

ALEUTIANS

P. I. - Sunoco Tuesday, June 16, 1942.

We have little news from the Aleutians - that area is shrouded by storm and fog. But it is assumed that a big naval and air battle is ^{still} going on - the third to be fought ~~in~~ in the Pacific:- The Coral Sea, Midway Island, and the Aleutians. Again the Japs have taken a heavy battering - their ships bombed. It is not clear whether the Jap cruiser ^{a U.S.} ~~that an~~ Army bomber is reported to have sunk is one of the several announced by the Navy as hit. Today the question was - whether the damaging blows we have struck the Japanese in the Aleutian Islands, have been sufficient to start them on their way out.

47
In Washington, the Alaskan delegate in Congress urges that every effort ~~to~~ be made to drive them out. ~~Delegate~~ Delegate Anthony Dimond said today that he disagreed with ^{those} whom he called "some people in high command." These, said he, were giving the impression that the Jap seizure of two of the Aleutian Islands was of no particular consequence.

I'm terribly alarmed about it, said the Alaskan delegate. "If the Japanese were permitted to establish themselves, ^{then} within a short time, they can base some planes there".

Meanwhile, the Secretary of the Interior has given an order to mobilize the man power of Alaska. Secretary Ickes today directed Governor ~~Wm~~ Gruening to take measures for the mustering of the men in the territory for the purpose of defense.

BATTLESHIPS

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One story today from Washington amounts to a virtual farewell. Goodbye to a sea monster with enormous tonnage, ponderous armor and giant cannon. Farewell to the battleship. By the same token a hello to another kind of ship - the type with a spacious area of open deck, nothing but deck from which planes arise.

In other words, welcome aircraft carrier.

This version of hail and farewell is to be found in the huge naval authorization bill passed unanimously today by the House Naval Affairs Committee. Its appropriates eight and a half Billion Dollars for the fleet, with not one cent for battleships.

Senator Brewster of Maine, announces that the Navy has abandoned its battleship building program. Or rather - super battleship. They had planned to construct the biggest ever, sixty thousand tonners, five of these super-battleships. But that has been called off, and ~~something~~ something else has been substituted. What else? In today's appropriation we find not one ton of battleships, but ^a hundred thousand tons

of aircraft carriers. There's to be a large and immediate construction of carriers.

19
So farewell to the battleship, and hail to the carrier. This occurs at a time when the heavy ^{destruction} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ of carriers in sea and air battle gives rise to talk that the carrier may be too vulnerable - and that land based bombers may be the thing.

Something is always coming along to confuse us. However, we can be single minded about one thing - it gives us a nostalgic feeling to bid the battleship good-bye, the monster that for so long has been so ~~xxx~~ formidable and impressive.

CHINA

China states that the Japs have gained control of a long section of highly strategic railway, the four hundred ~~mi~~ mile line from Chekiang to Kiangsi. That railroad has been the objective of the Jap drive in eastern China, and they ^{now} have ~~got~~ it - except one stretch of eighty miles. And this is threatened.

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The Chinese explain that the Japanese purpose is to sieze the whole railway and highway system from Shanghai to Canton. Their ultimate purpose is to establish overland connections with their forces that pushed up into China from Burma. That would give them land transport ~~at~~ right down to Singapore, and would ~~be~~ make them largely independent of those long oceanic lines of communication, which all the world has recognized as a weak spot in the conquered empire the Japs have established. So say ^{the} Chinese.

RUSSIA

Soviet Russia announces that the Nazis have been stopped in front of besieged Sevastopol. They have made no further advances. Instead they are bombarding in a tremendous way, and Moscow uses the term so familiar in the previous war, big Berthas. The Germans have brought up masses of their heaviest artillery. The Big Berthas are hurling fire and metal at the Soviet stronghold. The official Soviet News Agency, in telling about Sevastopol uses these words "the situation remains tense".

Further north, on the Kharkov front, Hitler's men have made no further progress. Moscow announces violent fighting, and says the Nazis have been stopped.

MEDITERANEAN

London tonight completely denies the Axis claim of a Great Sea and air victory in the Mediterranean. It was the other way round - the British won the victory. Or rather - - British and Americans. For United States Army fliers joined in with the R.A.F. in smashing at the Italian Fleet.

Rome and Berlin have been claiming that their forces sank three British cruisers, perhaps four. They say they damaged a battleship, an aircraft carrier, and another cruiser. They mention various other craft and claim a huge lot of sinking and damaging.

The one point on which the British and Axis stories agree is the sinking of an Italian heavy cruiser, That was announced by Rome today, and, the British account tells of an Italian cruiser sunk by British and American warplanes.

Moreover, London tells of the sinking of two Italian ~~destroyers~~ destroyers, the damaging of two cruisers and a couple of Fascist battleships.

The conflicts centered around two convoys, one proceeding to Malta and the other to Libya. Rome and Berlin claim that the convoys were so badly blasted they had to turn back. London

states that the two convoys reached their respective destinations -
- Malta, and Tobruk, the besieged Port in Libya.

Tobruk is ~~really~~ now under siege ~~once~~ again, with the hostile forces facing each other a few miles south of the stronghold - the British holding defense lines there. The Axis claims that a large British force was encircled and destroyed, when Marshal Rommel's panzer units came up in their swift drive from the south. British headquarters at Cairo counters with a declaration that the British Units threatened with encirclement got out; They battled their way through with ~~abriliant~~ a brilliant military maneuver.

