

The celebration of Bastille Day in Europe was marked by outbreaks against the Nazis - as had been expected. In France itself, however, the celebration of the great feast of the French Republic brought about clashes of only a minor nature. This we are told is a dispatch from Vichy.

In unoccupied France, a full holiday was observed - according to a decree issued by the Petain Government. However, there was little of the jubilation usually displayed on the fourteenth of July - little dancing and few ~~xx~~ flags displayed. In many places parades were staged by patriots, in spite of official orders, and these resulted in clashes.

There were parades even in Nazi-occupied France, where the Hitler bosses forbade any kind of demonstration. They forbade any showing of the French ~~xx~~ flag - yet a few fervent Frenchmen defied the conqueror, and displayed the historic tricolor. Altogether it was a melancholy anniversary of the Fall of the Bastille, the storming of which royal prison initiated the French revolution.

From other parts of Europe the news tells of anti-Nazi outbreaks more drastic than in France. In ~~Jugoslavia~~ Jugoslavia, the local chief of the Nazi Gestapo was killed. This is reported by Yugoslav officials in London, who tell how Major Helm of the Gestapo followed the way of that other Gestapo tyrant, Heydrich the Hangman. Helm was walking in a public square at Zagreb when bullets from a window killed him. ~~The~~ Other Gestapo agents with him began firing in all directions and tossing hand grenades.

And the Yugoslav refugee government in London states that other anti-Nazi attacks have occurred at various Yugoslav towns - where patriots threw hand grenades at Nazis.

London states today that eleven Gestapo agents were killed in Belgium, where in one town a Belgian patriot barricaded himself in a chemical plant and opened fire on a party of Hitler's secret police.

In Washington, this Bastille Day, acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles took occasion to reveal that the Government of Vichy has rejected two United States offers anent the French warships at Alexandria. There is of course much concern about these warships lying immobilized in the harbor, which is threatened by the German Army of the desert.

President Roosevelt has twice proposed to the Petain Government that the vessels be taken from Alexandria and brought to a port where they would be within the safekeeping of the United States. Otherwise, said the President to Vichy, the British would be justified ⁱⁿ ~~to~~ ^{ing} order the warships to proceed to the Suez Canal. And, if that order were disobeyed, the British would be justified in destroying the vessels.

RUSSIA

In Russia a great crisis of the war continues to build up in the South -- along the River Don. To the North in front of Moscow ~~xx~~ the Red Army seems to be holding its own, against a series of assaults there by the Nazi war machine. The Russians reply with counter attacks. But in the South the huge German offensive is making progress everywhere.

Berlin claims that resistance is broken, the Panzer units are pushing on at will. Moscow today announces the fall of new localities, the names of which reveal new German advances.

It seems obvious that the Nazi plan is to smash forward to occupy what is called -- the big bend in the Don. In South Russia, that great river flows southward and then turns East, making a huge bend before coming back west and then flowing into the Black Sea. The loop formed by the river points in the direction ~~xx~~ the Nazis would go in a drive to the Volga and the Caspian Sea -- to cut the Soviet forces in two and isolate the Caucasus and its oil.

BRITISH PLANES

51

The British have produced new types of planes and tanks, which will give the United Nations the air superiority necessary for victory. That was stated in London today. British factories have in production a new kind of fighter plane, which is described as better than the latest combat models of the Nazis. And British armament plants are turning out a new type of tank, which promises ^{to} out-fight the moving fortresses of the Nazis.

EGYPT

In Egypt, Rommel struck at the British, and was beaten off. The German Afrika Korps made several sharp attacks each of which was repelled by artillery shells and air bombs. At no place was the British line penetrated. Meanwhile, the Nazis are being smashed by Royal Air Force bombers, which are hitting them incessantly.

CHINA

China today ordered the mobilization of six million more men. At present China has five million regular troops under arms, and now six million more will be added - from that vast reservoir of manpower in the Far East. The new mobilization is part of a plan for three years more of war with Japan. The Chinese figure it will take that length of time and six million more soldiers to drive out the enemy.

