

ATTU

L.I. - Sunoco. Wed., May 26, 1943.

The Japs on the island of Attu have been split up into separate groups, and one of these has been wiped out. This was stated by today's navy communique, which told of three enemy pockets in the vicinity of Chichagof Harbor. Our forces struck hard at one of these, and destroyed it after heavy fighting. They are now driving against a second pocket - this one ~~is~~ isolated on a ridge of rugged hills. The third group of Japs seems to be located in the mountains between Chichagof Harbor and Sarana Bay. (Thus, the enemy force has been cut into fragments, and these are being eliminated one by one.)

The weather in that Aleutian area of frightful meteorology is still bad, but nevertheless American air forces are operating in support of the ground troops. Bomber and fighter planes are blasting the Japs with high explosive, and raking them with machinegun fire -

air support under the hardest kind of conditions ~~for~~  
for the flying men.

We have no navy comment on an enemy report  
that a naval battle is raging north of Attu. This  
emanates from the Vichy Radio, which quotes a Tokyo  
naval spokesman <sup>as</sup> ~~in~~ declaring that United States and  
Japanese naval forces have clashed in a sea fight.

~~A long distance away from that northern  
latitude, <sup>we have</sup> ~~we have~~ lost a small naval ship. This happened  
near Guadalcanal, where the naval auxiliary ~~NIAGARA~~  
NIAGARA was bombed by Jap warplanes. It suffered what  
today's bulletin calls - "considerable damage." The  
damage was sufficient to doom the auxiliary boat, and  
it was sunk by American gunfire.~~

## AIR WAR

~~In the Mediterranean war of the air, the Allied offensive is on a huge front.~~ Yesterday more than four hundred American and British planes struck along a line of seven hundred miles, from Sardinia to Greece. Sixteen separate target areas were blasted.

The opposition was heavy. A squadron of *Gen.* *oolittle's* Flying Fortresses *bombed* ~~struck~~ the Sicilian war harbor of Messina, and there had to battle its way through a swarm of forty Messerschmitt fighters, ~~and~~ twelve of *which* ~~they~~ were shot down. The hostile planes tried *the* a trick of bombing the Fortress formation from above - but the bombs missed. Not one of our giant warplanes was lost in the attack on Messina.

In the northern theatre of bombing, the word today was - Dusseldorf. Any day is likely to feature some great German industrial center as the principal target for a British night of bombing. Sunday night

it was Dortmund, last night Dusseldorf. This latter was not quite as great a raid as the Dortmund affair, but it was powerful and devastating enough. ~~xxxxxx~~

Today's British communique describes it as - "the biggest the bomber command has carried out in such weather." <sup>Rainy</sup> ~~The weather was rainy~~ and muggy, with cloud and fog. The opposition was formidable, and twenty-seven bombers were lost. <sup>and opposition</sup> ~~Weather, xxxxxx~~ notwithstanding, the bombing of Germany goes on and increases.

## RUSSIA

In Russia the war front is still quiet - with only minor actions reported here and there. The muds and floods of the thaws of Spring continue to produce a lull, which is now regarded as being just before the storm. A heavy German offensive is expected as soon as the ground becomes hard enough.

So today's news from Moscow is mostly about an anniversary.

Just a year ago today, the Soviets and Great Britain <sup>signed</sup> ~~signed~~ their mutual aid treaty, which pledged Russia to fight until Hitler was completely defeated. And today Moscow newspapers repeated the pledge, and sounded the slogan - unconditional

surrender. It is to be noted that the Soviet press also reiterated other promises that Stalin made to Britain in the mutual assistance pact of a year ago. One - that neither Russia nor Britain sought territorial gains. ~~Of course this apparently did not apply to the~~

~~parts of Poland and the Baltic area that the Soviets  
acquired as a result of their tie-up with Hitler.~~

Another pledge emphasized today was that neither Great Britain nor Stalin's Russia had any intention of interfering with the domestic affairs of other countries. And this is pointed up by the recent abolition of the Comintern.

## GERMANY

The prediction was made today that Nazi Germany will collapse. When the Allies have invaded Europe, and Hitlerland is struck powerfully in both the east and the west, the Nazi Reich will go to pieces because of political corruption within. This was stated today by President Eduard Benes of the exiled Czechoslovakian government. <sup>π</sup> In an address to the Overseas Press Club, <sup>at N.Y., he said: -</sup> ~~he stated~~ "Almost all Nazi rulers, officers, politicians and gestapo agents can be bought. Imprisoned men," he went on, "can be released for money. Positions are bought and sold. The rationing system is unspeakably corrupt."

And from this he drew the following inference:

"However powerful the German political machine may still be - and it is very powerful - the political corruption, war weariness, moral exhaustion and depression, are ~~xxx~~ bound sooner or later to lead to an interior collapse

within the Reich." So declares the statesman who  
was driven from his country when Hitler seized  
Czechoslovakia.



