

FRENCH TRIAL

P.T. - Sunoco. Friday, Feb. 27, 1942.

Over in France ~~where~~ the war guilt trials are
being held ^{and} today brought something of a sensation.
Former Premier Daladier was making his defense -- and
he brought in the name of General De Gaulle. In
Vichy circles De Gaulle as the leader of the Free
French is anathema, which made it all the more
striking when Daladier cried:- "It was an honor to
me to have named him a General, the youngest in the
French Army." ^{Then} the statesman who was Premier when
the European War broke out went on to state that France
had thirty-six hundred tanks and armored cars, while ^{the}
~~the~~ ^{German} blitzkrieg was launched with two thousand. The
French Army was superior in the number of its tanks.
^{Why} then was ~~the~~ it so swiftly defeated? The reason
said he was that the Nazis massed their tanks to
strike a heavy blow, while the French High Command
dispersed its own armored equipment into small groups.
Daladier stated that DeGaulle the youngest General
had repeatedly urged his superiors to revise their
tank tactics, and concentrate the armored power for
smashing drives. But his exhortations were not listened ^{to}

said Daladier.

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FRANCE

Vichy, France, has given formal assurances to the United States ^{that} the Petain Government intends to remain neutral and will not turn the French fleet over to Nazi Germany. This was announced today by Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles. [#] He revealed that on February Tenth, President Roosevelt sent a personal message to Marshal Petain, and told him that the United States was displeased by reports that the French were aiding the Axis forces in Libya. The President restated the American position toward the Vichy Government, which is - that the Petain regime should go no further ^{than} ~~in~~ the terms of the Armistice it signed with Hitler. If Vichy, France, should do anything to help the Nazis beyond the provisions of the Armistice agreement, the United States would consider Petain in the class of people who are helping the ^{enemies} ~~enemies~~ of the United States.

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To this the Vichy Government now has replied - with a promise to maintain neutrality and keep the French fleet out of German hands. Sumner Welles, however, made the comment that this did not constitute full satisfaction. He said that several other important questions would have to be cleared up, before the United States could say - Okay.

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INDIES

The Dutch authorities in the East Indies believe that the Japanese invasion attempt is about to begin. They say that all signs point to the fact that the enemy is ~~about~~ ready for what will be the critical battle of the Indies.

Dutch and American planes continue to lash at the Jap invasion preparations. The latest blow was struck on the Sumatra side. Air squadrons of the United Nations blasted naval vessels and shore ~~installments~~ ^{equipment.} They say that heavy damage is indicated, but the attacking planes could not spot their hits with any clearness -- because of the way that enemy fighting planes came racing against them. The bombers had to devote all their attention to ^{battling} ~~fighting~~ their way out.

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BURMA

Tonight's news from Burma confirms and expands what we had last night. Namely that the British Empire ^{are} forces have ^{virtually} evacuated the southern part of the country, including Rangoon. They have swung northward for a defense ^{of} at Mandalay. A Chinese dispatch from Chungking states that the defenders have left only a small holding force to oppose the Japanese in their advance upon Rangoon.

The enemy air losses continue to be heavy. The British report ~~that~~ thirty Japanese war planes were shot down in air fights over Rangoon.

India

Today, the first enemy blow was struck against ^{a part of vast} ~~territorial~~ India - the Andaman Islands. These ~~are~~ ^{are} historic bits of land in the Bay of Bengal -- between India and the Malay peninsula, - ^{Not so far} ~~they're over on the~~ ^{from Malaya. But they} ~~Malay side. But~~ are a part of the government of India.

Japanese planes bombed the Andaman Islands, and the supposition is that this ^{is a} prelude ^{to} ~~for~~ a possible invasion.

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The seizure of the Andaman Islands would be
a normal strategy in ^athe Japanese ~~xxxxxx~~ thrust ~~to~~
[^]
~~cross the water~~ in the direction of India.

PHILIPPINES

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Tonight's late bulletin from the War Department summarizes the losses that the United States Army has inflicted on the enemy since the beginning of our part in the conflict. We probably sank nineteen Japanese vessels, and damaged thirty-one. These enemy losses include one battleship sunk and one badly smashed. One cruiser sunk and thirteen ^{cruisers} heavily damaged. And the list goes on with destroyers, transports, and so on.

Enemy planes shot down number two hundred and forty-five. We ^{losing} ~~lost~~ forty-eight - giving us a ratio of five to one. The list does not include victories accomplished by the American Volunteer flyers in Burma. They shot down a hundred and sixty-five, with a loss of only thirty-one for themselves.

