

SHIPWRECKS

C. J. - Sunoco. Tues., Feb. 5, 1946 (Palm Beach)

From off the coasts of Alaska, Mexico and Britain come stories of shipwrecks. Great storms are raging in those waters, and the news brings dramatic stories of the peril of the sea.

In the Alaska shipwreck there are scenes of terror that seem to belong to the old days of canvas in the wind, when ships were so much at the mercy of the sea and the gale. Yet it happened to a modern steamer, a sturdy ship driven by powerful engines.

The S S Yukon was bound from Alaska to the States, with four-hundred-and-fifty passengers and ~~xxx~~ crew aboard -- one-hundred-and-sixty of them home-coming G I's. The steamer was caught in a wild storm and blizzard off Seward, Alaska, ^{— off Resurrection Bay} The gale was so violent, the ship couldn't make ~~xxxxx~~ headway against the blast of the wind -- and was driven onto a reef in Johnstone Bay. The Yukon was thrust upon the rocks, smashed upon them, by the fury of the waves.

Johnstone Bay off Seward is not far from help, and rescue boats put out to save lives. They

reached the Yukon, ~~similar~~ ^{there} impaled on the rocks, ~~and~~ were about to take off fifty women and children -- women and children first. The ~~same~~ ^{old} story of the sea. But that was the end of the rescues for the time being at least.

The alarm was raised -- the ship was breaking in two. ~~The stern~~ ^{Stern} ~~was~~ breaking off. The four hundred still aboard were herded forward. And then, a great cracking and rending sound and the roar and turmoil of sea and storm -- and the afterpart of the Yukon broke off.

The stern, pounded by the waves, slid downward from the rocks -- and seemed about to go over, edge into a fifteen hundred foot depth of water.

There was fear that the forward part of the ship with its four hundred imperiled human beings, would fall the same way -- slide down into the depth of the sea -- ~~that~~ ^{that} lie off Johnston reef. And all aboard ~~would~~ be lost.

~~But~~ The forward part was firmly impaled on the jagged icy rocks of the reef; and remained stuck there.

The Yukon broke in two at night, last night, with the storm growing more violent by the hour. The rescue ships were helpless, seven of them standing by, tossing on the sea, ~~not~~ not daring to venture into the maelstrom of roaring breakers that smashed up ^{on} the reef. All night their search lights played on the forward part of the ship stuck on the rocks -- ~~and~~ ^{with} four hundred lives to be saved. This continued on into the day with news dispatches telling from time to time that the rescue boats were still unable to approach the wreck. The hopeful word came in weather reports -- reports that the storm was veering east, the tempest veering away from the wreck of the Yukon so that the task of rescue might be done.

Off the west coast of Mexico, two ships have gone to the bottom - - with a ~~great~~ loss of more than seventy lives, apparently. One ~~was~~ an American fishing vessel. The distress signals of which were

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picked up by the Mexican freighter and passenger ship -- the Santo Tomas. The larger vessel went to the aid of the smaller -- and both were lost. This occurred off the shore of the Mexican state of Sonora, a rugged coast swept by the storm today.

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Off Britain, the coast of Wales, a submarine, H M S Universal had engine trouble and had to stay on the surface.

Attempts were made to take the sub in tow. Vessels drew along side and cast lines. But in the drive of the storm, the hawser broke. Six attempts were made and each time the tow line snapped. Today the submarine was drifting, storm beaten, near the rocky shore of Wales. The crew of nineteen were huddled in the conning towers, singing hymns. Ashore the people of the Welsh coast watched the iron hulk up there in the swirl of the sea. In the storm they knelt in prayer for the safety of the sailors -- the sailors who in the conning tower were singing hymns.

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There is a strange turn to this -- the crew might have been taken off. But the skipper and the sailors refused to abandon their vessel. There is an old tradition of the sea -- the loyalty of the sailors to their ship. But in this case -- the submarine was on its way to port to be scrapped. Obsolete, after service in the war, the sub was being taken to be broken up for scrap metal. And yet, the crew in the violence of the storm refused to leave their junk pile ship.

Latest from Alaska, fifty more have been saved. But so far twenty lives have been lost, passengers on the SS Yukon.

