

L.I. - Sumoco. Tuesday, Feb. 23/43.

In Britain, a powerful demand for a Second Front follows the Red Army Day statement by Stalin - that Russia is bearing the whole burden of the war against Hitler. The British echo to that comes from Lord Beaverbrook, former Cabinet member and one of the most powerful figures in Great Britain. In the House of Lords today, Beaverbrook demanded an immediate invasion of Europe. He specified -

northwestern Europe, meaning an invasion launched from England. <sup>And,</sup>  
<sup>he</sup> ~~He~~ proposed an attack from the south as well - from Africa.

But he said that England was the best base of all for an assault against the Nazi dominated continent.

Beaverbrook urged that a Second Front, and, a Third Front should be launched at once before Nazi Germany could recover from the heavy blows dealt by Soviet Russia. His idea was that if the American and British let Hitler alone, Germany will have time to rally from defeats in Russia, and will muster strength to strike the Soviets again. We must not give him time, says Beaverbrook. We must not give the Japs time. He argues, the sooner the Nazis are knocked out, the sooner we can smash the Japs with full force and not let <sup>them</sup> ~~them~~ have leisure to develop the resources of the countries

they have conquered.

The Beaverbrook demand was echoed today by the Soviet Ambassador to London. He warned us not to be too optimistic because of the Russian victories. "Nothing," said he, "is more dangerous than the mood that the Germans are on the run and victory is just around the corner." He demanded a Second Front

now, so that Germany would be placed between the hammer and the anvil.

47  
If Pres. Roosevelt stated late this afternoon that ~~anvil~~ he considers the North African offensive as the beginning of a second front.

And, An invasion of the continent is expected by the Germans, so we are told. The French radio states that Nazi scout planes have discovered intense activity at British ports - invasion preparations. And we are given a picturesque detail. The Nazi pilots say they spotted what they call - immense artificial

clouds. They say the British <sup>have</sup> created these artificial clouds, some vast new device or concoction with which to hide invasion preparations at Channel ports.

AFRICA

Tonight's dispatch from Allied headquarters in North Africa uses these two words - "much better." That's what the doctor said about the patient, and it's the way our military position in Tunisia is described. The diagnosis of "much better" is based on the fact that the Americans and British have now established a well organized defense of artillery and armored forces, a defense so good that Rommel's drive has been stopped.

<sup>North</sup>  
The ~~North~~ Africa Korps has been driving through a mountain gateway called Kasserine Pass, and yesterday Rommel's panzers advanced to within four miles of an important place called Thala. Today - <sup>no</sup> ~~is~~ more advance. Rommel stopped! *at any rate*  
*Rommel has stopped.*  
To the south <sup>(of)</sup> the critical area that the Americans are

defending, the British are still edging toward the Mareth Line.

Today's dispatch describes the British action in these words - "probing for weak points." ~~They are~~ Thrusting here and there trying to find the soft spots - the usual preparation for a big drive.

RUSSIAN WAR

Moscow tonight captured two more important places.

One is a big town north of Kursk - this is up toward the Moscow front. The second place is the town of Sumy; ~~that's~~ a big German base northwest of Kharkov.

49  
The gist of it all is that the Red Army is continuing an advance that is punctuated daily by the capture of Nazi strongholds.

## SINKINGS

The Navy today released two stories that have a grimly satisfactory sound, as a sequence to the sombre news of the sinking of two American transport cargo ships, torpedoed by Nazi submarines - with the loss of eight hundred and fifty lives. While we are in a dark mood about that, let's take this.

In the Atlantic, states the Navy, a flotilla of American destroyers were speeding along. It was night, and in the dimness the destroyer flagship spied a vague dark form - a submarine. It was lying on the surface, and in raced the destroyer - the submarine fired a torpedo, but the destroyer was maneuvering too ~~slowly~~ <sup>fast</sup> to be a good target. The tin fish missed, but the five inch shells did not miss. The destroyer guns were blazing in the night, and one projectile smashed into the U-boat's conning tower - at the waterline. The explosion ripped the undersea prowler and just about tore it apart. "The destruction of the U-boat was complete," the Navy reports. That was Number One - news from the Atlantic.

Here's Number Two - from the Pacific, the sub a Jap.

This time a mere freighter was the hero of the occasion, a



lumbering cargo ship. Things began badly. At dusk, a sudden explosion - the freighter torpedoed without warning. The engine room was wrecked. The radio room demolished, the crew and passengers prepared to abandon ship.

The freighter was not sinking fast enough to suit the Japs. The submarine surfaced and started to finish off the craft with shell fire - range only two hundred yards. Easy range for the Jap - easy also for one stalwart American gunner, Charlie Sutherland of Nashville, Tennessee. He was sticking to his gun, and opened fire. Another gunner fired a couple of projectiles. He had only four shells - because the torpedoing had done the ammunition supply out of business and they couldn't get any more. But four shells were enough. Two direct hits were scored on the sub, and oil and debris covered the water. "She was definitely sunk," the Navy announces.

