

*L.J. - Sunoco. Wednesday, July 11, 1945.*

An interview of historic importance has just come in - an interview with the widow of Mussolini. She was found by United Press correspondent Ann Stringer in a British Internment Camp at the town of Terni - Donna Rachele (Rah-kay-lay) as she is called.

She is described as frail and pale, with wide blue eyes - and, attractive for her fifty six years. At the internment camp she lives, not a prisoner but more like a guest - with her two younger children, a boy and a girl of seventeen and sixteen. She has a six room apartment in the camp hospital, and there she maintains the reputation she always had: - ~~as~~ a woman who loved home and household tasks. By her own request, she does all the cooking for the forty-two patients. She always works. "I always did my own housework", she explains.

Talking to Ann Stringer, the widow of Mussolini choked up with sobs and sometimes screamed out in denunciation of the mistresses her husband had - the last of whom died when he was executed. She tells

about when she last heard from him, only six or seven hours before he was shot. "He called me up at three o'clock in the morning", she relates, "and told me to try to get to Switzerland. He said if I failed to do that, then I should turn myself and the children over to the Americans".

She told the American newspaperwoman about plans that she and Mussolini had made when they were young, newly married. They intended to go to the United States, and become Americans.

"We were happiest in the old days", she said, "We should have gone to America when we first got married. We planned to do it and talked much about it. We planned to live in America, and raise children there".

In her talk she never referred to her husband by his first name, Benito. She called him Mussolini. And so she went on: "Then Mussolini changed his mind about going to America. He felt himself too powerful".

And that was the end of the dream - a dream of immigrating to the United States and finding a new home. Instead, there came a fantasy of pride and power, - Mussolini the arrogant Duce, riding high for years. ~~And~~ Finally - downfall and execution. And today Donna Rachele, widow of Mussolini, lives with her two children in an internment camp - and does the cooking for hospital patients.

## TRUMAN

From the Cruiser Augusta, aboard which President Truman is crossing the Atlantic: The sea has turned rough. After days of summery weather and placid Atlantic waters, the temperature has dropped and a northeasterly gale has kicked up a choppy sea. The Presidential Warship, the Augusta, escorted by the light cruiser Philadelphia, has swung to the northeast, and is heading for a northern European Port - the identity of which is being kept a secret for security reasons.

Today President Truman held a conference with Secretary of State Byrnes and Presidential Chief of Staff Admiral Leahy. They talked over American positions to be taken in negotiations with Soviet Premier Stalin and British Prime Minister Churchill - in the meeting of the Big Three at Potsdam.

And, President Truman today conferred with Sailor Truman. Aboard the Augusta, the President has encountered a third-cousin - Lawrence Truman of Owensburg, Kentucky. Third-Cousin-Larry is no Admiral

or any other kind of gold braided personality. He is just a second class Fireman, aboard the Augusta. And today the President from Missouri conferred with his Kentucky cousin on family matters, chatting about various relatives. There are lots of Trumans out there in the Middlewest.

## FRATERNIZATION

A wild report has been sweeping American Troops of occupation in Germany - a rumor that might well be wishful thinking. The word is circulating like wildfire among the G.I.'s that President Truman is about to call off the ban on fraternization.

There has been endless complaint about that anti-fraternization business, forbidding American soldiers to associate with the German people, especially the German Frauleins. If you fraternize with a beautiful Fraulein, you are sternly punished. So G.I.'S are hopefully circulating the report that President Truman is about to cancel the anti-fraternization rule.

## EIGHTH AIR FORCE

At Anglesey, on the west coast of England, a big Liberator bomber took off today and flew to the West - the last bomber of the Eighth Air Force. They <sup>are</sup> call<sup>ing</sup> it "Tail end Charlie", the final plane to bring ~~up~~ up the rear of the greatest transfer of mass destruction on record.

General Doolittle's Eighth Air Force hurled five hundred and thirty thousand, seven-hundred-and-fifty-eight tons of bombs on Nazi Germany. That comes to more than one billion pounds. When the European war ended, the Eighth Air Force included two thousand, a hundred and eighteen heavy four-engined bombers. And ever since, these have been flying west.

They have been leaving Britain at the rate of one every twenty minutes - heading for the United States, on the way to Tokyo. And today Tail End Charlie ~~was the last.~~ left the coast of England.

## CHARTER

\* In Washington - a parade of the witnesses against the Charter of the United Nations. The Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, on its third day of hearings, gave <sup>an opportunity for</sup> ~~evidence today to~~ people in opposition <sup>to speak up,</sup> ~~to speak up,~~ <sup>- with</sup> The whole thing was hilarious, <sup>an assortment of</sup> witnesses <sup>who made</sup> ~~calculated to make~~ things lively.

