

DAVIS

P.T. - Sunoco.

Wed. Jan 16, 1943?

A realistic story on the submarine situation was given out today by Elmer Davis, Director of the Office of War Information. The Nazis are continuing to turn out submarines every month faster than the Allies can sink them. The menace of the U-boats,

he declared, continues to be ~~really~~ ^{deadly} serious. ~~At the~~

~~But he added~~ ~~same time, he said~~ that ~~the~~ enemy subs had sunk fewer

Allied ships in December than in previous months.

~~But that~~ ^{Which} does ~~not~~ mean ~~that~~ the submarine problem has been solved.

Elmer Davis, indicated ~~indirectly but positively~~ ^{emphatically}

that he is far from agreeing with the recently glowing prophecy about the end of the war. He admitted that

the prophecy had been made by Vice-Admiral Halsey,

Commander-in-Chief in the South Pacific. Halsey ~~had~~

~~declared~~ ^{said} the war would end this year. Davis himself

declared he had no idea when the war would end.

He termed Admiral Halsey's prophecy "a very optimistic prediction" and said he himself had been unable to find any grounds for it. It is no secret that official Washington was much concerned by Admiral Halsey's optimistic prophecy. The consequence, the authorities tell us, has been a wave of optimism all over the country utterly unsupported by facts.

SOLOMONS

57
Another American attack against the Japanese at Munda on New Georgia Island in the Solomons. The Navy announced today that this assault was made by an American task force of surface units meaning ships. They successfully bombarded that Jap airfield. On the way back they were attacked by Japanese dive bombers. Just four Navy Wildcats flew into the air to meet them, The Wildcats shot down four of ~~these~~² Jap dive bombers, and, probably two more. All the Wildcats returned. This took place yesterday. In addition to the bombardment from ships ~~the~~ Jap installations in Munda were also bombed by medium ~~bombing~~ planes.

On the afternoon of the same day a squad ^{ran} ~~of~~ ^{of} Flying Fortesses escorted by Lightning Fighters came across an enemy heavy cruiser at Buin on the island of Bougainville. They promptly attacked but could not observe how successful they had been. A dog fight followed when twenty-five Jap Zeros and by-planes showed up. Three enemy planes were shot down and two

others probably, while two of our fighters were lost.

Incidentally, an old friend ^{and colleague} of mine Bob Casey of the Chicago Daily News, who was at the luncheon of the Overseas Press Club today, told us a lot of amusing things that had happened to him. One serious thing Bob said was that if the Navy reports a ship sunk or a plane destroyed we can depend on it. In fact, ^{Casey,} says ~~Bob~~ the Navy is inclined to lean over backwards.

Reports of a Jap fleet massing in the southwest Pacific continue to grow in spite of yesterday's denial by Navy Secretary Knox. The reports come from Australia. And this afternoon Elmer Davis, Director of the Office of War Information admitted that dispatches indicate the concentration of a large Jap armada in the Solomons. However, ^{Elmer} Davis ^S added that bombers from General ~~Douglas~~ MacArthur's command have been doing a ~~very~~ good job on that Jap fleet. ^{TP} The information received by ^{the O.W.I.} ~~Davis~~ apparently indicates that enemy units are being massed for another drive on the islands,

Elmer Davis
though ~~he~~ did not say which islands.
^

Another item in the Navy's communique reports the hitting of a Jap transport in the waters around the Shortland Islands.

ALEUTIANS

More action in the Aleutians. On January Fifth United States Air Forces came upon a Jap cargo ship a hundred and ten miles northeast of Kiska. They left the Jap ship burning and later on saw her sinking. On the following day one of our Liberators heavy bombers attacked another enemy vessel a hundred and eighty-five miles southwest of Kiska. The Liberator scored a hit and two near hits.