51  
As a final fillip, here's a story of a submarine belonging to our side. It bagged some big game - and "bagged" is a most appropriate word. The Allied sub torpedoed two Jap cargo ships loaded with forty thousand bags of rice. Nothing could be more likely to make the Jap weep than forty thousand large sacks of his rice going to the bottom of the sea.

~~I'm in Washington for a couple of days, and this~~

<sup>This</sup> here in Washington <sup>Although the Senate has</sup>  
afternoon <sup>took a stroll to the capitol.</sup> ~~The Senate had gone into~~  
<sup>recessed for a few days</sup> I ran across Sen. Warren Austin.  
~~session and I ran across Senator Austin of Vermont.~~

"How are things in the stately legislative halls?"

I asked him.

He responded by saying - ~~"strain, suspense,~~

~~under-currents, seething below the surface.~~ I've never seen the

Senate in such a suppressed state of unrest," <sup>said the Senator</sup> ~~he remarked~~  
<sup>from Vermont.</sup>

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"There is a tug of powerful forces, cross-currents, cross purposes -  
pulling this way and that. The Senate," he added, "is nervous, on  
edge. Senators get up and make heated statements. They say rash  
things, and then immediately afterward wish they hadn't said anything  
of the sort. They commit themselves angrily, and then the hasty  
declarations inhibit their action - they are tied up by what they  
have said."

"Is this," I asked, "because of the tremendous  
importance of the times, with decisions of war to be made?"

"Partly that," the Senator responded, "and partly

because Congress reflects the public state of mind, <sup>with</sup> ~~and~~ the people  
<sup>eager for leadership, but not dictation.</sup> Congress <sup>and the</sup>  
<sup>people</sup> are ill at ease," <sup>he went on.</sup> They feel they <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ being pushed around. They are -

and they have to be. That's what war means - in a desperate war like this the people hardly realize it, but they too are mobilized. In a way, they are drafted. They are under compulsion. They've got to obey rationing, price and wage fixing, the ban on pleasure driving - and many other edicts. A large part of the regulation is being imposed indirectly," Senator Austin went on. "And the public does not clearly perceive the origin of the order it gets."

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The Senator went on to say that he thought that much that is now being done indirectly could be accomplished by direct legislation. He pointed, for example, to the Manpower situation - the lack of a system that would place skilled workers where they are needed the most. This, he said, is one of the gravest of wartime perils - skilled labor accomplishing little or nothing in one locality, when it is badly needed in another locality. As a result, of this and other manpower confusions, we are producing only half of the armament that we must have to win the war. *On this point he agrees with Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker.*

Senator Austin said that the government is trying to solve manpower problems by bringing pressure to bear, *In his opinion* ~~but he~~ *thought that* legislation by Congress should do the job, *so that* ~~He is~~ *the pressure really comes from the people themselves,* *advocating a National Service Act, which would replace skilled labor*



where it is needed the most. <sup>And he added</sup> ~~He told me~~ that the Military Affairs  
Committee of the Senate <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ soon begin hearings on the subject of  
National Service legislation, <sup>— this time believing that such</sup> ~~and indicated his belief that such a~~  
a bill <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ pass.

FARM

54  
In Arizona, soldiers have been assigned to help in harvesting the ~~xxx~~ cotton crop. Arizona produces a fine brand of long staple cotton, and the crop is in danger because of a shortage of labor. The troop units were ordered to help get in the cotton - an emergency measure announced by the War Department today. <sup>R. The</sup> Soldiers will get their regular army rations and pay.

Last Friday we heard that President Roosevelt had approved of the idea of letting soldiers help ~~to~~ harvest crops, and today we have the first instance of this policy being put into effect - the first assignment of troops to agricultural work.

This is along the line of demands made by farm legislators in Congress, ~~But~~ they say it is not enough. Senator Smith stated today that troops helping with the Arizona cotton was inadequate. Senator Smith himself is a cotton farmer <sup>-- and</sup> he's called "Cotton Ed."

The farm bloc attitude was expressed today at a hearing before the Senate Military Affairs Committee which is considering the problems of manpower. Senator Bushfield of Texas put it in these words: "Harvesting isn't the main point at issue, and

neither is planting. It's the cultivation of the crop that is important, and that cannot be done by untrained men."

At the same time, the Department of Agriculture was taking action - by removing the acreage control of wheat.

Hitherto, wheat farmers have been called to restrict the amount of land they cultivate. Also - the quantities of wheat that ~~they~~ they sell in the markets have been restricted. ~~Now~~ Both restrictions are removed. The farmer <sup>now</sup> can cultivate and sell as much wheat as he desires.