Today John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers reopened negotiations with the soft coal operators. This follows last night's decision by the War Labor Board, which rejected the miners' demand for a two dollar a day increase, but okayed a six-day-week with overtime and portal-to-portal pay - both of which items would increase the actual earnings of the miners. The W.L.B. called upon the union and the operators to get together and work out an agreement along those lines.

John L. Lewis and his union have been flouting the Labor Board all along <sup>--and</sup> ~~is~~ refusing to accept its decision <sup>s.</sup> Today, however, <sup>Lewis</sup> ~~it~~ promptly acceded to the W.L.B. call for negotiations, and got together with the operators. Lewis ~~is~~ is said to believe that the decision the Board handed down yesterday represents at least a partial victory for the miners. They want more wages, <sup>and</sup> the six day week,

plus portal-to-portal pay, will give them more. We are told that the main issue in the negotiations will be the portal-to-portal business. ~~The miners demand that they be paid from the time it takes them to travel from the entrance of a mine, through the shafts, to the place where the coal is actually being dug.~~

Still another labor decision concerns a million railroad employees - non-operating, railroad men who do not run the trains. They have been demanding a wage increase of twelve cents an hour. Today a special group considering their case recommended that they get ~~a wage increase~~ <sup>a boost</sup> of eight cents an hour. The recommendation was made to President Roosevelt.

TAXES

Today it became more apparent than ever that the tax compromise agreed upon by the congressional committee yesterday will be okayed by the Senate and House of Representatives. Today Republican Leader Joe Martin of Massachusetts admitted that the compromise was the only solution that could be had. All along the Republicans supported the Ruml Plan for one hundred percent skip-a-year for pay-as-you-go, and Joe Martin today repeated that view.

"I appreciate, however," said he, "that strong differences of opinion must be reconciled." And he added that the committee compromise was the only thing that stood a chance -- either that or nothing.

2  
TR  
~~The compromise, as we noted last night, provides that the income tax of anybody <sup>paying</sup> ~~was~~ fifty dollars or less for Nineteen Forty-Two shall be cancelled -- with a seventy-five percent cancellation for those whose Nineteen Forty-Two taxes amount to more than fifty dollars. These latter will therefore have to pay~~

O.P.A.

Here is a denial in vigorous words. It concerns stories that the Office of Price Administration is in a bad way, its price-fixing ~~policy~~ <sup>policies</sup> in a tangle, the O.P.A. about to collapse. The denial comes from Clair Wilcox, Director of the Industrial Materials Division of the O.P.A. And his vigorous words are as follows:

"We are neither shaky, nor tottering, nor verging on collapse." ~~he told~~ <sup>He said to a</sup> business group today:—"We are not going to be torn limb from limb and scattered to the four winds. I am authorized to tell you that this is sheer fantasy."

The O.P.A. Director admitted that price-fixing was an evil - "a necessary evil", said he, ~~but we've got to have it~~ "The American business community," he added, "will have to reconcile itself to the fact that price control is a bitter dose... It will have to hold its nose and take its medicine."

P.S. There is no shortage of the bitter dose,  
and the medicine that business will have to take is  
not rationed.

## FORD

In the world of industry, one dominant question tonight is this - who now will direct the Ford Motor Company? Who will undertake the guidance of the giant Ford industrial empire, now that Edsel Ford has died? His father, Henry Ford, is nearly eighty, ~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> still energetic and alert, but it is thought unlikely that he will <sup>at his age</sup> resume the active control of the ~~mouth~~ industry that he founded.

Henry Ford started his Company in Nineteen Three, forty years ago, with an actual cash investment of twenty-eight thousand dollars. He, himself, owned a quarter of it. At the last estimate, a year and a half ago, the Company was valued at seven hundred and eighteen million dollars. The time was when Henry Ford was offered two billion dollars for it. <sup>TP</sup> Edsel Ford was born when his father was building his first experimental automobile in an old shack. And as he grew to manhood,

Henry Ford ~~XXXXXX~~ trained him to become the head of the industry that was growing in an astounding way. In Nineteen Nineteen, Henry Ford made Edsel President of the Company, and in time the son took over the active direction, as old-age descended upon the father.

Edsel Ford was in full charge of things when the war caused a transition from automobiles to military aircraft, bombers, the giant Willow Run bomber plant. He over-worked. Last year he had a stomach operation, and never completely recovered - but insisted on going back to the job of military aircraft production. Now he has died <sup>at</sup> ~~at~~ forty-nine.

TP He leaves three sons, but none ~~of them~~ <sup>is</sup> in a position to take their father's place in the Ford Company - all three are in service. Henry Ford Second is a naval Lieutenant who teaches mathematics at the Great Lakes Training Station. ~~Edsel~~ <sup>Benson</sup> Ford is a private in the army, and William Ford is a naval air cadet.

Henry Ford ~~trained~~ trained him to become the head of the industry that was growing in an astounding way. In Nineteen Nineteen, Henry Ford made Edsel President of the Company, and in time the son took over the active direction, as old-age descended upon the father.