The only agreement between the two sides is that the Axis Forces have captured Gazala - - the place where Axis encirclement was threatened.

All of which leaves Rommel's Panzers standing in front of Tobruk. And the British wonder whether the Nazis will try to assault the stronghold or whether they will by-pass it and try to drive to the Egyptian border. From Berling we have an intimation that nothing more of importance may be expected in Libya for a while. A German military spokesman today stated the following:- "The African summer, which is not far off, will make large scale military action next to impossible."

In this country there's one particular ~~exp~~ corporation that is doing ~~extreme~~ a stupendous lot of war work. The story comes from British Production Minister Oliver Littleton and Harry Hopkins of the Anglo-American Munitions Board. They had a luncheon conference on war production with President Roosevelt today, and when they emerged the British armament Chief ^{spoke with awe concerning just} ~~called the United States "a lavish building"~~.

~~Then he went on to tell about the~~ one business corporation ^{in this country} that is doing such a colossal ~~amount~~ amount of war production -- turning out armament at the rate of Four Billions dollars worth a year. "That, said Oliver Lyttleton, "is the equivalent of building a Panama Canal every six weeks," which, ^{is indeed} ~~I may point out is~~ a vivid figure of speech.

4
Harry Hopkins chimed in that the corporation in question was turning out an annual production that amounted to one-tenth of the entire national income of this country in Nineteen Thirty-Three. What is the company? Lyttleton and Hopkins refrain from mentioning any name. This -- for reasons of military secrecy.

TAXES

It looks as if nothing will be done about the proposal to put a limit on the amount of income that any American may receive. The Administration ~~has~~ suggested that incomes of single individuals should be restricted to Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars a year. Married couples - Fifty Thousand. The President's idea ^{was} ~~as~~ to effect the limitation by imposing a hundred per cent surtax on all income above Twenty-Five Thousand a year ~~for~~ for single, and Fifty Thousand for married couples.

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Today, the House Ways and Means Committee put the ~~pro~~ proposal on the shelf - Congress having a lot of neat metaphorical shelves where all sorts of measures can be laid, to collect figurative dust and frequently be forgotten. The shelving was accomplished when the committee adopted a motion for a delay - "defer the proposal for further study," says the motion. That ~~is~~ means, it won't get into the new tax ~~bill~~ bill, which the ~~committee~~ committee is about ready to send to the floor of the House. So the income limitation will have to wait for a future tax ~~bill~~ bill. It is on the shelf.

FOLLOW TAXES

President Roosevelt today said that every day that passes without new and heavier taxes being put into effect means a loss of money for the federal treasury.

DRAFT

Tonight the President has on his desk the bill to provide financial aid to dependents of soldiers and sailors. Also 9- it authorizes the deferrment of men with families.

Chairman Andrew May of the House Military Affairs Committee, stated the purpose of the measure in these words:- "To stop the drafting of married men by local boards, until they have exhausted their supply of men without dependents."

At the same time, we hear that the drafting of youths from eighteen to twenty will be brought up again next year. The army is for it. However plenty of lawmakers do not like to raise the issue for fear of repercussions in the elections of next fall. So there won't be any further move to draft youths of from eighteen to twenty right now.

RUBBER

The scrap rubber drive picked up momentum today -- increasing quantities of rubber articles pouring into the gasoline filling stations of the nation. One reason for the pick-up was stated by Petroleum Coordinator Harold Ickes -- who cited the way the filling stations and the oil industry are spurring the public interest in the scrap rubber campaign "The petroleum industry is doing a magnificent job," remarked the petroleum coordinator.

After which he went into details concerning the magnificent job. "With only three days notice," said he, "the petroleum industry organized and was ready to go ahead by opening time Monday morning. Not satisfied to act as collectors and buyers of scrap rubber," Harold Ickes went on, "Many companies are spending thousands of dollars of their own money for the purpose of creating public interest and participation."

So, the drive is increasing in momentum,

picking up -- although we still cannot estimate what the final result will be.

I know at my house we found an ancient very ancient set of bicycle tires today. And I suppose all of you have had similar experiences.

WAITERS

We all now know that in wartime -- strikes are a menace. They might even cause America to lose the war. So what do we hear today? A labor walkout at the very center of our government.

Today, in Washington, there was a strike in the restaurant of the House of Representatives. ~~Negro~~ Waiters walked out, demanding higher wages. It happened right at the lunch hour -- just as the Congressmen and their guests were waiting for their orders to be served. Thirty-three waiters are employed in the restaurant of the Lower House, and nearly all of them took part in the walkout, which left the Congressmen sitting hungry, famished, deprived of their steaks and chops.

The menace of this is easy to perceive. Congressmen make a lot of speeches, and talking can work up an appetite.

~~Suppose you've been orating for a few hours, and you feel you~~
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Suppose you have just ^{replenish}
~~have~~ saved ~~xxx~~ your country - and are anxious to ~~get the feed~~
your vitality.
~~bag on. Then all you get is the pleasure of reading the menu~~

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Do you think that, with your empty stomach howling like a wolf, you could go up there, and make another oration, howling

like a Demosthenes? Certainly not.

So today's walkout in the congressional restaurant is a definite menace to the war production of words -- the mass production of speeches rolling off the assembly line.

The waiters in the restaurant of the House of Representatives demand that they shall be paid as much as the waiters in the Senate dining room.

Anyhow the strike today produced a lot of hungry congressmen. And if our legislators cannot eat, how can they talk? That sort of labor trouble might make Congress speechless, the very thought of which makes me speechless. How about you, Hugh?