

The state of the railroads was expressed clearly by Secretary of War Stimson in his radio address tonight. He said:- "The railroads have been taken over intact. There will be no alterations in schedules, service or personnel because of the change. The same men will operate the trains, the yards, the shops, the stations and all other installations in precisely the same way as before." In other words, the Army just takes its place as the big boss -- and nothing else is changed.

Secretary Stimson made it clear that no strike will be tolerated. And if a walk out is staged soldiers will be used to keep the war-traffic moving on the railroads. This is to the point because the three operating unions which refused to accept the arbitration of the President have thus far not called off the strike scheduled

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for December thirty-first. It is believed, however, that they will back down -- rather than order a walk out against the government.

President Roosevelt today declared that once it is certain that the railroad workers will stay on their jobs then it will no longer be necessary for the government to retain control of the rail lines of the nation.

SECOND FRONT

Today in Washington the United States High Command stated that there has been no disagreement with the British Army Command concerning the proportion of American and British troops to be used in launching the Second Front. <sup>This</sup> ~~the American~~  
~~and the British war leaders are of the same mind about the percentage of Americans and the percentage of British respectively. It would appear that this~~  
declaration was made <sup>seemingly</sup> ~~today~~ in reply to a thing said by Senator Johnson of Colorado, who stated that the Second Front invasion force will be <sup>preponderantly</sup> ~~preponderantly~~ American -- seventy-three percent Americans, with British and Canadians making up the remaining twenty-seven percent.

Today's announcement by the United States Chiefs of Staff did not have anything to say about the percentage figures for Americans and British,

but it did point out that ~~the~~ the population of Great Britain is only one third of the population of the United States, and also, that Britain has more men fighting in the Mediterranean theater of war than we have. (On the basis of population of only one third of ~~our~~ ours, the British percentage of the invasion force would figure to be thirty-three-and-a-third. Americans sixty-six-and-two-thirds. And, if the fact that there are more British troops than Americans in the Mediterranean ~~to~~ be taken into consideration, the British proportion in the Second Front invasion would be less than thirty-three-and-a-third and the American proportion would be greater than sixty-six-and-two-thirds.)

The Chiefs of Staff in their declaration

go on to give us the first official clue of the geographical area in which the Second Front blow will be struck. Hitherto, such high leaders as President Roosevelt and General Eisenhower have mentioned no particular area. But the President himself used the exceedingly general phrase --"from other points on the compass". Today, ~~however~~, we are told the Second Front will be launched in -- northwestern Europe. So, say the Chiefs of Staff in Washington. Of course, northwestern Europe itself is not very specific and could mean anything from the northern tip of Norway to the western tip of northern France.

Meanwhile, President Roosevelt has announced some more commanders ~~and~~ for our troops over in Europe. He stated today that the American forces in the Mediterranean ~~in~~ theater will be

commanded by Lieutenant General Jacob Devers, who  
~~will serve under supreme Mediterranean Commander,~~  
~~British General Wilson and~~ Our air commander in  
the Mediterranean area will be Lieutenant General  
Ira Eaker.

How about the Eighth ~~an~~ American Air Force  
operating out of Britain -- those mighty sky  
squadrons that have been <sup>carrying</sup> ~~striking~~ America's burden  
in the bombing of Nazi Germany from the North?  
They get a new commander and he <sup>is</sup> Major General  
James H. Doolittle. The one-time ace of speed and  
acrobatic <sup>also</sup> flyers, Jimmy Doolittle, has had a  
prominent command in the Mediterranean. Now he  
goes to Britain to command the Eighth Air Force  
which will strike for America in the air operations  
preceding and accompanying the second front. ~~He~~  
~~will serve under British Air Marshall Sir Arthur~~

ITALY

In Italy American troops of the Fifth Army have <sup>now</sup> ~~now~~ completed the capture and ~~consolidated~~ consolidation of mountain ~~pos~~ positions overlooking the plain leading to Rome. The Fifth Army <sup>both British and American</sup> ~~Army~~ now holds the rest of the dominating heights -

this following the capture of a ~~fourth~~ four

<sup>foot</sup> thousand range called Sannucro. <sup>From these heights they are thrusting down into the defenses of San Vittore.</sup> The Eighth Army, across the Peninsula,

scored new gains in the ~~the~~ vital battle for

<sup>And -</sup> Ortona. The Germans announce they are evacuating

Ortona.

