

P. J. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Feb. 25, 1941.

SHIPPING

There's the largest kind of contradiction between German and British statements about submarine sinkings. Hitler claimed yesterday that in the previous two days two hundred and fifteen thousand tons were destroyed. Today the official Nazi news agency gave what it called a more exact figure -- two hundred and seventeen thousand three hundred tons. Still later, the figure was boosted by the Berlin Admiralty - two hundred and sixty-three thousand tons sunk in the last two days. *All of which is* ~~This is~~ flatly ridiculed by London, the British saying the Nazi figures are absurd.

Contradiction is at its sharpest with reference to an attack on a British convoy on February Twelfth. The Berlin high command claims that a Nazi surface raider blasted the convoy in waters west of Portugal with destructive effect - sinking fourteen ships for a total of nearly ninety thousand tons. Today London gave its version of the convoy affair, stating that of nineteen vessels, ten are definitely safe. Five were sunk - for a total of ^{some} ~~nearly~~ twenty-four thousand tons. Four ships are ~~still to be heard from~~ *but they are not yet* ~~they are now~~ overdue. They total

more than fifteen thousand tons. If it should turn out that these four have been lost, it would bring the amount of tonnage destroyed in the convoy attack to something more than forty-three thousand tons -- less than half of the Berlin claim of nearly ninety thousand.

BRITISH BOMBING

447
The British Air Force delivered an answer to the Hitler submarine talk, by delivering a smashing attack ^{on the} ~~over~~ Nazi U-boat base at Brest. The R.A.F. bombed that strategic port with sustained fury, and think they may have hit a big German cruiser, a ten thousand ton warship of the Admiral Hipper class. Bombs hit so near that the R.A.F. ~~fliers~~ fliers think the cruiser may have been damaged. This is the ~~more~~ interesting because it's a Hipper type of cruiser that is believed to have made the big convey attack off Portugal. A bomb hit near the warship

RATIONING

Britain is tightening its rationing system. The Ministry of Food today provided two years of imprisonment and a fine of two thousand dollars for anyone who in a restaurant or hotel eats more than two eggs at any meal, or meat and fish at any one meal. It's more complicated than that; -- ^{the} ~~A~~ system defines basic dishes -- only one of each may be had at any one meal. This applies to public eating places, not the home. It's an answer to complaints that people are able to evade the food rationing by dining out.

AFRICA

British forces today captured a town with an odd name --

48
Cub Cub. Like two small bears. Cub Cub is in the Italian province of Eritrea, and marks the latest ^{stage} ~~stop~~ of the British drive.

The Italians have lost half of Eritrea, and continue to lose more daily. They ^{are} expected to make their principal stand at a point ^{which} ~~where~~ the British are now approaching. The same sort of story from ^{further} ~~the~~

South -- Italian Somaliland. And London claims and Rome admits

that the British forces have made important advances. They crossed

the Juba River, ^{a number one} ~~an important~~ defense line.

FRANCE

A court martial in France today handed down a series of sentences. This concludes the trial of four French army officers charged with activities in behalf of General DeGaulle - leader of the Free French forces. The DeGaulle movement, of course, is continuing the war against Nazi Germany, ~~and~~ is in opposition to the government in France of Marshal Petain. *And today the* court martial *imposed* ~~today handed down~~ severe sentences. Three of the officers on trial were given twenty years at hard labor. The fourth was condemned to ten years. All were degraded from their military rank and their possessions ordered confiscated.

49
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BULGARIA

Indications continue that the Germans are ready for their push into Bulgaria. The latest concerns two high Nazi officers -- masters of the blitzkrieg. One is Marshal von List, who is already in Bulgaria. The other is General von Griefenberg, who today arrived in Rumania -- ready to direct the advance into Bulgaria.

The British are described as being all set for the event to happen. This is stated in dispatches from Turkey, where Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden and Chief of Imperial Staff Sir John Dill are conferring with the Turkish Officials.

There's much speculation about what decisions the British and the Turks may make. One supposition is that London is willing to go the limit to keep Greece in the war. If the Germans should intervene against Greece, they ^{no} doubt would strike at the important port of Salonika. That would be viewed gravely by the Turks -- for Salonika is of the largest importance, with reference to their own positions along the Dardanelles.