AFRICA

The Allies ^{seem to} have won ^{a minor} ~~an~~ engagement, ~~but a minor~~ engagement, ^{the} in North Africa. ~~This was done by~~ British units. ~~They~~ drove the Nazis from hills overlooking the Allied lines in northeastern Tunisia. So doing, they captured Djebel Azzag and other points fifteen miles west of Mateur. ^{to a position} ~~They~~ advances them ^{only} thirty miles to the southwest of Bizerte.

Meanwhile, at the other end of the line, ~~Lieutenant-General~~ Montgomery's Eighth Army has pushed ahead within fighting distance of Misurata, ~~and that is~~ ~~only~~ a hundred and twenty-five miles east of Tripoli, ^{where} Montgomery's advance patrols are ^{now} ~~already striking~~ striking at the defenses of Field Marshal Rommel's Africa Corps.

FRANCE FOLLOW AFRICA

50

A story comes to light today that an army of Frenchmen in France was all ready to attack the Germans in November, but was prevented by the skullduggery of Pierre Laval. The story is published in this week's issue of ~~the magazine~~ NEWSWEEK. All that was needed, ~~says NEWS WEEK,~~ for the fighting to begin ~~in France~~ ^{says NewsWeek} was a word from Marshal Petain. If he had uttered it, France would have fought her way back into the ranks of the United Nations. To be sure, it would have been a suicidal fight, for the French army was ^{then} virtually unarmed. Nevertheless, it could have done a lot of damage to the Nazis and hindered the German advance into the unoccupied zone of France. The military staff at Vichy had worked out a plan weeks before. All the orders had been issued, waiting only for the final signal. The French Generals had no illusions, but they did hope to delay the Germans for a week or so.

Even General Weygand was in favor of fighting. He told Marshal Petain ~~that~~ it was high time he changed his poli^{cies,}~~ties.~~ To Premier Laval he used these words: "You cannot go on with ninety-five per cent of the population against you."

Said Laval: ~~Laval replied:~~ "If ninety-nine per cent of the population is against me, I shall still carry on."

well, When the Allies landed in Africa, Laval rushed to Hitler at Munich. The German Army was massed along the line between the occupied and unoccupied zones. Laval sent word to Petain, saying: "Do not make any move now. I am obtaining favorable proposals from Hitler."

Petain refused to act until Laval returned. When Laval returned, it was too late, as he knew it would be, and of course he had obtained no concessions from Hitler.

RUSSIA

The story from Russia ^{grows bigger by} ~~becomes hotter every day~~
~~the hour,~~
But the German version of it ^{doesn't.} ~~denies the Red Army claims~~
^{And}
~~we should consider both accounts,~~
~~out and out.~~ The most sane and realistic attitude for
~~and weigh them,~~
~~us to take is to consider both sides of the news.~~

On the one hand, the ~~place~~ names ~~used~~ in the
dispatches from Moscow definitely indicate that lots
of places in Russia, many of them important, ~~places,~~
are again in Russian hands. But ~~the more~~ conservative
military observers ^{are telling us} ~~consider that~~ this is ^{probably} ~~possible~~ due
^{wintertime}
to deliberate ~~evacuation~~ by the Germans. Of course,

The Russians are playing ^{up their own advance,} ~~this up in the most spectacular~~
~~naturally.~~ ~~They announce~~
~~fashion possible, announcing that~~ the Nazis are
^{says Moscow.}
retreating in a disorderly rout. But in the next

sentence the Soviet dispatches report that the Germans
are blowing up bridges and mining roads. ~~It might be~~
^{And}
~~pointed out that~~ an army in a disorderly rout does not
^{usually have time}
~~stop~~ to mine roads and blow up bridges; it just runs.