<sup>Also,</sup> from the Mediterranean war front

we have an astonishing story. It's about an

amazing creature that is a cross between a duck ~~and~~

a billy goat, a lion, and a bull dog. What kind

of prodigy is that? "The American infantry soldier,"

says Captain Vincent Ruwet of Torrington, Connecticut,

Who is, a member of the headquarters staff. He added that

today ~~that~~ the fighting in Italy had proved

~~that~~ the American ground soldier <sup>to be</sup> is a duck = ~~xxx~~

when the going is ~~not~~ wet, a billy goat for climbing 5

the mountains, a lion for courage, and a bull-

dog for tenacity.



RUSSIA

Stockholm states that the German High Command has ordered the evacuation of Jitomir.

This follows a Moscow dispatch stating that Soviet

forces were storming the approaches of Jitomir. *And Soviet troops have driven to within 4 miles of Korosten. A telling*  
~~The fall of that city would be a telling~~  
indication of the failure of the great Nazi counter

offensive in the Kiev sector, the counter offensive that achieved spectacular successes in the capture of the great strongholds of Jitomir and Korosten.

~~The Nazis have lost most of the ground they gained after weeks of desperate fighting. Jitomir, and Korosten would connect -- to complete the success of the great Soviet assault that has countered the Nazi counter-offensive.~~

<sup>A</sup>~~The~~ major Soviet threat is directed against the great military center ~~called~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~Vitebsk~~ Vitebsk, where the Nazis have been counter-attacking. They've been beaten back, with the Russians making advances.

## WAR CRIMINALS

It was disclosed in London today that the first official proposal has been made <sup>for</sup> ~~of~~ the trial of Hitler and other Nazi war criminals. Formal demand has been submitted to the United Nations by the exiled government of Czechoslovakia, ~~and we hear that it is to be considered by the United Nations War Crimes Commission at its next meeting, January Fourth.~~

*likewise*  
We hear <sup>^</sup> that members of the War Crimes Commission are in favor of using Kharkov as a pattern -- that Soviet trial at Kharkov which resulted in the hanging of three Nazi war criminals. ~~The~~ three Nazis made the plea that they had committed atrocities only in obedience to orders from their superiors. The Soviet court refused to accept this defense. So presumably that would be the attitude of the members of the United Nations War Crimes

~~Commission - if they adopt a Kharkov trial as a  
pattern  
XXXXXXXX for the future punishment of war crimes.~~

All of which coincides with a new revelation from Soviet Russia, in which we are told of statements made by a captured German staff officer. This ~~is~~ prisoner of war declares that Hitler gave formal orders for what the staff officer calls "permanent mass murder".

"His plans" declares the prisoner, "included a demand to wipe out the whole Russian intelligensia, economic leaders, engineers, officers and so forth.

*Hitler*  
He described this permanent mass murder", the officer goes on, "as necessary for the destruction of Bolshevism and the Germanization of the East".

~~The story adds that the German Generals  
opposed  
were ~~opposed~~ to this murder program at first,  
claiming that it might impair the discipline of the~~

SCHARNHORST

The British version of the sinking of the Scharnhorst corresponds closely to the German account, which was given yesterday. Today London released a graphic story, which pictures the Nazi battleship as an outguessed and outwitted sea giant, which was caught in a trap -- encircled.

When the Scharnhorst came dashing under the cover of fog to attack the ~~Arctic~~ Arctic convoy bound for <sup>Arctic</sup> Russia, the first British craft to spot the monster raider was the Cruiser Norfolk. And the Nazi Norfolk, accompanied by other British cruisers immediately assailed the battleship though its eight-inch cruiser guns should have been no match for the eleven inch cannon of the Scharnhorst. The Norfolk opened fire and scored a direct hit with an eight inch shell -- and meanwhile something still more important, the Norfolk sent a radio call