Edsel Ford was in full charge of things when the war caused a transition from automobiles to military aircraft, bombers, the giant Willow Run bomber plant. He over-worked. Last year he had a stomach operation, and never completely recovered - but insisted on going back to the job of military aircraft production. Now he has died <sup>at</sup> ~~at~~ forty-nine.

TP He leaves three sons, but none ~~of them~~ <sup>is</sup> in a position to take their father's place in the Ford Company - all three are in service. Henry Ford Second is a naval Lieutenant who teaches mathematics at the Great Lakes Training Station. <sup>Benson</sup> ~~Edsel~~ Ford is a private in the army, and William Ford is a naval air cadet.



Tonight the word from Detroit is that, until the heirs of Edsel Ford are able to take over, the active direction of the industrial empire will be assumed by Charles E. Sorensen and Harry H. Bennett. Both are long time veterans in the Ford organization. Sorensen is regarded as the production genius. He joined forces with Henry Ford away back in Nineteen Five, thirty-eight years ago. Bennett has been with Ford since Nineteen Sixteen, and ever since ~~he~~ has been one of Henry Ford's closest advisors. (These are the two men who are the most likely probabilities - with Henry Ford always in the background, eighty years old but ready to make <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ decision in an emergency.)

## FLOODS

The Governors of six midwestern states gathered today in conference with federal officials, and their subject was -- the flood, The inundation along the Mississippi and along the rivers that flow into it. Emergency measures are needed to deal with the

situation created by the deluge, three million acres under water in half a dozen states. (The six governors and the federal officials <sup>are laying</sup> ~~are~~ plans for rehabilitation work to be done when the inundating waters have gone.)

~~They are going now -- the flood is beginning to recede. The crest is moving downstream, and the danger to many localities is on its way out.~~

Today at Beardstown, Illinois, <sup>a mud-</sup> ~~much~~ smeared <sup>soldier</sup> negro on patrol with a shovel yelled out the cheery word: "The levee <sup>is</sup> going to hold." And this meant that Beardstown would be saved.

The yellow flood waters of the river were at the very top of the concrete sea wall with its crest of sand bags. The flood stood at twenty-nine and

seventy-eight one-hundredths feet, and the sea wall  
had been built to withstand thirty feet <sup>of flood.</sup> An Army  
engineer made an inspection and said: "The barrier is  
sound." If it had broken Beardstown and a huge  
surrounding area would have been washed out -- wiped  
out. <sup>R</sup> The story there is typical of stories elsewhere  
though in many a case the flood ~~was~~ <sup>did win</sup> out and a deluge  
rolled over the land.

## GUINEA PIG

Today the Governor of Massachusetts pardoned - a guinea pig. That is - a human guinea pig, a convict who offered himself in a test of a new serum.

His name is Ralph Hamm, and he was convicted of robbing a roadside tavern - a hold-up. Last year medical scientists developed a new serum which promised to save thousands of lives of American soldiers and sailors. The only thing needed was actual tests on a human being for a final check-up and study of the new cure. Ralph Hamm, the hold-up man, offered himself as a human guinea pig. He did so without any suggestion of special privilege or consideration. *He wanted to* ~~be~~ play the part of the human guinea pig only for the benefit of army-navy medicine, after which he would go on serving out the rest of his sentence.

So they made the tests on him - injecting the serum. And the doctors learned enough to enable them to

perfect the newly devised treatment and apply it to the great benefit of the army and navy in war.

But the human guinea pig nearly died of it.

He took the brunt of the imperfections that existed in the serum treatment, the imperfections that had to be removed. He was critically ill for months. Now he has recovered, and today - ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ pardon for the human guinea pig.

## OPERA

Tonight the San Carlo Opera is opening a season at the Center Theatre here in Radio City, and the Company must feel right at home -- judging from what its Impresario told me *a moment ago as I was coming in* ~~this afternoon. Fortune~~ *the studio. Fortune*<sup>^</sup> Gallo, who also runs the Chicago Opera Company during its season in the winter, informed me that radio has become a recruiting ground for grand opera.

Opera business has been booming, with more companies playing Verdi, Puccini and Bizet <sup>by</sup> in this country than ever before. There's an increasing demand for singers. So I asked -- "is there any shortage of song birds?"

"No," Gallo replied. "We get them from radio."

Singers acquire experience at the mike, and then warble on the stage -- the number one example of which is Jimmy Melton, headliner of radio who is now a star tenor at the Metropolitan. ~~Opera House.~~

$\frac{1}{2}$  I asked Gallo of the San Carlo whether singers found the transition difficult -- from microphone to

the operatic stage. He said -- no, singers were less nervous in opera than on the air. In other words, mike fright is worse than stage fright.

So maybe Hugh James and I ought to go into grand opera. We can't sing - but we can do an operatic laugh, and we'd be less nervous.