

L. J. Sunoco. - Wednesday, July 22, 1942

Another member of Congress raised his voice in the House today over the Jap ^{invasion of} ~~peril in~~ the Aleutians. Representative Coffee of Washington rose in the House to call on our High Command to send enough men and equipment to the islands to throw the Japanese out and wipe out what he calls the invasion threat ^{the whole of} to Alaska ^{to} and the whole Pacific Northwest. His people are not fooled; he said, with ^{any} ~~the~~ explanation that the Japanese grabbing of three Aleutian Islands is a "token occupation." ^{He} Alaska's delegate, Anthony Dimond, ~~embroidered~~ embroidered on the remarks he made yesterday about the twenty-five thousand Japanese troops on Attu, Kiska, and Agattu. The folks in Alaska believe that if the Japs are not driven out immediately, they will be so firmly entrenched that they will be sitting ~~xx~~ astride our northern communication lines to Russia. Of course, military experts have warned us that this was the purpose of their occupation. The Japs want to cut us off from sending any help to the Russians when the Japs

get ready to attack the Maritime Province of Siberia.

Senator Holman of Oregon is another Northwestern Congressman who complained. Holman was visiting his home state as a member of a special sub-committee of the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate. That sub-committee has been appointed to investigate. Senator Holman says that as far as he has gone he has reason to believe that the Northwest coast of the United States and Alaska is protected by only criminally obsolete, woefully inadequate, and poorly distributed defenses. The Oregon Senator said further that Congressmen can get no satisfaction out of either the War Department or the Navy in Washington.

"What information we get," he said, "is the same sand-papery reports ~~that~~ they hand out to you newspapermen."

He went on to point to the case of the Jap submarine which shelled the Oregon coast near Fort Stevens a month ago. "The Japs were obviously fully

informed that the guns at the fort are of Eighteen
Ninety-eight vintage," said Holman *of Oregon.*

JAPAN

The Japanese have already established contact with the Nazis, ^{meaning} contact ~~and~~ an exchange of war materials. That report comes from London. It was published by the British Ministry of ~~the~~ Economic Warfare. The Ministry ^{described} ~~it as~~ it as only a trickle of raw materials, chiefly rubber from the Japanese. In return Hitler has been sending them manufactured articles, for example, machine tools, ball bearings and such like.

The British Ministry of Economic Warfare says these shipments have probably been sent all the way around South America, around Cape Horn. Having gained the Atlantic, the Japanese cargo carriers then slipped through the British and American blockade, into Europe.

SECOND FRONT

From Washington ^{comes more} ~~we get the latest~~ news about the prospects for a second front, in Europe. ~~It is~~ Nothing definite; just surmise, ^{based} on a visit to the White House by Soviet Ambassador ~~Maxim~~ Litvinov. He had a conference with the President, but when it was over he did not admit that it was about that second front. However it is reported that before he went to the White House Litvinov talked with other officials of the Governments of the United Nations and pleaded with them urgently to do something in Western Europe to ease the terrific pressure on the Red armies in the East. In this connection, people who are close to the Soviet ~~Embassy~~ Embassy, say that the position of the United Nations is more critical today than ^{it} ~~has~~ been at any time ~~since~~ ^{ix} since Dunkirk.

^{And} ~~In truth,~~ the news from Russia ~~itself~~ does nothing to contradict that report. For Hitler's Panzer columns are grinding onward in southern Russia. ~~They are~~ getting closer and closer to both Stalingrad and that crucial Don city of Rostov. The Nazi High Command

in customary style announced^S that all organized resistance had^S collapsed in the Rostov region. It also claimed^S that the Germans have crossed the lower course of the Don on a broad front to the east of the Donetz. But the Nazis have been making large claims there for some days. On Monday they declared that they had Rostov ~~ixxxixxx~~ hemmed in on three sides. As a matter of fact, the Russian High Command itself admitted that the invaders had gained considerable distance in that region. Berlin also ~~declares~~^{says} that German forces from Taganrov had started an attack ~~xx~~ eastward on Rostov.

However, there are ~~xx~~ two pieces of hopeful information. First of all, the Russian counter-attack on the Germans at Voronezh appears to have gained^{considerable} ~~much~~ ground. Timoshenko's army is ^{now} pressing the Germans ~~in~~ ~~forces~~ on both sides of the River Don. The Russians have swept the Germans out of the ten-mile area between the Voronezh River and the ~~xx~~ Don. ^{And} They are hitting the Germans in the back from the West bank. They have

turned the Nazis out of the four principal bridge-heads and are now in complete control of one of them. This they are using as a wedge, rushing reinforcements to the west bank.

The other encouraging report is that Soviet Marshal Voroshilov is waiting in reserve with a huge army which has been training east of the Ural Mountains. This reserve army is concentrated in a line all the way from Voronezh to Stalingrad. This news comes by way of ~~xxx~~ neutral Turkey. If that is true, Voroshilov is in position to smash the Germans on the flank, using Voronezh as a key point.

