

ATTU

P.T. Sunoco. Tuesday, May 18, 1943.

Let's
~~note~~ note tonight one significant geographical fact about the island of Attu. That small craggy bit of land has a sort of tail thrust out to the east, and at the place where the tail begins are two bays - one to the north and one to the south. These bays cut in rather deeply, with only a few miles of land between them - ~~a neck of less~~ *a stretchless* ~~than~~ *wide,* ~~five~~ *And that's* ~~miles~~ *wide.* ~~getting the anatomy confused~~ ~~so let's say that the eastern extension of Attu is connected with the main part of the island by a narrow stretch of land. That's where the fighting has been going on,~~ ~~by the Navy and~~ ~~disclosed~~ *So* ~~by the Navy and~~ by Secretary Knox today.

~~The Bay~~ *To* the north ~~is called~~ Holtz Bay.

To the south - Massacre Bay; which name may be taken as expressing what is going to happen to the Japs.

The American attack on Attu ~~is~~ *was* directed against these two bays - a twofold assault, ~~striking at the north~~

~~coast and the south coast, where the connecting link of land is the narrowest.~~ The main landings were preceded by a maneuver that sounds like a thriller indeed.

Today's Navy communique puts it in these terse military words: "The occupation began with scouting parties landing at Blind Cove, Holtz Bay, ~~located at the northeastern end of Attu~~"

Scouting parties landing at Blind Cove - in those words you can sense a nerve-tingling episode of war. We are told that the Japs were taken by surprise, so we may assume that the scouting parties got into Blind Cove secretly and undetected. Then, they went reconnoitering - in advance of the main landings. ~~It sounds like something new in the art of invading a hostile island, like some new wrinkle in command tactics.~~ A party of the toughest of the tough, getting ashore, stealing toward the enemy under cover and

concealment, and holding on until the main forces arrive.

~~The main landings were at Helms Bay and Massacre Bay~~
The principal landings
~~were covered by~~
~~the troops pushing to shore in~~
~~their boats~~ ~~were covered by~~ ~~cannon fire from warships~~
and bombs from planes, the Japs blasted from the
beaches. Both landings were successful, and now American
troops ^{were} on the north shore and the south shore of the
narrow strip of land, with only a few miles between them—
less than five. Not far to go, but a rugged ridge
separated ^d them.

~~Attu is a mountainous everywhere, a chaos of~~
~~mountains and craggy summits. And along the narrow neck~~
~~of land which links the island with its eastern~~
~~extension, runs a~~ ~~forbidding and precipitous ridge.~~
^{and}
It has no name, it rises twenty-five hundred feet,
and is the usual bleak and ~~rough~~ rocky barrier that you
find in the Aleutians. This was what our soldiers had to

conquer as ^{they} ~~from Holtz Bay and Massacre Bay, they~~
pushed toward each other - to effect a junction.

The Japs, taken by surprise at first, rallied and put up a fierce resistance. They were strongly placed, with many machinegun positions among the rocks ^{of} ~~and~~ the ridge - and they fought fiercely.

So you see the task that has faced our troops ever since they landed at Attu six days ago. They've had to capture the high, craggy, and fiercely defended ridge, to join forces. ^{which} ~~and~~ they have ~~done it~~ - That's the latest.

After days of violent fighting, they have smashed the Jap positions, and captured the ridge. ~~Today's communique~~ does ~~not~~ state specifically that they have joined ~~forces~~, but that would be the logical sequel. ~~The captured ridge~~ ^{and} ~~means that~~ the combined forces can ~~now~~ converge on the main Jap position - which is in the vicinity of Holtz Bay.

~~Such is the picture we have as the veil of military secrecy is lifted enough to give us a glimpse of the American invasion of Attu.~~

But We are warned that there will be heavy fighting before the rest of the island is captured. ~~Secretary Knox put it in these words today: "We must expect very serious, very stubborn, resistance. We have not only the Japs to contend with, but also the weather."~~ *Also* Attu is covered with heavy fog for an average of two hundred and eighty days a year, and Secretary Knox stated today that there has not been a single day of clear weather since our forces landed. ~~And that's a heavy handicap for our bombing planes.~~ Secretary Knox implied that if only one bright day came to Attu, our war planes could swoop over the island in huge force and bomb the Japs enough to cripple the defense.

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WAKE ISLAND

We ^{have} bombed Wake Island again; - ^{so} ~~this was~~

announced by the Navy today. The assault was made by Army Liberator bombers, which flew from Midway - no doubt. That means nearly twelve hundred miles - a long distance for a bombing raid. And the weather was ~~very~~ bad, stormy, rain and fog. There was considerable fighter opposition. The squadron of Liberators ran into a swarm of twenty-two Jap Zeros. Two of these were shot down - another probably.

This is the fifth time American bombers have blasted Wake - since the Japs took it early in the war. And ~~x~~ it was another blow to avenge the marines whose brave defense shed glory on the name - Wake Island.

