: "I hope the terms are reasonable."

The three Americans were thereupon blindfolded and taken into the city, to a command post, where they were received by two German lieutenants. To them the Americans delivered a document, a message from American First Army Commander General Hodges to the German Commander.

The document stated: ~~"The city of Aachen is now completely surrounded by American forces, who are sufficiently equipped with both air power and artillery to destroy the city, if necessary. If~~  
4 the city is not promptly and completely surrendered unconditionally, the American ground army and air forces will proceed ruthlessly with air and artillery bombardment to reduce it to submission."

To this demand was added a time limit, an answer required in twenty-four hours.

Then the three Americans were returned by the way they came. As they left a German lieutenant said: "You had good intentions. But we will fight on." Which might indicate that the demand for surrender is likely to be refused, and that medieval Aachen will

be submitted to the storming violence of war.

Such is the outstanding story in the news today, the first American demand for the surrender of a great German city. It is accompanied by a companion piece - another dramatic episode of a white flag of truce.

At a place near Aachen the Germans were fighting stubbornly, defending a rise of land with a moody name - - Crucifix Hill. Time and again the americans assaulted a pill box there, but were driven back by violent fire. It was like a crucifixion for the attacking forces.

They were about to try it again, when from the pill box on Crucifix Hill there suddenly emerged a single figure and a flutter of white - - a German soldier carrying a white flag. He came marching across no-man's land to the Americans, who at the sight of the banner of truce, withheld their fire. It looked like surrender, a most welcome surrender.

But no - it was something else. The German soldier said that in the last attack on the pill box an American lieutenant had been captured, seriously wounded - - and they germans didn't know



what to do about it. "We have no facilities to look after him," said the enemy soldier, "and his condition is critical. He needs a blood transfusion - otherwise he will die. "

In a few minutes, there was another march across that stretch of no-man's land, - three American medical aides and a German-speaking soldier to translate for them. They marched under the red cross flag of Geneva. They went to a pill box, and inside they found German soldiers bending over the American lieutenant, who was unconscious. The medical aides unlimbered their blood transfusion equipment and administered plasma.

While they were doing this, their interpreter talked to the German soldiers. "You fellows are surrounded," he argued, "completely cut off. Why don't you give up-?"


The Germans looked at one another. They talked among themselves. And then one announced: "All right, we'll go along with you. " But their non-commissioned officer roared them down. "No," he shouted, "We will not surrender."

He put up a big argument and then went along with the rest, Saving his face and dignity by making a protest - before surrendering.

Soon the whole outfit was on its way to the American lines

- the prisoners, the medical aid men, and the interpreter. On a stretcher they carried the wounded American lieutenant, the effort <sup>to</sup> ~~was~~ save whose life had resulted in the surrender.

These incidents of war highlight the human side of the violent battle inside of Germany, where the American first army is making relentless progress in its hammering advance toward the River Rhine.



Add Western Front

The latest is an enemy radio flash, Berlin announcing that tonight in the sector of Aachen is raging, what Berlin calls, - - "perhaps the heaviest of all the invasion battles."

Greece

British and Greek patriot forces today occupied the legendary city of Corinth - and that just about completes the re-conquest of the Peloponnesus, the southern peninsula of Greece. Corinth dominates the Isthmus leading to the Peloponnesus, and was taken without a fight - the Germans withdrawing.

Farther north, in Jugos Slavia, United forces of the Red Army and Marshal Tito's partisans have broken into the great valley of the Morava River - another long step to complete the liberation of Jugoslavia. Along the coast of the Baltic, Soviet forces have isolated the important port of Memel, in Latvia, and trapped a hundred thousand Germans.

— o —  
Hugh, a word from you, and  
then I'll take over again.



## Willkie

While all New York is paying a great tribute to Wendell Willkie with tens of thousands thronging for a last farewell, it is natural to look back on his astonishing career.

Last night, at the Movietone Newsreel, we worked on a motion picture review of Wendell Willkie, and one of the scenes shown was his triumph at the republican convention of nineteen forty - a scene with these rhythmic outcries: "We want Willkie, we want Willkie!" I was at the convention and remember vividly the Willkie sweep. Also - the subsequent debate about how far it was spontaneous and how it was organized.

Today we have a curiously interesting story along that line, a story which relates how two top ranking political columnists had a confidential talk with Willkie. They were Arthur Kreck and Turner Catledge both of the New York Times. The incident was so surprising that Arthur Kreck, not permitted to publish it then, made a private record of it. This record has never been disclosed until now - Kreck revealing it in his column in ~~this morning's~~ <sup>the</sup> Times.

Kreck and Catledge happened to meet Willkie on his arrival in Philadelphia shortly before the convention opened, and had a chat

Willkie #2

with him. " I asked Mr. Willkie," says the Kreck record, "If he had a floor leader. He didn't seem to know what I meant, and asked in turn if one was needed. Mr. Catledge and I, restraining our astonishment, then explained the duties of a floor leader and the necessity for one - plus a strategy committee. Mr. Willkie seemed surprised that so much organization was required. He gave the impression that the plan was wholly new to him."