London papers this afternoon carried display
announcing
headlines that five hundred thousand German troops
~~were~~ in full flight. ~~We do not know where that story~~
~~comes from. It may emanate from Stockholm or Berne,~~
~~both of which are notorious hot beds of sensational~~
~~yarns which are not subsequently justified.~~

One
The latest success announced by Moscow *concerns* the
capture of an important hill crest in the Stalingrad
region. Radio Moscow *calls this* ~~declared that this hill crest was~~
the most vital point in the whole Nazi line. The
~~Russians are now attacking water towers in Stalingrad,~~
~~which the Germans had built into fortifications.~~

~~They Red Army captured another important height~~

Reds
They also captured another important height
outside Stalingrad. *in an* The attack was preceded by a
heavy ~~hot artillery~~ bombardment *that* which lasted all night.

The Germans outside Stalingrad are being reinforced by

plane and the Russians claim to have bagged nine of ^{the} ~~those~~ ^{Nazi} air relief transports.

The Red Army also ^{says it has} ~~claims to have~~ cut the railway line between Stalingrad and Kharkov; ~~According to all~~ ^{now} ~~accounts, that line has been cut~~ at several points.

2
The Red Army newspaper "Red Star", which some American reporters have ^{pronounced as} ~~announced~~ exceedingly accurate, has a story today that Tsimlyanskaya, in the south arm of the bend of the River Don, was taken in a battle which lasted two days. The German garrison, according to the RED STAR, was annihilated.

The Germans are still denying ~~that~~ they have lost Velikie Luki. On the contrary, they claim to have repulsed several recent Russian attacks against that railroad center. Moscow today had nothing to say about Velikie Luki.

All the really careful military observers

are agreed that the Germans have undoubtedly retreated and that the Russians have advanced. But, so far none of the Russian successes can be considered decisive.

This much ^{must} ~~is to~~ be emphasized of necessity because the over-glowing accounts of the campaign in Russia have been leading a great many people to believe ~~that~~ the war would soon be over.

Actually, says official Washington, this is a long way from being the case.

OIL

3
The crisis in fuel oil and gasoline in the east reached a fresh climax today. Ration Boss Henderson forbade all pleasure driving, all motoring that is not absolutely essential. ^{And} That applies to seventeen eastern states and the District of Columbia.

Although this is a climax, the situation may become even worse. In the matter of heat, it is really critical. Schools heated with oil furnaces are closing all over the east. No figures are available for private homes, but right and left one hears that they are poorly heated, particularly on this day of low temperatures. And many ration boards are making no allowances for the needs of small children and invalids. The Health Commissioner of New York City admitted that the small supplies of fuel oil did not permit of apartments being heated to the minimum prescribed by the New York Board of Health.

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The O.P.A. ~~has~~ warned ^S ~~people~~ that fuel rations are going to be cut even lower. The rations of all buildings in the east, except homes, ~~are~~ to be cut in the next twenty-four hours. ^{Leon} Henderson even talked of the possibility of tens of thousands of heatless homes.

As for gasoline restrictions, it was announced that a car at a race track or outside a movie house will be considered automatic evidence of pleasure driving. Ration books of any car used for such purposes will be cancelled. People are forbidden to drive to parties, meetings, or any social engagements. ^{And we} ~~People~~ are called upon to report any violations to the local rationing board or O.P.A. offices.

ANTHRACITE

almost
we hear that
With all the east shivering, ~~houses almost~~ *with many homes*
and with
without heat, schools closing down for lack of fuel, *now*
are on
hard coal miners ~~have chosen this time to~~ strike.

Nine thousand ~~of them are~~ out in the mines around
Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, ~~Pennsylvania. These are~~ *And, they are*
illegal strikes, not sanctioned by the union officials.

The men are protesting, they say, against increased
union dues, which were recently raised from a dollar
Meanwhile
to a dollar and a half. *their* union officials are

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imploring them to go back to work. A circular letter
has been sent to the officers and members of all the
striking locals; ~~it was~~ signed by John L. Lewis

~~himself~~, President of the United Mine Workers of
~~America~~, and other international officers of the union.

~~They~~ *ing* ~~Begged~~ the miners to do nothing that can be
hindering
construed as ~~out of keeping with the policies of our~~
~~government and~~ the successful prosecution of the war.

