

L.J. - Sumoco. Thursday, Sept. 13, 1945.

A group of American correspondents had dinner today with seven of the leading industrialists of Japan. The President of the Japan Steel and Tube Company, the President and Chief Director of the Chamber of Commerce, the Managing Director of the great Mitsubishi Company, and others. These tycoons told the newspapermen that some eight million of their fellow countrymen would probably die of starvation this winter. While they were making that prophecy, ^{these tycoons} ~~they~~ were eating sizzling steaks broiled in butter, which ~~they~~ washed down with vintage French wines.

They went on to prophesy that the starvation might bring about a Socialist revolution. The Japanese rice crop this year will be three million tons lower than normal. The present rice ration for the Japanese population is less than half ^{what} ~~that which~~ they normally ~~must~~ ^{have,} eat. But even that will not be available, since Japan ^{has been} ~~was~~ cut off from sources of food on the Asiatic mainland.

One of these magnificoes claimed that they had warned the military leaders of Japan even before the war began that Japan just could not support a total war. Later, when ^{they saw they were licked} ~~they saw Japan was being beaten~~, they tried to tell ~~that~~ to the military clique again. "But," he added, "we were cowards. We ^{just} could ~~not~~ say too much for fear of being put in jail, or being killed."

A newspaperman asked them whether any leading business men had been in jail. No, they admitted. They also acknowledged that so long as Japan was on top, no industrialist had objected to the war.

Prince Konoye, former Premier of Japan, was ~~just~~ as gloomy about ^{the situation} ~~the~~ food ~~supply~~ as the business men. He said the supply of rice was short some fifty million bushels, one-eighth of the amount considered necessary to feed the country. ^{Pr Konoye added} ~~He went on to tell~~ that the greatest responsibility of the government now is to convince everyone of the Mikado's subjects that they

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made a mistake when they went to war. ~~It is going to be~~
~~a long hard job.~~ ^{He says} Japan faces ^{many years} ~~a long spell~~ of poverty,
~~and will have to prove that the nation is reformed.~~

Konoye used these words: "We are determined to establish
democracy!" Then he went on to surmise that it would be
somewhat along the British pattern, with a monarch and a
prime minister. But, ~~it will be based,~~ said he, ~~on based~~

^{JP} democratic principles. ~~Then~~ ^{He} made it clear that the
Japs do not expect any help in rebuilding the areas and
industries destroyed by our bombs. ^{Prince} Konoye visited

General MacArthur today.



The government of the Mikado today formally dissolved Imperial General Headquarters. It also removed Taketora Ogata from his Cabinet job as Propaganda Minister. This followed upon General MacArthur's action in listing ^{Ogata} ~~him~~ as a war criminal, a leader of the notorious Black Dragon Society. Two others of the seven leaders are dead, according to Jap reports.

Although Ogata is ^{out} ~~fired~~ as Propaganda Minister, he still hangs on as Chief Secretary of the Cabinet.

^{that Ogata} The Japanese pretend ~~that he~~ never was connected with the Black Dragon Society.

It now looks as though Tojo ^{will} ~~would~~ recover, in plenty of time to stand trial as the Number One war criminal of Japan. ^{And, he} ~~He~~ is no longer begging the doctors to let him die, as he did right after his attempt to commit suicide, ^{when he} ~~He~~ shot himself with an American Army issue revolver - ^{probably} ~~must have been~~ taken from a captured American flyer.

ATROCITIES FOLLOW JAPAN

More atrocity stories from Singapore. The latest is told by Lady Shenton Thomas, wife of the Governor of Malaya. She and other British women were subjected to the utmost hardships and humiliations. The Japs forced them to scrub out lavatories, drains and bathrooms in the prison hospital. They ^{Japs} refused to give any medical supplies to ^{British women who were ill,} ~~the sick~~, and kept them on starvation rations. For breakfast they had rice and one cup of tea, a bowl of vegetable soup at noon, and a slice of rice flour bread at night.

The British authorities have found photographs taken by boastful Japanese cameramen, which authenticate the worst reports of the cruelties of the yellow men.

Similar stories come from Australian nurses and civilian women who have just reached Australia from Yokohama.

A story from Kobe in Japan reveals that the Japanese police arrested and tortured not only their

~~nationals of their enemies, but even neutrals, These~~
included ^{why} ~~the~~ families of ~~the~~ consuls of neutral countries.