50

There seems to be some difference of opinion about the United States Minister to Bulgaria - former Governor of Pennsylvania George Earle. From the Bulgarian capital we hear that Minister Earle is getting a series of telegrams congratulating him for hitting a German in a nightclub. The expressions of appreciation applauded Diplomat Earle for giving a Bulgarian band ten dollars to play "Tipperary". That caused the German to throw a champagne bottle, which the former Pennsylvania Governor warded off with his arm. In return, he hit the German - amid a scene of general excitement at the Bulgarian nightclub.

Today the texts of some of the telegrams were released. One is from Broadway Columnist Walter Winchell, who cabled thusly: "Congratulations - sock him one for me."

Another message is signed - "Polish Soldiers in Great Britain." It reads as follows: "We are pleased to learn that you saw no other course of giving expression to the true American spirit."

In contrast to this applause were some declarations made in Washington today - in Congress. A scathing attack was delivered by Republican Representative Rich of Pennsylvania - Mr. Earle's

51

home state. He described the uproar in the Bulgarian nightclub in these words - "He got into a drunken brawl and threw a champagne bottle, and hit a German in the head." The Congressman said it wasn't the first time that Earle had got into public arguments, and ^{added that the} ~~said the~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ President "ought to know his record. He has been in those things time after time," declared the Congressman. Whereupon he voiced the demand that President Roosevelt recall Minister Earle, and to this the Congressman added a drastic, if not opprobrious, phrase. "Send him back to the farm where he belongs", quoth the lawmaker.

The attack in Congress was brought to the attention of President Roosevelt, who said he didn't think the nightclub fracas in Bulgaria amounted to anything much, and that he had no intention of recalling Minister Earle.

52
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Meanwhile, the rumor from Bulgaria is that the German who was injured in the nightclub altercation is in a serious condition. His identity is not known - though the first reports were that he was a Nazi officer. There's a lot of secrecy, and that leads to the surmise that the injured German may be a person of some importance.

PEACE

From two sources we have -- thumbs down on proposals of peace. One source is the House of Commons in London. The other is the White House in Washington.

^{The} British Parliament was informed today of the answer that Prime Minister Churchill has given to peace suggestions emanating from Japan. The answer is -- no. Britain will not consider a negotiated peace. The statement in the House of Commons was in these words: "The Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs has been informed by the Prime Minister that in a ^{or cause} ~~cause~~ of the kind for which we are fighting, there can be no question of compromise or parley."

53
The White House statement was made by President Roosevelt this afternoon. He was asked whether the new United States Ambassador to Great Britain John C. Winant will take with him any suggestion about the kind of peace that should ultimately be established. President Roosevelt said -- no. ~~The New Ambassador is taking with him no program of peace. To this he added that a~~ military decision must come first. The first thing to do is to win the war -- that was the opinion of President Roosevelt.

The administration leaders still ~~xxx~~ hope to have the Lend Lease Bill passed by Saturday. ^{Democrat law makers} ~~Democratic Leaders~~ had a conference with President Roosevelt today at the White House and when it was over Administration Leader Senator Barkley said:- "We ^{pe} ~~hope~~ to get through by Saturday, but of course we can't be sure of it. I haven't seen any evidence of filibuster," he added. The opposition fighting the attempt to rush the bill through, is threatening filibuster -- that kind of indefinite delay by means of talking and talking.

The Lend Lease advocates are prepared to fight any amendment that would impair the Presidential authority under the bill. This includes especially the one offered by ^{Democratic} Senator Ellender, of Iowa, ^{who} ~~He~~ wants a proviso that the All Out Aid to Britain Bill will not give the president any additional power to send American soldiers or sailors, army or navy, to fight in any area outside of the Western Hemisphere and American possessions. This amendment is opposed by the White House. President Roosevelt in his press conference today, indicated that he considered the Ellender proposal as one that would cripple his authority in Foreign affairs. ~~The administration leaders indicate that this amendment will provide a test. They'll~~

54

BASEBALL

There was a decision today in the case of Hank Greenberg and the draft. The slugging first baseman of the Detroit Tigers has been called for military training- ordered to report to camp some time in July, right in the middle of the baseball season.

Hank applied for a deferrment, a delay of six months - until after

he hits his quota of home runs for the year,
~~the baseball season.~~ His idea was to do his year of military

training in such fashion that he'd just skip one summer of

baseball - instead of having a couple of seasons cut in two.