FOLLOW SHIPWRECKS

Storms of another sort, ~~a very different~~
~~sort~~, are reported in our own middle west -- dust
storms. the worst in ten years swept out of southwest
Kansas and northwest Oklahoma and went swirling across
the Kansas plain into Missouri and Nebraska. The
dense clouds of dust were whipped by a ~~wind~~ ~~that~~ fifty
miles-an-hour ~~wind~~ that picked up ^{the} dry soil from the
western fields. At Wichita today motorists were
seen driving with their head lights on -- in mid afternoon
and ^{at} Kansas City visibility was down to zero - ~~the~~ in
the murk of the ^{dry} ~~tem~~ tempest.

U N O

No word from the U N O, from the Security Council -- which is considering that heated question of British doings in Greece and the Soviet threat to impose a veto. After yesterday's veto bombshell, tossed by the Soviets, the U N O statesmen in London, made haste today to do something to avert the menacing split in the quarrel between Soviet Russia and Great Britain. American delegate Stettinius is ~~as~~ said to be playing the part of mediator -- today arranging for a personal meeting ~~as~~ between Soviet Vishinski and British Bevin. There was an earnest and busy meeting of the Security Council today -- with efforts to mend the rift, patch up the dissension.

U N O SITE

In London the newspapers are ~~gattking~~ giving publicity to the complaint of American home owners in the Stamford-Greenwich area, recommended as the permanent site of the U N O. They are printing dispatches about the complaints of what the news dispatch calls: millionaires, bankers, and other business men who have palasial⁺ homes in that area. Apparently the British newspapers are oblivious of the fact that all the people who live in the prescribed section of Connecticut and New York may not necessarily be millionaires, bankers and other business men who have palasial⁺ homes. There would be some plain townsfolk who are objecting also to the proposal to oust them ~~fxim~~ from their homes, so as to make way for the domain of the U N O.

There is word that Washington, too, is giving heed to the protests of the local property owners. Some say that the United States might be hesitant about entering into any deal that would turn American property over to the United Nations,

without an agreement with the owners -- the people concerned.

In London there is some supposition that the opposition expressed^s may have an affect on the delegates to the Assembly of the U N O -- and may revive the campaign to locate the world organization in Europe.

One definite thing is this -- and it does not concern Europe -- today Australia served notice of a new attempt to place the U N O at San Francisco. All along the Australians wanted the permanent site of the U N O to be on the American Pacific Coast. That, of course, would make easier travelling for Australian delegations. And moreover, the people "down under" are Pacific-minded. They^{see} ~~are~~ world affairs largely in terms of that greatest of oceans. In any case, with the hubbub that is being raised about the Stamford-Greenwich area -- Australian delegate Colonel W R Hodgson today stated that Australia intends to reopen the old debate concerning a

a permanent site. Start the argument all over again from the beginning -- with Australia advocating San Francisco.

I've just been discussing this with A.P. Guanini, head of the Bank of America, largest Bank in the world now, I believe, a West Coast Bank. Gianini insists that the San Francisco area is the place for the home of the UNO for the following reasons:- for it to be in the invigorating atmosphere of our Far West, where the people view the future with optimism -- no air of defeat out there; away from the pressures of Eastern America and Europe; Also, out where the UNO would be made royally welcome! The delegates found that out last spring, and summer. And says Mr. A.P. Giannini, within 15 years the Pacific will pass the Atlantic as the center of World Affairs. He agrees with Australia 100 per cent.

U NO SITE (add)

Later news states that in London, an interim committee today approved of the recommendation of the Stamford-Greenwich area, which now will be sent to the regular committee on the choice of the site.

CHINA

The impression that Chiang Kai Shek intends to retire from ~~political~~ ^{political} eminence in China may be well founded. What the Generalissimo ~~stated~~ ^{now says} that when the new coalition government has been established his responsibility to the Chinese people will be at an end. Of course, this doesn't necessarily mean that he won't be a candidate for the presidency of China at the democratic elections that are to be held. He was asked on that point, but ~~he~~ was non-committal.