RAIDS

In London the British today made public ^{news} ~~information~~ ^{secret sources} which had been received from ~~forces~~ on the continent ~~about~~ about that air raid on Cologne six weeks ago. According to the information ~~that~~ the British have, ten thousand inhabitants of Cologne were killed when the British Air Command sent over a thousand bombers. The ten thousand dead were ~~buried~~ buried in communal graves. ^{Also,} More than a hundred and forty thousand people were evacuated from the city on the Rhine. In the old part of Cologne hundreds of houses were ~~damaged~~ destroyed and hundreds more so badly damaged that the Germans had to tear them down.

There has been a good deal of wonder ~~high~~ why a raid^s on a similar scale hasn't been repeated in other parts of Germany. ^{So far} No explanation is forthcoming; but the Royal Air Force had quite a successful party at the German ~~manufacturing~~ manufacturing city of Duisburg. Only three hundred planes were in this one as against the thousand that were sent to Cologne. But the three

hundred did a vast amount of damage. They dropped more than fifty bombs of four thousand pounds each, more than fifty two-tonners. Each bomb powerful enough to wipe out a whole city block. The Germans in fact are calling them "block bombs." Medium and small bombs were also dropped.

The British Air Ministry announces that great fires were started in Duisburg, and in the dock area, in fact that this important inland port seemed to be one huge blaze.

EGYPT

In Egypt the British have captured a ridge at the northern end of the line held by the Germans, west of El Alamein. Auchinlech's Eighth Imperial Army went into action on all sectors, and in a blazing battle, Rommel's forces were driven from important positions.

One report from Cairo brings the curious news that the Royal Air Force actually had complete control of the skies over the desert battlefield today. They plastered one of Rommel's concentrations of more than a thousand trucks, without any opposition, and again when they went into action to clear the way for the ground forces, they had the skies to themselves. The British are wondering whether Rommel didn't bother, or whether he is operating with a badly clipped air force. There is corroboration for that idea in Italian orders captured, by the British. Those orders indicate that the Axis forces believe the British to have unquestioned superiority in the air. But maybe somebody is again trying to fool somebody.

FREYBERG

There is one man in the British army whose life story, I have always wanted to write. The mere outline of his career would almost challenge Superman. In the last World War he was wounded no fewer than nine times. He was mentioned in dispatches no fewer than six times. He won the Victoria Cross, the most cherished of all decorations in the gift of the British Sovereign. In addition to that he has the Distinguished Service Order with Two Bars for additional acts of bravery, the Order of Saint Michael and St. George, and all sorts of ribbons from other armed forces besides his own. He is the legendary hero of the entire British Army -- and the youngest general in the first World War. All over the Empire he is known as Freyberg V.C. His full name and titles are Major General Bernard Freyberg, V.C., D.S.O., C.M.G., and so on and so on.

For some time now I've wondered about him. Did he escape from Crete, where he was the British

commander when the Germans overwhelmed that island. Yes, he got out of Crete. And now his name is in the news again. Freyberg, V.C. at present is the General commanding the New Zealand troops in the Middle East. And, he has just been wounded again. In the neck this time. Prime Minister Jan Smuts of South Africa heard about it and wanted to send Freyberg in a plane to the high bracing climate of South Africa to recuperate. But that was not for Freyberg, V.C. "Many thanks," he said, "I'll stick it with my men." The Prime Minister of New Zealand today made known the news that after only three weeks, Freyberg, V.C. is in the field once more, fighting with his men in the Egyptian desert.

And once upon a time he was a youngster, in this country, studying to be a dentist!

COMEBACKERS

In the ranks of the flying aces of America there are a few select and exclusive clubs. You may have heard of them from time to time --the Silent Birdmen, and the Caterpillar Club, and one or two others. In Australia there's a new one. Its members declare it to be the most exclusive in the world.

It is called "The Comebackers." Membership is restricted to men of Uncle Sam's Army Air Corps who have made forced landings in New Guinea and walked back home through the jungles of that ~~most fiercesome and~~ *wildest and* ~~most fearsome of all jungle lands,~~ *jungle island.*

Though it is exclusive, its membership will not be so small as you might suppose. There are already some forty of them, forty who have stumbled and crawled ~~xx~~ their way through those ~~wicked~~ steaming jungles.

Until the war came to New Guinea it was considered an axiom that anybody who had to bale out over those forests had a one-way ticket to Kingdom Come.

But our airmen haven't found it, ^{utterly} hopeless. ~~at all.~~

In some cases whole crews of bombers, that have crashed, ^{have} managed to return, together, ~~and intact~~ to their ~~operational~~ base. Some of them even took time out to pan gold. One ~~xx~~ Comebacker said: "That country is full of gold, but I don't think I'll go back for any of it." Nevertheless, among the two score or more Comebackers already in the Club, not one wants to quit combat flying.