HOSPITAL SHIP

Today Australia bitterly denounced the latest Jap atrocity, the torpedoing of the Australian hospital ship, CENTAUR. That vessel, with three hundred and sixty aboard, was navigating in strict accord with that clause of the Geneva Convention, which applies to hospital ships. The ~~en~~^{emy} powers had been notified that the CENTAUR was sailing, and the craft was unprotected and brilliantly lighted. Yet forty miles east of Brisbane, the Japs torpedoed the CENTAUR, which sank in three minutes - ~~with~~^{with} two hundred and ninety-nine lives ~~were~~ lost.

The ship was on its way from Australia to the New Guinea war front, and had no wounded aboard. It was taking doctors and nurses to New Guinea.

Today Australian Prime Minister Curtin stated: "The attack bore all the marks of wantonness and deliberation." And he added that the atrocity was just another indication of the savagery of the Far Eastern enemy.

FOSS

Today President Roosevelt bestowed a Congressional Medal of Honor, and never was one better deserved. At the White House, the President placed the ribbon of our highest decoration around the neck of Captain Joe Foss of the Marines - America's Number One ace of the air. In the South Pacific he shot down twenty-six Japanese planes, which equalled the record of Captain Eddie Rickenbacker in the last war, and ~~which~~ set a new individual mark for this war.

~~It happens that I have just written a book about the outstanding heroes of our first year in the war, sixty-five or seventy of them, and naturally looked up the exploits of Joe Foss. So, I am able to relate~~

Here's one of the dizzy ^(adventures) ~~exploits~~ for which ^{JOE FOSS} ~~he~~ became famous in the South Pacific. Dizzy is right - it was ^{a dizzy and} ~~an~~ enormous dive. ^P Joe Foss was flying at twenty-nine thousand feet, way up there ~~xxxxxx~~ near the stratosphere,

when he had a fight with a Zero. *And down went the Jap*
~~Down it went to~~
for a plunge into
~~destruction, plunging to~~ the sea below. And down
went Joe Foss, but in a different way. He dived to the
three thousand foot level, a drop of twenty-six thousand
feet, five miles. Why? Because down there he spotted two

At the end of his
Jap torpedo planes. ~~His~~ roaring power-dive of five
perpendicular miles, ~~took him down to the planes, and he~~

he
levelled off and ~~struck~~ *shot one down,*
~~riddled both of the torpedo planes,~~

~~one after another.~~ This he did before the Jap that he

had riddled upstairs fell for a crash into the sea. *It*
was still falling.

^ Joe Foss, in his tremendous dive, had beaten the falling

Jap in the five mile drop *-- with* ~~by~~ seconds to spare, ~~by~~

enough time to shoot down ~~one Jap~~ *another.* And then
he got the other Jap torpedo plane too.

~~That was the sort of thing which won the~~

~~Congressional Medal for Joe Foss of Sioux Falls, South~~

Dakota

DIAMONDS

At Melbourne, Australia, today three men were acquitted in a case that revealed a glaring episode of mystery and melodrama ^{-- a wartime} ~~an~~ affair of treasure, a fabulous hoard of diamonds, ~~valued at a half million dollars worth of diamonds.~~

In March of last year, the Japs were storming into Java, and the Dutch were evacuating - getting out what they could. The Netherlanders had quantities of diamonds in Java - Dutch and diamonds go together. One ~~lot~~ ^{lot} of a million and a half dollars ^{- worth} was packed hastily, a gleaming heap of diamonds poured into a sugar can. That was the treasure chest - an empty tin can that was lying around. This wealth of diamonds was taken aboard a plane, and flown out, bound for Australia.

Off the north coast of the island continent, the treasure plane was attacked by Jap Zeros, and was riddled with bullets. Four passengers in it were killed,

and the ^{Dutch} pilot was hit six times. Wounded as he was, he managed to make a crash landing on a remote beach. He retrieved the treasure ^{from the plane}, but felt unable to carry it— ~~as he started~~ walking his way out. So he buried the sugar can full of diamonds in the sand along the beach - taking careful note of landmarks that would enable him to find it again. ³ The Dutch pilot finally got to civilization, told his story, recovered from his wounds, and went back to get the diamonds. He found the place where he had buried them, and dug. The treasure was not there, the diamonds had disappeared. What had happened? Who had got them?

Two months later a man named Palmer walked into an army recruiting station in the Australian town of Perth, and showed the officials a tin can, ~~and it was~~ full of diamonds - it was the sugar can treasure which the Dutch pilot had buried. Palmer said he had found it

on a north Australian beach - the same place where the Dutch pilot had hidden it.

So far so good, but when the canful of diamonds was examined and checked, ^{it was charged that} not all the precious stones were there, not the whole million and a half dollars' worth. It was claimed that more than eighty thousand dollars of diamonds were missing. Whereupon an accusation of theft was made ~~against~~ - against Palmer, with other ~~other~~ men implicated. They were tried, and today were acquitted - found not guilty.