In the Batan peninsula, General MacArthur reports that our forces have gained more ground in the

those
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that

local offensives we heard about yesterday. Americans

and Filipinos have pushed back the Japs at various

places, and are holding on to the territory that they've

captured.

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FLIERS

Up in Canada, ⁱⁿ Ontario, a German prisoner of war had in mind the idea that so often haunts a prisoner - escape. He was an aviator, Lieutenant Bruns. (~~He had~~

~~been shot down and captured in a sky battle across the and ocean, with numerous other Nazi captives had been taken to Canada and placed in a prison camp, at London, Ontario.)~~ Recently, because of some ailment or other,

he was transferred to the hospital. And anybody acquainted with the ^{law} of escape knows that a prison hospital is ^{often} ~~about~~ the easiest place for a get-away.

This was true in the case of the German war flier, Lieutenant Bruns. He got out of the hospital, and was on his way. Where he thought he'd go isn't any too clear, but in any case he decided he'd try hitch-hiking. Along the road he thumbed a ride. A car with three men stopped and picked him up. What ^{the} ~~the~~ escaped Nazi prisoner didn't realize was that the three

men were military pilots of the Royal Canadian Air Force. So he was in company of fellow airmen -- but not his team. The three Canadian fliers had no difficulty in spotting him at once -- with his thick German accent and the kind of clothing he wore. Two of them held him in the back seat of the automobile, while the third drove to the police, and tonight the Nazi aviator is back in the prison camp, probably trying once more to get to the hospital -- for another* go at it.

SINKINGS

Before dawn this morning

~~Last night~~ people on the Jersey coast near

Asbury Park saw a glare of light out on the ocean -

something burning, with a ~~glare~~ *burst* of flame. A ship on fire.

And the light on the horizon of the sea was so intense that it ~~was~~ could only be one thing - a blazing oil tanker.

This afternoon the Navy *gave out the story* ~~revealed the facts in the~~

~~case~~. Another ship torpedoed by a Nazi U-boat, another

tanker. Thus far only two survivors are accounted for,

and one tells how it happened. Able-bodied seaman

Forrestal relates that he was on watch - and saw the

Nazi U-boat. But he didn't recognize it - didn't

realize it was a submarine. The craft was on the surface

in the darkness, and had its running lights on. The

sailor thought it was a fishing boat, and signalled to

that effect. A couple of minutes later, *the* ~~a~~ torpedo hit.

SINKINGS - 2

The two survivors thus were picked up from a life raft. They tell of a lifeboat that got away from the stricken tanker, a boat crowded with other members of the crew. What happened to them is not yet known.

Still another tanker was lost last night off the coast of South Carolina - but this was an accident. The Navy Department revealed today that the oil ship CASIMIR was steaming along in the darkness, when another ship crashed into the starboard side -- ripped right into the engine room. The tanker immediately began to sink, and the crew took to the lifeboats. Five lives known to be lost -- possible seven. The ship that did the ramming, identity not disclosed, is reported to have reached port safely.

DEBT

In Washington, they're moving to raise the limit of the national debt -- to a hundred and twenty-five billion dollars. Chairman Doughton of the House Ways and Means Committee today announced that he will introduce legislation to lift the lid to that enormous amount.

The President's program calls for the investment of seventy-seven billion dollars in guns, ships and planes. Of this, the Treasury expects to raise twenty-seven billion by increasing the government's revenue -- nine billion dollars' worth of new taxes, for example. The remainder of the armament money will be procured on credit. That is -- added to the national debt. So the debt limit must be raised -- from sixty-five billions to a hundred and twenty-five billions, says Chairman Doughton.

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WAGE-HOUR

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The lower House of Congress today turned down the proposal to suspend the forty-eight hour week-eliminate the provisions for over-time. ~~In the Wage-Hour Act.~~ The Administration opposed the attempt to ^{abolish} ~~suspend~~ the Wage-Hour Act for the duration of the war. And this afternoon, Congress voted the same way - two hundred and twenty-six to sixty-two against the measure to call off the forty-eight hour week and the over-time.

FARM

The President said today that he doesn't like riders. He wasn't referring to horseback riders, but to a practice that Congress sometimes employs in passing legislation.

A congressional rider works like this. In passing a bill they tack an amendment on to it -- an amendment that may have nothing to do with the bill. For example, in voting a law to improve the nation's banking system, they might attach an amendment forbidding gin rummy on Sunday. That sort of thing is a rider, and the trick about it is that the President cannot veto the rider. To get rid of it, he has to veto the whole bill. So the rider business can be a device whereby Congress can impede the presidential veto.