For instance, the French consul at Kobe. ~~was severely~~
~~questioned for days on end.~~ A Hungarian, Honorary Consul
of the Dominican Republic, was thrown into jail and kept
there nearly four years, subject to periodic torture.
He was first arrested in September, Nineteen Forty-One,
two months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. They
accused this Hungarian of being a spy for the United
States. His trial lasted six months and at intervals
he was systematically starved and beaten. Finally they
sentenced him to three years in Jail, which he describes
as a living hell.

WAINWRIGHT

Well, one ex-prisoner of Japan had another great reception today. ~~Little Old New York turned itself inside out~~ Father,

~~today in a great cause. You couldn't blame Father~~

~~Knickerbocker's folks,~~ ^{had as} for the guest ^{of} the day, was

General Jonathan M. Wainwright. The ~~Chief~~ of Police

~~Inspector declares upon his reputation~~ ^{say} that no fewer than

five million people turned out to ~~clap~~ ^{cheer} throw paper,

~~to cheer~~, and ~~to~~ shout, "Yeah, Skinny!" ^{And that} made today's show about tops in New York receptions.

As for the hero himself, ~~the only thing to say is~~

~~he took it like a veteran.~~ ^{He} sat on the top of the

back seat of an open car and rode from the City Hall to ^{and beamed.}

Central Park, ^{cheers,} Of the five million, three hundred and

fifty thousand crowded into City Hall Park to hear

Wainwright being made an honorary citizen of New York.

And as he rode through the streets with paper streaming

on his head, he said to a reporter who was walking

beside the car: "It's stupendous ^{and I love it!"}"

The thundering receptions given to him everywhere don't seem to have hurt him. As he passed along in the motorcade, the bystanders remarked that he did not seem to be as gaunt and haggard as they had ~~been~~ *expected,*

When he replied to the Mayor he sprang a surprise on the audience. For he declared there was a special meaning in his words when he said he was glad to be home again. What Mayor LaGuardia did not know was that the Wainwright family used to be residents of old Gotham. His father was a former Rector of Trinity Church, and ~~became Bishop of New York. Then, said the~~
~~General, he lost his birthright, he became a midshipman.~~

DEVEREUX

Maybe you recall the story ~~current~~ some years ago ^{about} concerning the defense of Wake Island, by the marines. The tale ran that when they received a message saying, "Is there anything you need?" they replied, "Send us more Japs."

Too bad. They never said it
~~Now it's too bad that that legend just is not~~

at all. So we hear from
~~true. This we learn from none other than Lieutenant~~

Colonel James P. Devereux, who commanded ^{the} that heroic

Marine ^{who} garrison on Wake Island. Yes, he is alive, has

been liberated, and is ~~not only~~ safe ~~and~~ well. He was in

at a prisoner camp on Hokkaido, ~~the northernmost of the~~

~~Japanese home islands.~~

evidently
~~The Japs at that Hokkaido camp were more decent~~

some ~~than at others. However,~~ ^{civilized} ~~col.~~ ^{bad} ~~But Devereux and his men had a terrible~~

if when ~~time when they were first captured. They were stripped -~~

and ~~of even their shorts and shoes, lined up with their~~

hands wired behind them. Then they had to sit in the

blazing sun and listen to the Japanese debating whether

That was
they should kill them or not. ~~This is~~ how they spent
Christmas Eve, Nineteen Forty-One. ~~The rest of that~~
~~part of the story is the all too familiar one of,~~
~~senseless, almost imbecilic Japanese cruelty.~~

As for that ~~the~~ "send us more Japs" yarn, said *Col.*
Devereux: "We had all and more than we could handle,
~~right then and there.~~ But," he added, "I did have to
give my boys the 'cease firing' order three times."

In the fighting the
~~Their actual losses were not great. Of the~~
on Wake
~~Marines they~~ lost only five officers and forty-one men;
out of ten navy officers and fifty-eight men they lost

just three; and, thirty-seven ~~out~~ of ^{some} twelve hundred ~~and~~
civilian workers. *And* ~~But~~ they managed to make the Japs

pay dearly for ~~taking~~ the island, ^{at least a} ~~one~~ thousand ~~men~~ *Japs*

twelve of their
killed. ~~Also, they shot down more than twelve planes,~~
shot down; and, they sunk a
~~sent one~~ cruiser, and a destroyer, and a submarine, —

and damaged two other destroyers.

FRANCE

A French Communist today ventured the prophecy that the general elections in October will result in a sweeping victory for the Left. He added that this would not mean a Communist form of government. His party, says he, has put its revolutionary program on the shelf for the time being. What they will do when they get into office will be to start a program of social reform on moderate lines. The first thing at which they will aim will be greater production by French workers. Then he uttered a sentiment which you seldom expect to hear from a Communist. "You must compromise to govern," he said.