But today his draft board said - No. Hank Greenberg will not be granted a deferrment. The draft board based that decision on the contention that baseball is not an occupation vital to national defense.

BOYS

55
At Echo Lake, in the mountains of northern New Jersey, a three-hour gun battle was fought today. A posse of police officers besieged a cabin in the rugged country - mountain vacation ground in the summer. But a deserted ~~wild in the~~ ^{wilderness in the} winter. From the cabin came an incessant fusillade- rifle and shot-gun. To this the police replied from behind trees and boulders. They fought cautiously - for the desperate resistance from the besieged cabin seemed to indicate outlaws of the most desperate sort. With wary strategy the forces of the law crept closer, narrowing the circle.

After three hours of this skirmishing and shooting, a state trooper was able to get to a window of the cabin - and into it he tossed a tear gas bomb. That's usually the deciding trick against besieged desperadoes. There's no resisting the lachrymose vapor which blinds the eyes with burning tears. So the posse waited for the gunmen to emerge. They were not disappointed, but were they surprised!

Out of the cabin, with dirty faces and red eyes, came two small boys. Fourteen year old lads, each about four

56
feet two in height. Thus ended the battle of Echo Lake - the desperadoes turning out to be a couple of runaway kids.

Formidable juveniles ^{for} in the cabin the police found five _{1 1} twenty-two calibre rifles, a double barrel shotgun, a single-barrel shotgun, five hundred rounds of ammunition, eight hunting knives, a hatchet, and an army bayonet!

The two lads are Emmet Jones and William Hunter of Paterson, New Jersey. With another ^{boy} _{1 1} lad they ran away from home last Friday. They stole a milk truck, drove for some miles, and then tried to steal an automobile from a garage. The other lad was caught, but Emmet ^{and} ₁ William got away, set out to swipe another car. They stole three automobiles in rapid succession, - one ~~was~~ a policeman's car. Transferring from one stolen car to another, they got to the Echo Lake section, and proceeded to break into the cottages and cabins. They specialized in taking guns and other weapons ^{and} _{1 1} They even got an army bayonet.

57
The police got word of prowlers around the summer places, and the trail led to the cabin in the hills. As they approached they were greeted by a volley of shots - and the battle of Echo Lake

BOYS - 3

was on.

The lads, taken back to their home town of Paterson, told the prosecutor that they had planned a hunting trip, were going out to the mountains to shoot deer. Their hunting trip turned into what was something like a war.

CROOK

In a New York court today appeared a veteran of misdoing, who was just about the oldest law-breaker on the police records. He's teddy Grant - age eighty-one. His criminal record goes back to Eighteen Eighty-Eight. That caused somebody in court to ask him whether he remembered the famous blizzard of ~~Eighteen~~ Eighty-eight "Do I!" exclaimed the patriarch of crime. "I'll never forget it, because that was the year they sent me to jail the first time. "

58
Today he was charged with receiving stolen goods, and wanted to plead guilty - but couldn't. There was some technicality about it. There would have to be a hearing. The eighty-one year old doer of many a flagrant deed protested, "What kind of a court is this?" he demanded. "I could go up there and plead 'not guilty', but that would be a lie!" Like George Washington, he could not tell a lie. But in other respects he's very much unlike George Washington.

NICKEL

Here's one of those things that sound incredible, but it's vouched for by a United Press dispatch. I'll give the facts just as they came off the wire. In Brooklyn a letter-carrier named Louis Posner, found a nickel on the sidewalk. Regulations are that when a mailman finds anything, he shall report it. So at his local post office Louis reported about the nickel. The local post office superintendent sent him to Brooklyn Police headquarters. But that wasn't the right place. A patrolman was assigned to take Louis to the proper precinct station. There the desk lieutenant telephoned to the Lost Property Bureau, to ascertain whether a nickel had been reported lost. He was told No, and made out a report to that effect. Then he turned *Mail man Louis Posner* over to a detective who questioned him about the finding of the nickel, and wrote out a report. After this, he took Louis to the Lost Property Custodian, and Louis handed the nickel over to him. ~~It's being held for the owner, if the owner comes in and reports that he lost a nickel. The coin will be held for six months, and if nobody lays claim to it by that time why Louis will get the five-cent piece.~~

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59
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The procedure thus far has cost the city - twenty-five dollars. I think they ought to arrest the fellow who lost that nickel. He certainly had Brooklyn up in the air today. Now Hugh.

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