CONFERENCE - Follow Steel

President Roosevelt has called a conference to be held at the White House tomorrow over the high cost of living. Union Labor Leaders and Representatives of Management will be there. They will include the President of the National Association of Manufacturers, the President of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, the President of the ^{American Federation} ~~of Labor~~ of Labor and the President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. The report is that Mr. Roosevelt will ask them to formulate a new agreement for unity between Management and Labor, an agreement that will hold good for the duration of the war. And this will be part of the President's effort to stop the rise in the ~~fx~~ cost of living. This is taken to mean that he will not now ask Congress for new legislation, new powers. Mr. Roosevelt went over the whole situation with the leaders of Congress today. The lawmakers do not want to pass any new laws in this direction at present. They are afraid of the effect that a wage control law

might have on the November elections. They urge the President to use the extraordinary powers that have already been conferred upon him. In other words they want to pass the buck to the White House.

STEEL

The steel workers Union is again going after more money. You may recall that last week it got a raise of forty-four cents a day from the "little steel" companies, the independent corporations. So the Union leaders want a similar increase from big steel, the United States Corporation and subsidiaries.

That C.I.O. Union today made a formal announcement cancelling its ~~agreement~~ agreement with the companies. Phillip Murray, President of the Union, sent registered letters to all the ten parent corporations. The Union has a seven-point program. That includes not only a raise of fortyfour-cents a day butalso closed shop, Union security, and the check-off. That means that the Workers' Union ~~does~~ dues will be deducted by the companies from the pay envelopes and turned over to the Union ~~leaders~~ leaders.

SHIPPING

The United States Maritime Commission stands by its guns in the cancellation of the contract of the Higgins Shipbuilding Corporation of New Orleans.

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The Commission held a special meeting today and heard ^{direct from} the president of the concern, Andrew Jackson Higgins, [^] himself. After it was over the commission announced that it regrets that in the face of available facts, it cannot rescind the action taken July Eighteenth.

But that will not end the affair Higgins.

^{scrutinizes}
It will be ~~investigated~~ by the special Senate Committee [^] That committee will also investigating the war program. ~~It will incidentally~~ [^]

consider the proposal of Henry J. Kaiser, the West Coast shipbuilder, to use nine shipyards for the

building of ^{huge} ~~large~~ cargo carrying airplanes. ~~The~~
The senators ^{furthermore} ~~investigating committee~~ will ^{inquire} ~~also look~~ ^{the} into reasons [^] for the shortage of steel.

MEAD

New York political observers were speculating today whether the rift has widened between President Roosevelt and Jim Farley, the man who first ^{played such} ~~made him~~ ^{a tremendous part in making him} President. The proof of the evidence to which observers point is the latest news in the campaign for Governor of ~~the~~ New York on the Democratic side. ~~You may recall that two days ago the friends of Gangbuster Tom Dewey announced that he was in the ring for the Republican nomination.~~ It is no secret that Jim Farley, as New York Chairman, has a lot of delegates lined up for the present Attorney General of New York State, John J. Bennett. Farley is committed to Bennett out and out. But the Labor leaders in the Empire State have not endorsed him. It has been ~~widely~~ rumored that the president for that reason ~~did~~ wanted someone ^{other} ~~else~~ than Bennett ~~n~~ominated.

There has been a lot of backing and filling and coquetting by several illustrious New York Democrats.

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Well Today United States Senator ^{Jim} ~~James~~ Mead threw

the veil off his face, took his finger out of his mouth and said coyly that he was yielding to the pressure of his many admirers. He had hardly made his announcement public before he received the official accolade of the White House. He called on President Roosevelt, and as he left he told the newspapermen that Mr. Roosevelt had uttered these words: "I am a voter in New York State, but I am not a ~~xx~~ delegate to the Convention. If I were a delegate to the Convention I would cast my vote for Jim Mead."

So maybe Sen. Mead will be
Tom Dewey's opponent. Or will
-it be Atty. Gen. Bennett?

HELIOGRAPH

58 The crew of one torpedoed merchant vessel reached home with a particularly interesting story. They got away from their sinking ship on two life rafts which they lashed together. They said they owe their lives to one, ~~of their mess,~~ Able Seaman Miles Nelkin. It was he who released those rafts ~~while~~ while the ship was being shelled by the 'Nazi U-boat. He was killed for making it possible for his shipmates to get away.

^{rest} They saved their lives ^{by using} ~~with~~ their ^{wits.} ~~brains.~~

58 1/2 Out of the floating wreckage of their ship they made a tank to conserve rain water. They also improvised a small shelter on ⁱⁿ ~~that~~ raft, to protect them from the blazing sun. Out of the same wreckage they fished ~~enough~~ potatoes and onions, ~~to give them vegetable food.~~ And for meat they caught fish by blackjacking them with their oars.

Finally, they saw a vessel on the horizon. On their raft they were invisible at that distance.

HELIOGRAPH - 2

But one of that crew flattened a tin can, fashioned it to an oar, and thus made himself a heliograph.

In that fashion the crew signalled to the ship and were rescued.