F.D.R. used the adjective -- "reprehensible". He said the question of riders was not a matter of constitutional law, but of legislative ethics. Those far-fetched amendments are ^a matter of reprehensible ethics, he thinks. In other words, a rider should be on a horse and not on a law.

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In Congress -- they're threatening to produce a large and cantankerous kind of rider. The Senate has passed a bill forbidding the sale of the government-owned farm supplies at a figure less than that standard which they call parity. The President is opposed to this. Today he stated that the action of the farm bloc would raise the cost of eating in this country by a billion dollars. The Senate, however, voted against the word from the White House. ~~And~~ the bill was passed. Of course, the President can veto it.

This possibility now brings a threat from the farm bloc. They say they'll tack their farm price proposal onto the big war appropriation bill that's coming up. Thirty-two billion dollars for armament -- and in this they'll incorporate a farm price amendment. Then the President couldn't veto the ~~the~~ agricultural rider -- couldn't toss it out without vetoing the entire war appropriation. That's what provoked today's White House blast against riders.

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The President is in favor of that well known trucking motto - no riders allowed

BASEBALL

A presidential order issued today, makes things look a good deal better for the Boston Red Sox. It may seem odd to think that intervention by the White House can affect the winning of baseball games during the coming season - but here's the way it is.

Ted Williams is twenty-three years old, and an able-bodied citizen - as why wouldn't he be, after having led the American League in batting last year, hitting a lusty four hundred and two. TH ~~So~~ Ted was called up for the draft, and the only question was - dependency. *He might have listed the Red Sox who depend on him plenty.* He listed a dependent - his mother. The draft board, however, gave the batting champ a selective service rating of One-A - no deferrment. That was appealed up the line, from one board to another, and finally all the way to the White House.

And today President Roosevelt reversed the One-A decision. The White House finds that the

four hundred and two hitter should be deferred ~~on~~
~~grounds of dependency~~ - because of his mother. ^{Not} ~~And so~~
just the Sox, Now he's
~~the star of the Red Sox is~~ classified as Three-A.

So there you see how presidential intervention
has improved the prospects of the Boston baseball team.-

57
Without Ted Williams in the line-up, the Red Sox would
be minus their most potent punch.

There was a surprise turn of drama at New York's espionage trial today. One of the defendants took the witness stand and testified that he was a Jewish exile from Hitler's Germany.

Paul Botchardt testified that both of his parents were Jewish. He was a professor in a military school at Munich but was discharged when Hitler seized control of Germany.

Later he was sent to the concentration camp most dreaded and notorious, Dachau. He endured that ordeal until finally he was released -- then later he was able to get out of Germany.

That's the story the witness told today, and it certainly pictures a singular background for a Nazi spy. It reminds us of the allegation often made that the Gestapo, with unscrupulous cunning, makes a practice of planting spies among anti-Nazi refugees, even to the extent of representing Gestapo agents as Jewish exiles.

The testimony against Borchardt shows that

he was in correspondence with people in Germany and other places abroad. That he explained saying the people with whom he was in communication were relatives. One of these, a sister in Palestine.

AMERICAN SUBMARINES

Some well-deserved recognition was accorded today -- decorations given to American submarine commanders. Week after week we have had the news of how our undersea craft have been striking at enemy ships -- torpedoing and sinking. And now here's tonight's late Navy Bulletin telling us that medals have been awarded to seven of our skippers of the undersea. They are honored for what is called: "especially meritorious conduct". And the decoration they get is -- the Navy Cross.

58 1/2
Well, I know about the Navy Cross, as I did not know last night about the Order of the Silver Star and Purple Heart. *But I've been hearing* ~~I thought it must be something~~ *plenty* ~~oriental decoration, but I've been properly informed~~ -- by letter, telephone and telegram. One informative wire comes from the Military Order of the Purple Heart at Wyandott, Michigan: *It reads: -* "Our chapter happy to hear of the decoration of the Silver Star and Purple Heart awarded to a soldier of our armed forces. Surprised that you've never heard of the Military Order

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the wire goes on,
of the Purple Heart. This medal^{""} was first presented
to Daniel Bissell, August Seventh, 1782 by General
George Washington. First medal ever presented by our
government. We have chapters in all principal cities
of the country"

So there are the facts about the Purple Heart --
and is my face red.

59 1/2 But let's turn to Hugh
Whose shorts are clear!