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to the new British battleship the Duke of York, which was in the convoy escort. And the Duke of York, with other warships started on a long dash to the scene of the battle. <sup>IX</sup> The Scharnhorst, apparently might have got away, but elected to hang on the edge of the convoy and exchange shells with the cruisers. A ponderous eleven incher scored a hit on the Norfolk but in exchange a British destroyer hit the Scharnhorst with a torpedo which slowed the speed of the battleship. <sup>X</sup> Meanwhile, the Duke of York with its own squadron was closing in -- and the British strategy was deadly. The Duke of York cut in behind the Scharnhorst between the Nazi battleship and the Norwegian coast. That blocked the retreat of the Scharnhorst -- the line of retirement <sup>to</sup> ~~of~~ the safety of the <sup>[Fjords of the Norwegian]</sup> coast. <sup>XI</sup> What followed then was like sea wolves hunting down an

oceanic head of game. <sup>As</sup> The scharnhorst tried desperately to weave its way out of the trap and break to the shelter of the coast. It was raked from stem to stern by shells. And, ~~was~~ torpedoed by destroyers - one of which was damaged by a hit. Until finally -- the Nazi battleship was a mass of flame and smoke and a British cruiser was sent ~~into~~ finish it off. The Jamaica delivered the final ~~ix~~ torpedo stroke and sent the Scharnhorst ~~ix~~ to the bottom -- just as earlier in the war the great Nazi Bismark was finally sunk by the torpedo of a cruiser sent in to make an end of the Nazi.

NEW BRITAIN

On the island of New Britain the Marines have driven to within a mile and ~~xx~~ a half of the Japanese air base at Cape Gloucester. One major purpose of the expedition was to sieze the flying field and this now seems to be at hand. The Marines were advancing today through the thickest kind of jungles. The Japanese fought back but headquarters describes American casualties in these two encouraging wofds:- "extremely light".

DESTROYER

Secretary of the Navy Frank Know was wrong today, when he <sup>enumerated</sup> ~~stated~~ the losses we sustained in the landings at Cape Gloucester, New Britain.

The Secretary declared that the only American ships to be sunk were a destroyer and a small coastal transport. And he compared this with the claims the Japanese are making, their usual extravagant yarns about heavy American losses. Tokyo piles it on thick, <sup>with</sup> ~~the~~ statements that in the Cape Gloucester landings two American cruisers were sunk and two large transports.

These Japanese tall tales are all wrong, of course, but neither was the statement made by Secretary Knox today entirely correct. He said we lost <sup>only</sup> two ships, a destroyer and a coastal transport, <sup>and</sup> then immediately afterward the Navy announced later information. ~~that~~ The coastal transport



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had not been sunk, but only damaged. So the  
real American loss was only one vessel.

## SUBMARINES

American subs have sunk twelve more Jap ships. This was announced by the Navy today. The latest blows by the American's under sea fleet includes the sinking of one destroyer, seven freighters, two large ~~xxxxxxx~~ tankers, and two medium transports -- that much tonnage deducted from the ~~the~~ dwindling and hard pressed shipping with which the Japs are running their stolen island empire.

WILLKIE

~~While the political mind of the nation  
is thinking in advance of the nominating conventions  
of the coming year there is also a glance backward  
at the Republican Convention of Nineteen Forty.  
The glance takes the form of a prospective~~

~~Congressional investigation. This is demanded by~~

*Today*  
^ Senator Langer of North Dakota, *repeated his insistence*  
~~who is the author~~

~~of a resolution calling~~ for an inquiry into the  
nomination of Wendell Willkie *in 1940*

This follows the publication of a book,

the title of which is, ~~take off on Willkie's~~ ~~one~~

~~volume called~~ *not* ONE WORLD, *but is* ~~the name of the other~~

~~book~~ -- ONE MAN, WENDELL WILLKIE. The author

is C. Nelson Sparks, former Mayor of Akron, Ohio,

who says he was associated with Willkie in the

latter's old Ohio days. His book makes the charge

that the apparently spontaneous demand for Willkie

at the Republican Convention was not spontaneous at all. He says it was ~~xxxx~~ cooked up, cleverly organized and engineered by magnates of big business.

I, <sup>myself,</sup> ~~xxxx~~ have ~~still~~ a vivid recollection of that G. O. P. convention in Philadelphia. And my ears still ring with that insistent rhythmical chorus "We want Willkie", "We want Willkie". Can such outpourings, which seem to be right out of the heart, and the heat of emotion, be really the work of clever organization? This is as hard to believe as it is to think that the fond murmur of "I love you, I love you", can be anything but utterly and completely ~~and one hundred percent~~ sincere.