All of which leaves a lingering element of mystery in the war drama of diamonds.

R.A.F.

Last night the bombers of the R.A.F. raided far and wide into Germany again, striking at industrial areas; but, the news today concentrates on the catastrophic event of the night before - the smashing ^{of} the great dams in the Ruhr Valley. Word from within Germany indicates that the floods from the broken dams have been the greatest disaster inside ~~of~~ Naziland since

the war began. A number of cities were isolated or inundated by the surge of the waters, and thousands of — a state of emergency declared. lives were lost. ^RAerial reconnaissance by the R.A.F.

reveals that the millions of tons of ^{raging} water ~~turned loose~~ washed out bridges, power plants and pumping stations, and turned huge areas into shallow lakes. And today the flood was still not over, was still causing damage.

One result of the smashing of the dams was the bringing out of a new war hero for Britain - Wing Commander G.P.Gibson, who commanded the assault.

We are told the almost incredible fact that Wing Commander Gibson has been on a hundred and seventy-two air raids. The general ~~fact~~^{theory} is that about thirty are all that a pilot can stand. After thirty sorties, ^{fighter} ~~flights~~ ^{flights} or bomber raids, the pilot's nerves can take it no longer. That's the supposition - but here we have a veteran of a hundred and seventy-two sorties - a young ~~kid~~, smiling, affable.

You'd think he would have had enough of danger and desperation, but here is what Wing Commander Gibson did during the attack on the dams. He led his flight of Lancaster bombers, and was the first to drop the giant land mines on the barrier holding back the water. Then he stuck around in the thick of heavy anti-aircraft fire, swooping down at the guns and raking them with bullets - to throw the Nazi marksmen off their aim, while the other Lancasters came over and hurled their

land mines on the dam - blasting the barrier of concrete,
until the giant pressure of the water broke through.

CASUALTIES

The British Government today disclosed the magnitude of British losses during the fighting in Africa - they have been heavy. The figure is two hundred and twenty thousand men killed, wounded, missing or captured - that many in Africa in the course of nearly three years.

The Axis losses have been nearly four times as great; more than eight hundred thousand; largely in the form of prisoners - half a million Italians and Germans captured. A dispatch just in from General Eisenhower states that two hundred thousand were taken in Tunisia.

PLAYWRIGHT

Eight years ago, a gilded youth of a wealthy family perpetrated a headline hoax. He wanted to be a playwright, and tried the fantastic to further his ambition. Today's news about him is ~~very~~ different, no hoax, no fantasy - just the stark drama of war.

Caleb Milne, 4th, of a Philadelphia textile family, left college aspiring to become a famous writer of plays. He had discouragements, ^{and one day} ~~and~~ in Nineteen Thirty-Five he disappeared. The next day his grandfather, Caleb Milne, Jr. of Philadelphia, received a ransom note demanding twenty thousand dollars for the return of Caleb Milne, 4th. Then later, the youth was found bound and gagged in a ditch near New Brunswick, New Jersey. Nothing of which fooled the police. They, from the start, thought it was a hoax - and later Caleb Milne, 4th, admitted that he had sent the ransom note. ^{Out of which he} ~~He~~ got a lot of publicity, ^{— what} ~~which~~ he was looking for.

Years went by, and, after the war came, Caleb Milne, 4th, enlisted in the American Field Service-ambulance work. And today the story is revealed of how, as the Tunisian war approached the close, the one-time perpetrator of a famous hoax, was under heavy fire at the battlefront. He was helping to place two wounded French soldiers on a stretcher when a German mortar shell burst nearby, and Caleb Milne, 4th, was killed.

His heroism ^{was as} ~~is~~ real, as that old kidnapping had been a ~~fact~~ ^{hoax}.

WINDSOR

Today both President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill had conferences with the Duke of Windsor. Churchill had lunch with the ~~Duke~~ Duke and Duchess at the British Embassy in Washington, and then took them to the White House for a talk with the president -- who conferred with the Duke for an hour. On what subject? President Roosevelt stated this afternoon that he and the former Edward the Eighth discussed questions connected with the bringing of thousands of farm laborers into this country from Jamaica and the Bahamas -- the Duke being Governor of the Bahamas.

President Roosevelt added that his talks with Prime Minister Churchill are not yet complete, but are coming along in satisfactory fashion -- war planning for victory.

RUML PLAN

The Ruml Plan lost out in the House of Representatives again today -- for the third time. Following the President's implied threat to veto the bill for skip-a-year, if it passed.

Two hundred and two to one hundred and ninety-four. The Republicans for, and the Democrats against.

So far the third time the Ruml Plan has been defeated in the House, each time by a tiny margin. The Congressmen favor a compromise of seventy-five per cent forgiveness. The Senate has passed the Ruml Plan for one hundred per cent forgiveness. And now a joint committee will try to draft a bill agreeable to both houses.

Here's the latest:- Secretary Ickes says the coal strike must be solved by the War Labor Board! Now Hugh.