The Kreck record goes on to say that the two newspaper columnists gave some advice and suggestions. They were amazed that a prospective presidential candidate could be so naive, so unversed in the ways of political organization. "He seemed to us," says the Kreck private record, "like a man who had set out on a mule to defeat a German panzer division."

~~Then Arthur Kreck relates how Willkie phoned the next day and told what he had done to carry out the suggestions about a floor leader and a strategy commission - he was learning fast. The Kreck record concludes: "This drive isn't professional yet, but it soon may be."~~

All of which is something to add to our recollections, as we look back upon the astonishing career of Wendell Willkie - which now has come to an end so untimely.

## Musicians

The Musicians union today turned down the White House request. Union leader Petrillo announces that the union executive board has voted against yielding to the president's suggestion that the union lift its ban against transcribed recordings -- in some instances. The President said that the union's attitude might be bad for the war effort. But Petrillo now replies with a telegram to the President stating: "Knowing your position on human rights, we know you would not want to impose unjust conditions on thousands of musicians." So the answer is - no. Petrillo says "No" to the President of the United States.

## Town

There is an uproar in a western town because of something that has been getting a lot of applause - elsewhere. The town is Berlin, Oregon, which place we were informed was being renamed. Called - Distomo. Some days ago we had the story of how a prominent New York playwright, Maxwell Anderson, was sponsoring a move to replace the name of the german capital with that of a greek town destroyed by nazi killers. That was hailed as a gesture of wartime sentiment - Berlin, Oregon, becoming Distomo, Oregon. A formal christening was scheduled for October twenty-fifth - the ceremony to be broadcast on a nationwide hook-up.

Now, however, what do we hear? the folks out there are up in arms. They don't want the name of their town to be changed, and <sup>they</sup> have gone to court to prevent it. Local people say that playwright Maxwell Anderson thought the thing up with <sup>the</sup> Secretary of the town Chamber of Commerce, and the two took legal steps to change the name - which was possible because Berlin, Oregon, is not incorporated. People of the town didn't know what was happening, and were much surprised to discover that they were now inhabitants of Distomo.



Town #2

Their attitude was expressed today by one resident, who said: "If the name of the town is to be changed, by golly we'll do it ourselves and not some New York playwright."

They're the more indignant because the name of their town is not really of german origin at all, but most american. The place was founded by a pioneer named Cranford Burrell, and at first was called "Burrell's Inn." That name, pronounced with a slur, became Berlin - as was confirmed by the post office department.

"Distene, one citizen exclaimed scornfully today - how do you pronounce it?"

Well, if they couldn't pronounce Burrell's Inn to start with, what chance have they got with Distene?

The latest is that playwright Maxwell Anderson is not discouraged. His plan is a big one. He wants to change the names of all the American towns named Berlin - there are sixteen of them. Berlin, Oregon, was the first one selected for rebaptism. The playwright says he understands that the people protesting are in the minority, and it will be up to a court to decide.

~~(Note for Mr. Thomas - in the pronunciation of Distene, the accent is on the first syllable)~~

## Russian Scientists

From Soviet Russia we have word that the ancient miracle has been performed - restoring the dead to life. This comes as an announcement from the world of science, and tells how two russian pathologists have been able to revive men killed in battle. That is - front line casualties who were, says the Moscow Dispatch, "in a state of clinical death." Nearly fifty were brought back to animation by the use of a new technique that involves transfusions of blood to the heart, blood enriched with a kind of Adrenalin and with oxygen. Not all of the casualties brought back from the "state of clinical death" continued to survive. Some later succumbed, but according to Moscow, others did survive - restored to life by the modern scientific version of the traditional miracle.

And now Hugh, will you come  
to life and give us the final word  
from ~~our Blue Islands sponsor~~  
Stan: A Calif

Pacific

A big headline from the Pacific - Admiral Halsey's carrier planes hitting the Japs in the Ryukyu Islands. These are in Japanese home waters, between Formosa and the main islands of Japan. The story, just off the wire, tells of thirty-eight enemy ships blasted and eighty-nine japanese planes destroyed.

## Normandie

A report was published today that the great liner Normandie will not be used as a Navy transport. After having <sup>ing</sup> burned and <sup>sinking</sup> sunk at her dock in New York, and <sup>then</sup> ~~after~~ having later raised at a cost of four and a half million dollars - the Normandie was supposed to be converted into a military transport. But now the new York World-Telegram states that the Navy has given up the idea as impractical.

An alternate suggestion was made that the Normandie, as now salvaged, be turned over to the Maritime Commission to be used in passenger service after the war. But the Maritime Commission is said to view the proposal with "disfavor" - the prewar queen of the seas not looking like such a good commercial prospect.

In other words, the Normandie, raised from the bottom by a miracle of engineering, promises to be a white elephant, or, using another simile, a postwar headache.