We hear that Cotton will come next; - (there'll be no more

restriction on the amount of cotton that farmers may grow.

And, ~~now~~ - eggs. The Government today put a ceiling on the wholesale price of eggs. Hitherto, there has been no limitation on egg prices, but now, wholesalers will not be permitted to charge ~~any more~~ any more than about forty cents a dozen for Grade "B" eggs. The ceiling on Grade "A" will be about two cents higher.

REJECTIONS

There are a lot of jokes and wheezers about how the Army nowadays isn't rejecting anybody. If you've got one leg left, they will take you - and that sort of thing. They get a lot of laughs, but here is a news account from Washington to indicate the prevailing crop of rejection gags contain more ~~truth than~~ <sup>poetry than truth.</sup> ~~poetry.~~

for  
Army figures ~~show~~ <sup>^</sup> rejections from May to December, Nineteen Forty-Two, show that one man out of every three has been ~~rejected~~ turned down because of physical or mental disability. The Army now numbers something like six million men, meaning - nine million called, three million turned down.

A whole series of disabilities are listed, and it may be a surprise to know that of all on the list the most important is - mental disability. This ranges all the way from psychosis and neurosis to emotional instability and erratic ideas - the sort of thing that might make men crack up under the stress and strain of war.

Prominent on the list are heart trouble and bad eyesight. Among gag writers, listed at the top are flat feet, but not according to the Army doctors. <sup>The medics</sup> ~~They~~ <sup>^</sup> kill a lot of laughs by putting ~~fixing~~

REJECTIONS - 2

fallen arches way down the line - the percentage falling as low  
as the arches. So they'll have to cut out the levity about

rejections and flat feet. ~~I don't know why, but there are so few~~

~~except that maybe cops seldom join the Army.~~



PHILHARMONIC

There is a frightful lot of discord in New York's world of music - ~~it~~ with sour notes all over the place. The trombone is bellowing with rage, violins and piccolos are screaming with pain, and the big bassoon sounds like raspberries. ~~This might seem to be no more than a local disturbance, amid a world of harmony, were it~~

~~not for the fact that~~ <sup>And</sup> today the legislature of the State of New York took up the subject of the <sup>New York Philharmonic</sup> symphonic mix-up in the big town.

~~I don't know what the lawmakers can do to straighten out the feud, - it might take the genius of a Bach, Beethoven or Brahms to do that.~~

~~It's all because the~~ <sup>See</sup> New York Philharmonic Orchestra ~~has~~ engaged a new conductor, Dr. Rodzinsky, and ~~you might expect that to be followed~~

~~by some beautiful chords.~~ <sup>The first thing the Doctor did was to have</sup> ~~some musicians fired - fourteen of them, including~~ <sup>suggest melodiously - that fourteen musicians of the orchestra</sup>

~~should be fired. - And to the fourteen, the Philharmonic management~~

~~addressed the familiar refrain - "Your services are no longer~~

~~required." The fourteen included some eminent musicians, one~~

~~the concert maestro, Piastro. The result? was - a fortissimo. Like~~ <sup>a crescendo by Stravinsky.</sup>  
~~The uproar marking a crescendo like something by Stravinsky.~~

~~The fourteen raised a chorus of protests, and the other musicians sympathized with them.~~

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 A complaint was made to the Union, on the grounds that Dr. Rodzinsky had branded the musicians as - "unfit." And that would keep them from getting other jobs. Today, Union action was taken, and the newly appointed conductor of <sup>the</sup> Philharmonic will be tried before a Union Committee.- He'll have to answer charges, and if he is found guilty, the maximum penalty would be for him to be deprived of his Union card - for the conductor himself is a Union member. He has to be - to ~~lx~~ direct union orchestras. If his card were taken away, he could not direct any symphony orchestra in the country. In other words - instead of firing, he'd be fired. ~~By way of a lesser punishment - he might have to pay a fine, give the jobs back to the dismissed musicians, and apologize to them. Altogether, it's quite a jumble of harmony, melody and orchestration.~~

58 1/2  
 This jumble of orchestral disharmony having  
~~The piercing sounds have~~ echoed all the way to Albany,

and today Assemblyman Mitchell of ~~New~~ Manhattan placed before the New York State Legislature a resolution deploring the symphonic rumpus, and calling for the facts to be placed before the

lawmakers. The Assemblyman says that the musical fame of <sup>Gotham</sup> ~~New York~~ City is in jeopardy, <sup>all</sup> because <sup>N.Y.</sup> of the Philharmonic <sup>symphonic disharmony</sup> is filled with ~~disharmony~~ between Rodzinsky, Piastro et al. And s.l.u.T.m.