POITRAS

In May, Nineteen Forty-Four, one month before D-Day, a young American sailor of French ancestry was sent on a dangerous mission into France. His narrow escapes began before he even landed on French soil. Just as he was about to bail out, German fighter planes attacked the formation that was carrying the sailor and shot down a Liberator. Then they attacked the plane in which he was. However, he managed to jump, and landed safely.

His job was to contact the French Maquis, as he was of French parentage and could speak the language fluently. The day after he ~~met~~ met the underground leader, the German barracks in the town blew up. That was perfectly satisfactory except that the explosion partly wrecked the house in which the American sailor was hiding. But so great was the confusion among the Germans, that he contrived to escape.

In the following months he had one narrow squeak after another. Most of the time he lived in the woods and mountains with the Maquis or French Forces of the Interior. It was his job to arrange parachute drops of arms and supplies to the French patriots, and to keep Allied headquarters in London informed by radio of the activities of the French underground.

One day he went into a village to get ~~some~~ cigarettes. The Gestapo spotted him and started to chase his car, firing submachine guns as they drove. The American drew ~~them~~ a phosphorous grenade from his pocket and threw it out. The Germans stopped and investigated what it was, he ~~And that was that,~~ had thrown out. ~~As they did so,~~ The grenade exploded, destroying their car and all that was left was four very dead Germans.

These were only a few of the things that happened to First Glass Seaman Edwin Poitras of Lowell, Massachusetts. It comes to light because Admiral Stark has just decorated him with a Navy Cross.

QUAKE

An earthquake in Chile; a hurricane off the southeast coast of the United States. ~~And that news always has an ominous ring, since the terrific storm we had a little more than a year ago.~~

The earthquake shook a large part of Chile ~~around~~ seven ~~o'clock~~ this morning. ~~It~~ ^{it} resulted in the death of two ~~people~~ with fifteen seriously injured.

As for the storm, ~~it is a bad one with~~ winds of a hundred and thirty-five miles an hour. Early this afternoon it was eight hundred and fifty miles away from Miami, and expected to reach the southern Bahamas tomorrow, ~~and reach them with~~ ^{hitting there in} ~~great~~ force.

STRIKE

The radio strike ^{is} still ~~is going on but,~~ ^{on - with} as you can hear, ~~the broadcasts are also going on.~~ Radio announces ~~that~~ executives ~~are~~ pinch-hitting, doing ~~the~~ jobs usually performed by engineers and other technicians. As Niles Trammel, President of the National Broadcasting Company put it: "We are now operating the N.B.C. network as best we can." Trammel adds that he has asked for mediation and arbitration.

In a statement issued today, Niles Trammel, ~~said~~ ^{in referring to} ~~a charge of bad faith, unfair and undemocratic methods,~~ against the Union, the National Association of Broadcast Engineers and Technicians, better known as the Nabet, ~~said~~ ^{said} that the contract with ~~the~~ Nabet had expired and N.B.C. had tried to negotiate a new agreement. Nabet's President replied ~~that~~ with what Trammel describes as an ultimatum, ^{that} ~~he said~~ he had no authority to bargain on any ~~other~~ ^{for} basis except a salary increase ~~that varied~~ ^{of} from forty to sixty per cent.

N.B.C. replied with an offer to negotiate. Then the Nabet committee sent a telegram notifying the Company, under the terms of the Smith-Conway Act, ^{that} there ^{would} ~~will~~ be a strike in thirty days.

~~But~~ Fifteen minutes later, ~~right on top of that,~~ the engineers and technicians walked out, at six o'clock yesterday afternoon, without ~~any~~ notice or warning.

~~Trammel~~ ^{Niles} Trammel pointed out that N.B.C. was paying its engineers and technicians an average of thirty-six hundred dollars a year apiece, salaries ranging from two-hundred-and-thirty to almost five hundred a month.

~~And how is~~ ^{How about} the Union side of the story? A.T. Powley, President of Nabet, declared that the radio chains had refused to bargain since the last contract expired in June, Nineteen Forty-Four. He said further that the ~~companies~~ companies are stalling again because they are afraid that Petrillo, head of the Musicians' Union,

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will call his musicians out if the companies sign with Nabet. The members of Nabet, said Powley, want not only higher wages, but an eight-hour day and better employment conditions.

And now, I don't know whether I'm on the air, but, if I am, then Hugh, so are you!