~~War needs should be the primary consideration of~~
~~workers.~~

Nevertheless, the miners continued their
strike *against the extra Union dues.*
~~Long lines of trucks are waiting for coal~~
~~at all the breakers. Nine mines are completely closed~~
~~down~~

INDICTMENT FOLLOW ANTHRACITE

While this was going on, a federal grand jury at New York indicted twenty-nine anthracite corporations and twenty-six of their officers. The indictment charges that these companies and their officers have been fixing prices on ^(hard)~~anthracite~~ coal, ^{thus}~~and so~~ violating the ~~Sherman~~ Anti-Trust Act. The Government declares that the corporations that were indicted produce almost eighty per cent of the total output of anthracite in the United States.

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The Seventy-Eighth Congress of the United States of America walked onto the ^{stage} ~~scene~~ today with its chest out and shoulders thrown back. ^{And,} The Seventy-Eighth Congress ^{got under way} ~~has opened the ball~~ with a definite declaration that it is not going to be any rubber stamp legislature. ^{Not did this} ~~This did not~~ come from the Republicans ^{alone} the opposition. ^{It came} ~~but~~ from both sides. ^{Especially} ~~It was a spirit particularly~~ outspoken in the House where the Republicans ^{now} ~~come~~ ^{nearly equal} ~~pretty near to matching~~ the Democrats ^{in number,} ~~Indeed,~~ the Representatives lost no time showing that one ^{that the} prediction at least will come true: - ~~The~~ administration on several domestic issues is going to find itself confronted by opposition not only from the Republicans

but also from the conservative Southern Democrats.

In several respects, both parties were of one mind. ~~Both~~ Speaker Rayburn ^{Agreed with} and Republican leader

Joe Martin of Massachusetts ~~announced~~ that this ^{is to be} ~~was to~~

^Q ~~the~~ "Victory Congress." ^{And} Speaker Rayburn added his opinion that we could not have a greater war leader than President Roosevelt.

^{Also} it was the Speaker who threw down the gauntlet of congressional independence. He announced that he was unflinchingly determined to protect the rights, prerogatives and power of the House of Representatives.

⁷ ~~Nobody on the floor could hate him for that. And he was~~ ^{No Congressman would argue with} ~~him about that, so he was~~

~~resoundingly~~ cheered by both sides. The Speaker then ^{referred to} ~~spoke for~~ the necessity of team work between the

executive and legislative branches, ~~team work mutual~~

~~and understood by all.~~

^{And then it} ~~It~~ was a leader of the conservative Southerners

who expressed the feeling of the House about the bureaucracy. "Government by bureaucrats must be broken and broken now," said Congressman Eugene Cox of Georgia. Cox was one of the men whom the White House tried to purge in a previous election. And he added that the time has come when the country must take bearing to determine whether we have not gone dangerously astray.

Of course the reelection of Rayburn was in the bag, though he won by only eleven votes. But Joe Martin, whom he defeated, took it ~~in the most~~ gracefully *of course, and* fashion, ~~and then~~ said: "~~The~~" last session was known as the 'War Congress'; this ^{one} will be the 'Victory Congress.' Victory," he added, "is our common goal and as leader of the opposition I pledge us toward that end. There will be no division," said Minority Leader Martin, "so far as winning the war is concerned."

He then took the initiative in ~~xx~~ wishing the

Speaker a Happy Birthday. ^H Thanking the House for what he called "a great and signal honor", Speaker Rayburn said: "For thirty years I have been a member of the House and the longer I am a member, the prouder I am of it."

In the Senate, the proceedings were considerably more perfunctory. It was promptly at noon that Vice-President Wallace called the upper Chamber to order. Twenty-eight minutes later, all the new members and reelected Senators had been sworn in and the Senate adjourned.

8/2
And now before adjourning this Sunoco broadcast ~~here~~ let's hear from Speaker Hugh James.

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