One was a lady who represented the National Blue Star Mothers. She denounced the charter of the United Nations as what she called, "part of a general communist plot to control the world".

~~She had so much to say about it that she~~

<sup>she</sup> demanded more than the time allotted to each witness - ten minutes. The request was refused, and it took a policeman to escort her back to her chair among the spectators.

~~A representative of the Cleveland World Peace Forum, which has twenty-five members, said he found what he called - "something sinister about the speed with which this charter is being railroaded through the Senate". He too demanded more time, and~~



~~when this was refused <sup>to</sup> called it - "an infringement  
of the freedom of speech"~~

Then came the ~~xxxx~~ representative of an organization that certainly sounded impressive, "The United Nations of Earth Association". He said that this global outfit had exactly one member - and he was it.

"The <sup>San Fran</sup> charter is godless and unconstitutional," he declared; and, he wanted to offer a substitute charter that he himself had got <sup>ten</sup> up.

The Committee Chairman, Senator Connally of Texas, got off some sharp bits of repartee throughout the hearing. To the ~~xxx~~ representative of The United Nations of Earth Association, consisting of one member, he said: "I hope you report back to your association". He'll have to make the report to himself, like poo-bah in the Mikado, ~~who~~ <sup>as</sup> Lord Chief Justice passes <sup>ing a</sup> ~~a~~ ruling on his <sup>own</sup> actions as Lord Chancellor.

Other witnesses denounced the charter as imperialistic, a military alliance, and a demagogic document - at a hearing that has had plenty of high-jinks, including gales of laughter from the spectators.

NEAR EAST

We often hear that <sup>e</sup> remark that Uncle Sam is frequently none too well represented abroad, that our diplomats sometimes make a poor showing in comparison with the highly trained career men of other countries. ~~Perhaps so.~~ My own experiences have been to the contrary. *I have found* our people in the foreign field, ~~with whom I have come in contact, for the most part, have~~ *most of them -* been highly competent, men with a wide knowledge of world affairs.

~~But be~~ that as it may, a number of things have happened *from time to time* ~~in our history~~ that have raised our standing among the nations, raised it by many cubits. For example, the handling of the Boxer Indemnity, That ~~has resulted in a~~ steady stream of Chinese young men and women going through our universities, *then* ~~and then returning to Asia,~~ to become the leaders of the new China. ~~These young men and women are enthusiastically pro-America; and their attitude may have a great effect on the history of China and of the world.~~

And then, ~~there is~~ that other striking

illustration, the American Colleges in the Near East:-  
Robert College at Istanbul, and a number of others,  
the most famous of <sup>them</sup> all being the American University  
of Beirut. <sup>TP</sup> I have just attended a function given by  
the Trustees of the American Colleges in the Near East,  
at the Waldorf, in honor of the delegates from Turkey,  
Greece, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Egypt and Saudi  
Arabia who attended the San Francisco Conference.  
Some forty were there, including the colorful Viceroy  
of the Hejaz, Prince Faisal, ~~As Viceroy of the Hejaz,~~  
~~Meecca is his capital. And then there were~~ Prime  
Ministers, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, ~~cabinet~~  
~~officers~~ and others, including <sup>By</sup>ard Dodge, head of  
the American University of Beirut, ~~she has just come~~  
~~from the Near East.~~ <sup>TP</sup> Twenty-nine of the delegates  
at the San Francisco ~~United Nations~~ Conference were  
graduates of <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ American Near East College, <sup>many</sup> ~~a large~~  
~~number~~ of them from Beirut. <sup>TP</sup> The Prime Minister of  
Syria, ~~His Excellency~~ Faris al-Khoury and <sup>the</sup> Minister  
from the Lebanon, Habib Malik, spoke of ~~the American~~

University of Beirut, and ~~then~~ the work of <sup>a</sup>Byard Dodge and his colleagues as having taught the peoples of the Near East how to seek the truth and find it, and how to work together. <sup>R</sup> <sup>a</sup>Byard Dodge in his response spoke of the immense desire for learning that is sweeping the Near and Middle East, a region which he referred to as just <sup>now</sup> emerging from Feudalism. He ~~spoke of a school in Mecca sponsored by Prince Faisal from which five boys came to Beirut this year. And the American educators in Syria were surprised to find that these five Arab lads were well enough trained to enter as second year students at the University. Then~~ <sup>But</sup> he went on to say that more progress has been made this year, among the Arab <sup>states</sup> ~~students~~ than at any time since the days of the Caliphate, the period ~~immediately~~ following the death of Mohammed. <sup>R</sup> <sup>He</sup> ~~Byard Dodge~~ ~~was~~ also made an interesting suggestion: ~~He was speaking about how much we in this country can learn from the peoples of those older civilizations, and he said what a great thing it would be if all of our college students could spend~~

<sup>one</sup> year in a foreign university. Even if ten thousand  
of them were to do this, ~~each year that alone would~~ <sup>what</sup>  
~~have~~ an immense effect <sup>it would have</sup> on the future of our country,  
and the future of the world.