The book, ONE MAN, WENDELL WILLKIE, likewise presents what is claimed to be a letter written by Harry Hopkins, with Hopkins declaring that Wendell

*Willkie*

^ nomination in Nineteen forty, and ~~inquiry into~~

~~the charges that the supposed to be spontaneous~~

~~1918 earthquake was really a carefully planned~~

~~outbreak of spontaneity.~~ The investigation is to be

held by <sup>a</sup> Senate sub-committee on elections, and we are

told that the first witnesses called will be Senator

Langer and Wendell Willkie. And Langer says that

he is going to ask that Harry Hopkins be summoned

to testify.

## NEW DEAL

President Roosevelt was in an alegorical mood today. He spoke in parables. At the White House conference he was asked about the fact that he no longer likes the term -- "New Deal", to which he explained that he thought the expression New Deal was rather on the puerile political side of things. But after all, he elucidated, some people have to be told how to spell cat. Well, ~~me~~ I wonder how many of us really have to be told <sup>that</sup> -- c-a-t spells cat. But then, as I said, the President was in an alegorical mood and he propounded the following parable. P He said the New Deal came into existence originally because there was an awfully sick patient. The United States -- suffering from internal disorder. Whereupon in Nineteen Thirty-three the patient sent for the Doctor - Doctor New Deal, and after nearly ten years of

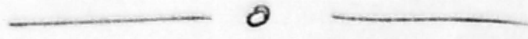
treatment the ills were remedied.

But on December Seventh, Nineteen forty-one, the country suffered a severe accident, a severe smashup. The patient suffered a broken leg and a broken arm and other injuries.

And he certainly needed the Doctor all over again. But, the President explained today old Doctor New Deal was a specialist in treating internal disorders, so the patient had to call in another medico for surgical help. He called in Doctor Win-The-War.

*From*  
all of which we gather that the New Deal  
is in the discard -- the old Doctor is in the  
ash can. *And the bright young surgeon is the Doctor*  
of the hour. *Win-the-War* After this President *ial* allegory, F.D.R.  
was asked -- what about a fourth term? But he evaded  
that one -- and refrained from uttering either a

parable, a fairy tale, or a bedtime story on  
the subject of a fourth term.



~~And now Terry O'Sullivan,  
who is an expert at pronouncing  
Sunoco!~~



FOLLOW NEW DEAL

The dialogue took this form. After the parable of the patient and the Doctors, a newspaper man asked:-

"Does all that add up to a fourth term declaration?"

"Oh now" responded the President, "we are not talking about things like that. You are getting picayune," and he added, "that's a grand word to use -- picayune".

It was a grand word to use and so was the term dunce cap -- several years ago. Some while before the Nineteen Forty presidential campaign began a reported <sup>π</sup> asked the President whether <sup>he</sup> ~~he~~ would seek a third term. On that occasion the inquisitive ~~REPORTER~~ reporter was advised to go into a corner and put on a dunce cap.

Picayune -- dunce cap, third term, fourth --  
doctor, lawyer, merchant chief -- just playing  
White House.

And now Terry O' Sullivan.

RAILROADS

P.T. - Sun. Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1943.

President Roosevelt today declared that, once it is ~~xxxx~~ certain that the railroad workers will stay on their jobs, <sup>then it</sup> ~~there~~ will ~~be~~ no longer ~~be~~ necessary for the government to retain control of the rail lines of the nation. To this he added that he had no news of whether or not the strike-order will be cancelled by the three remaining railroad brotherhoods that are holding out. However, from other sources we hear that there is little ~~xxxxxxxx~~ likelihood of the unions calling the strike scheduled for December thirty-first; ~~As~~ ~~And there is~~ not much possibility that they will order a ~~xxxx~~ walk-out against the government.

Today the railroads ran as usual under the direction of the Army -- with Lieutenant General Somervell the big boss. The Army, we hear is

ready for any eventuality -- including a ~~xxx~~  
scheduled strike. Army ~~xx~~ authorities were making  
a survey today to determine how many soldiers  
had railroad experience and might be put on trains  
in the event of a strike. <sup>TR</sup> However, we'll hear  
about all of this from Secretary of War Stimson  
who is scheduled to explain the Army operation  
of the railroads. He'll do it by radio -- and  
mighty soon, at seven P.M. eastern war time,  
only a few minutes from now.