52
The new Chinese mobilization embodies a novelty which is described as - revolutionary. That is, it will include all men - rich or poor. Hitherto, the wealthy have been able to avoid military service by the payment of money. Hereafter, there will be no such payments and wealth will make no difference. The rich will be drafted, as well as the poor.

SINKINGS

If you were a sailor aboard an American merchant vessel, you ^would hardly enjoy the sight of a torpedo ripping through the water. Or maybe you would -- as sailor John Flaherty did. He is one of the crew of a ~~xxxx~~ cargo vessel that arrived at an American port today, after having been torpedoed.

An explosion blew a huge hole in the side of the ship which nevertheless was able to keep going -- largely because of the heroic work of the first mate. The mate did a quick job of shifting the water ballast from starboard to port, which kept the vessel from capsizing.

He then rounded up the sailors and stationed them on deck to watch for the submarine -- another attack being expected.

53
"By this time," said sailor John Flaherty, "We were plugging along at about five knots -- with a hole in our side big enough to drive a tank through. The third mate," he continues, "was watching from the stern with a pair of binoculars when suddenly he shouted, 'torpedo, torpedo'"

"I looked around," says Flaherty -- "Just in time to see the torpedo slip by. That really was a pretty sight," he adds, "And I

couldn't keep from blowing a kiss to the tin fish as she went by."

So you see, it really can be beautiful -- the south end of a torpedo going north.

There was still another exciting spectacle left for the crew of *The* vessel. "About thirty minutes later, less than a hundred ^{yards} ~~years~~ aft," sailor Flaherty relates, "A big cloud of smoke blew suddenly out of the water." He says he thought at first it was a ship bearing down on them, "maybe about to ram them.

"But," he adds, "The cloud of black smoke disappeared -- and ~~was~~ nothing else was seen." The sailors figured out that it must have been another torpedo fired by the sub, and ^{that} the ponderous ~~missile~~ ^{missile} had hit an under-water reef -- exploding and sending a huge cloud of smoke ^{and spray} up out of the water.

54

FARM

Some new snarles developed today in the action of Congress concerning the agricultural bill. Agriculture itself is a complicated art, but the planting and harvesting of the crops is simplicity itself when compared with the twists and tangles that lawmakers can get into when they start fussing around with a farm bill.

A joint committee of the Senate and House of Representatives came to an agreement about the sale of wheat and ^{about} a thing called parity. This parity has to do with figuring prices, and is mighty complicated, just about as complicated as the problem of making corn grow on a cement pavement.

The Government has a lot of wheat, a hundred and twenty five million bushels of it. And the question is, at what price shall the grain be sold -- what kind of parity? The farm bloc is afraid that if the Government wheat is sold at a lower figure, it will beat down the prices of farm products in general -- less money for the farmer. The administration insists that the boosting of farm prices would boost the cost of living in general. The threat being -- inflation.

The joint committee adopted a compromise that seemed ingenious if not paradoxical. They agreed that the Government wheat should be sold at parity for corn. The parity price of corn is somewhat lower than for wheat. All of which seemed like getting the wheat and the corn mixed up. Wheat sold ~~at~~ ^{at} parity - for-corn might appear to be neither fish nor fowl, or rather -- neither white biscuits nor corn bread.

However, there is a point in the paradox. The reason the Government wants to sell the wheat is because there is a shortage of feed, and the wheat would be disposed of as fodder for cattle and hogs. Therefore it would be in competition with corn, which is so commonly fed to the cow and the porker. If wheat were sold below the parity for corn, it would tend to beat down the prices paid to the corn farmer.

I hope that is all crystal clear; but, ~~if not -- neither is this. The joint committee having arrived at their wheat-corn compromise, got into a snarl about which House of Congress should consider the agreement first -- the Senate or the Lower House.~~

SABOTEURS

At the trial of the Nazi saboteurs in Washington today, the main business consisted of the reading of documents. This was indicated in a brief statement issued by General McCoy, head of the military commission. One surmise is that among the documents read might have been confessions made by some of the saboteurs.