~~When~~ When I talked with Chiang Kai Shek early last summer in Chungking, he told me that he intended to retire from political life when he had succeeded in establishing a democratic government in China. I gathered that he meant a liberal regime would have to be firmly installed and in good working order before he stepped out. I asked him -- what about a successor? ~~Yes~~ Who would succeed him? He replied that a successor would not be important -- not with China on a sound democratic basis. *Maybe he thinks the*

day is not far off,
~~From that conversation I should judge that~~

PEARL HARBOR

At the Pearl Harbor inquiry an explanation was given today ~~but~~ by the witness who intimated that there had been a conspiracy to suppress the truth about Pearl Harbor. Navy Captain Safford declared that the purpose of his testimony was to defend Admiral Kimmel Navy Commander at Pearl Harbor at the time of the Jap attack. He said he had been building up a defense of the Admiral -- who he thought, had been framed. But he added that Admiral ~~is~~ Kimmel knew nothing about this defense which ~~was~~ was being prepared in his behalf.

STRAWN

When a man in the public eye, or holding high public office, passes from the scene, his going makes top headlines. While the passing of a far greater man may go almost unnoted. I am thinking of Silas Strawn, of Chicago -- and of the world.

Although Silas Strawn was once head of the United States Chamber of Commerce, head of the American Bar Association, top figure in Montgomery Ward, trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, trustee of various universities and of the great Field Museum; and a special representative of our government in various foreign countries; oh yes, and even president of the American Golf Association, I think of him as the ideal lawyer.

He was head of what in Chicago, we young law students, years ago, regarded as the greatest law firm in the world: Winston Payne, Strawn and Shaw. To

me he was one of the great men of our time. A farmer boy who fought his way to the top, and became a world figure - devoting his life to unraveling difficult problems, local, national, and international. He was my favorite American.

PARIS

One of the oldest ideas is - - the end of the world. Today that venerable concept can be given a new twist, an atomic twist. With a little imagination science can picture -- an atomic end of the world. And not only science -- radio too can picture the elemental dissolution of this earth. In fact, radio did -- like last night in Paris. It caused a panic -- and ~~gay~~ ^{Gay} Paree was not so gay.

It was a thing to remind us of our own Orson Welles panic a few years ago. Remember that broadcast, much too realistic -- which described an invasion by men from Mars, with such fidelity of detail that a lot of people were scared out of their ~~skin~~ ^{pan-out of their wits I mean?} They thought it was the real thing -- men from Mars.

In Paris it was - the atomic end of the world, an even more fearsome idea. Some dramatic French writer ~~manuscript~~ concocted a thriller based on the atomic bomb -- with the notion of atomic disintegration continuing on and ~~on~~ on, until all

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the world turned into an elemental explosion. ^{all of which} ~~the~~

was recited with all sorts of vivid detail, ^{over the} ~~the~~
Paris radio.

Plenty of Parisians who ~~had~~ heard it thought
it was actually news. People rushed from houses,

thinking the catastrophe was at hand. They surged

Boulevards and
through the streets - until they found it had merely

been ~~a radio program~~ a bit too realistic radio
program.

Gay Paree was scared Paree -- scared by
the atomic end of the world.

HOTEL

The hotel situation ~~down here~~ in Florida is illustrated by the case of a woman in Miami who has been sitting in a hotel lobby for the past three days. The hotel is the Essex House, and ^{the} Manager ~~Irving Hermann~~ tells the story ^{as} follows: Last Friday ^a Mrs. H. Epstein of Brooklyn arrived at the Essex House, and was given a room. The next day, Saturday, she was told she'd have to give up the room. That's the way things go in the hotel room shortage. Mrs. Epstein left the room, and went down stairs to the lobby, sat down and she's been sitting there ever since.

Occasionally she goes out briefly -- to a nearby candy store, for example, where she buys a chocolate bar. Then she returns to her chair in the lobby.

Manager Irving ^Hermann has asked her to leave repeatedly, but without the slightest impression. He even had a Rabbi come in and talk to Mrs. Epstein, but that did no good. She says nothing to anybody.

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At least she didn't until today -- when she called "good morning" to somebody she knew. That ~~is~~ gave Manager Irving Hermann a bit of encouragement. He thinks Mrs. Epstein may be weakening, now that she said "good morning" to somebody. He hopes that she'll talk some more -- and finally say -- "good-bye".

And now for my usual S-l-well
switch to Radio City - back to
you Hugh.