## AIR WAR

The Japs picture the third United States Fleet as prowling around in Japanese home waters, ready to strike another naval and air blow. At least, that's what the Japs expect.

The Third Fleet blasted Japan in three days of consecutive assault - and yesterday alone destroyed at least a hundred-and-seventy-three enemy aircraft and thirty-two ships. After that the fleet drew off, so says Tokyo - while planes from Iwo Jima and Okinawa continued the attack.

From China, American Air Commander General Chennault, the legendary Flying Tiger, reports that the skies of China have been cleared of Japanese Air Power. Chennault states that the enemy Air Force has retreated to Manchuria - presumably a part of the general Jap withdrawal, ~~to China~~ concentrating in the north for new storms of war, which the Japs anticipate.

## DEATH SENTENCES

In Washington , the War Department is making an investigation of death sentences imposed on two American soldiers in China. The inquiry at the demand of Senators Taft of Ohio and McMahon of Connecticut, from whose states the two doomed G I's come. They were convicted by court martial for the death of an aged Chinese woman.

The story, as disclosed, tells of one of those calamitous affairs that can occur when soldiers in an alien land, go off on a tangent. A bit hay wire. One of the G I's ~~belongs to~~ <sup>was with</sup> an engineering company - ~~he worked~~ on the Burma Road. The other is a member of the Air Forces, who holds the Purple Heart for wounds suffered in North Africa.

According to stories they tell in letters home, they filled up with some of that dynamite Chinese liquor out there, ~~and were feeling such too good along~~ ~~along a Chinese road~~ They saw a water buffalo, and decided to have a ride. So they climbed aboard the buffalo and were having a high old time, when they were

spotted by Chinese villagers to whom the Buffalo belonged.

The villagers grabbed the hilarious G I's and pulled them off. There was slapping and pushing, a sort of riot scene, and the buffalo went on a rampage. When it was all over, a seventy-two year old Chinese woman was found dead.

At the court martial, the Chinese witnesses testified that the two G I's had beaten her. Their story was that one of them fell on her, when he was dragged off the Buffalo. Testimony of the witnesses appears to have been accepted, and the court martial decreed capital punishment.

Well, I saw a good deal of G I life in China during that trip around the world I recently made.

The boredom out there for the American soldier is an

incitement to entertainment, ~~xxx~~ and the liquor is of  
terrific voltage. ~~But there is not much of it. ~~xxxxx~~~~  
*— much of it is vicious stuff. After*  
*drinking it you are likely to go berserk*  
*the very shortage scarcity being a yardstick by which*  
*and not know what you are doing.*  
~~to measure the vile quality of the ~~xxxx~~ hooted. The~~  
~~soldiers get little of it but the stuff does hit hard.~~



PHILIPPINES \* Prize

There is bad news from Northern Luzon, bad news for the soldiers of the thirty-second Infantry Division who are cleaning out the Japs in the jungles there. A ruling has gone out, cancelling what had been a standing offer. All through the campaign, this has been the offer - a case of beer and a three-day pass to Manila for any G I who brings in a Japanese prisoner.

That certainly encouraged the capture of prisoners. You can ~~ix~~ imagine what a soldier out there will do for a case of ~~xxxx~~ beer and a three-day pass to Manila. Tales are told of the ~~xx~~ exploits of the infantrymen in taking prisoners. Some have gone so far as to tackle Jap soldiers in football style, and point out to them the disadvantages of hari-kari and dying for the Emperor, and how wonderful it is to be a prisoner of war of the Americans.

But now the offer has been cancelled. Why? Because of the number of Japanese prisoners that are being taken. The Japs are gradually losing their enthusiasm for hari kari, and are giving up in larger

and larger numbers. So, the way things are going in northern Luzon, it would take a brewery to provide the case of beer and the whole division would be whooping it up in Manila -- if that beer-furlough offer were continued.

And now Hugh -- what have you to offer?