The navy today issued a statement concerning one of the persons accused of aiding the Nazi secret agents -- one Anthony Kramer. He's under arrest for helping the saboteurs during the time that they were at large in this country -- and there's a report that he at one time worked at the Brooklyn Navy yard. They say he was employed on a warship construction job. The Navy states that this Anthony Kramer did certify for a job at the Navy yard, but he was never employed there -- never reported for work.

EXCUSE

At Camp Devens, Massachusetts today - - Private Charles Mitchell faced the music. He faced the music because he faced the music. That may seem a bit ~~p~~ repetitious, but it is this way.

After a three-day furlough, Private Mitchell was late in getting back to camp, and was called up before the Captain. So you ~~xxx~~ see - - he was facing the music. Why was he late? "It had better be a good excuse," growled the captain. And it was.

Said Private Mitchell: "I was about to get on a bus when I heard a band playing the Star Spangled Banner," he is a good ~~xxxx~~ soldier, so he did what regulations required.

"I turned and stood at attention, facing in the direction of the music," he said. "And when it was over, the bus had ~~gone~~ gone."

"Explanation okay," said the captain, who knows ~~that~~ that a soldier must face ~~the~~ the music, especially that kind of music.

LADY ASTOR

8
1

Today in the London Parliament, Lady Astor put in a complaint, and was told what to do about it. The American-born heiress is famous for her conversation, so she hardly relished that prescription - - silence. Say nothing for the duration.

Lady Astor arose in Parliament and protested to the Minister of Information - - because the Nazis were misquoting her. Every time she said anything, Hitler's mouthpiece Goebbles was picking it up, twisting it around, and misrepresenting her meaning. So she demanded that the British Government do something about it.

8 1/2

It is hard to see what her ladyship thought the British Government could do. Maybe she thought they should start right out and capture Berlin - - to keep her statements from being misrepresented by Goebbles.

"Or, of course, there was still another solution -- as ^{way} difficult to avoid such a problem," said the ^{Minister!} ~~H.P.~~ "It" for the remainder of the war, ^{for} the noble lady ^{to} preserved an iron silence."

59

And now, for tonight, I'll lapse into an iron silence and let Hugh get a few final words off his chest.

IRREGARDLESS

This afternoon I dug out a copy of the great old play, "The Rivals," -- masterpiece of that prince of comic writers, Richard Brindsley Sheridan. This was not in the nature of a literary exercise. I was looking up a cousin of mine, that dear delightful lady -- Mrs. Malaprop.

She is one of the classical characters of comedy, Mrs. Malaprop-- with her inimitable way of balling up the English language. She likes fine big words, and alwsys getss them tangled. For example, when she should say -- "hysterics", Mrs. Malaprop exclaims, "Oh, it gives me the hydrostatics." Another time holding forth on fine language, she speaks of "a nice derangement of epitaphs."

I feel myself to be a cousin of Mrs. Malaprop after the word I used the evening before last, when I said -- the Germans were advancing IRREGARDLESS of losses. Nice melodious word -- "irregardless."

Somehow, I was quite unconscious of any thing being wrong, and was astonished to get a prompt blast

from the radio audience. Letters piled in yesterday and today - a shower of ridicule. There is no such word -- say they. That sent me to dictionary, where the worst was confirmed. No "irregardless."

Somehow, I must have been hypnotized about those unfortunate syllables. And here's the only way I can explain it. I could have used either of two words -- "regardless" or "irrespective". I had the two words in mind as alternatives, and blithely proceeded to combine "regardless" and "irrespective" making it "irregardless."

So that is why this afternoon I dug up "The Rivals," to renew acquaintance with my dear old cousin, Mrs. Malaprop. But now let's forget it all, or as Mrs. Malaprop says, "We will not anticipate the past. Our retrospection will be all to the future."

And now come what may, regardless, irrespective, or even irregardless, let's hear from Hugh.