

L.I. - Sunoco. Friday, Oct. 19, 1945.

WAR CRIMINALS.

The great war trial is set for November twentieth. That date was decided upon by the Allied Military Tribunal today - immediately after formal indictments were served on the top ranking Nazis who were scheduled to face the court. The provisions of Allied justice are that they shall have thirty days, after the service of the indictments, to prepare for their defense - and the date, as set, gives them thirty-two days.

There is one reservation to the indictment, a reservation made by American prosecutor, Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson.

In the document reference is made to the Baltic states as territory of Soviet Russia- Estonia, ~~Latvia~~ Latvia, Lithuania and still other areas. The Baltic states were seized by the Soviets during the time of the Hitler-Stalin pact- and the United States has never recognized the acquisition. This fact is taken into account by American prosecutor Jackson, who explains that Moscow included the Baltic states in the document of indictment and to have them taken out would cause delay. He doesn't want any delay, so resorts to the device of making a reservation - stating that the mention of the Baltic states in the indictment does not imply any american recognition of the soviet claim to these countries.

Most of the copies of the indictments were served at the ~~prison~~
~~prison~~ ^{prison,} Nuremberg, where big-shot Nazis are kept - though several
 were handed to defendants at other places. Two, for example,
 are being held by the Russians.

At the prison ⁱⁿ at Nuremberg, each defendant upon being
 handed his copy of the indictment, was given an explanation of
 the rights he'd have at the trial - the right, for example, to
 choose lawyers for the defense.

As for the reactions of the defendants - most of them were
 interested in the question of lawyers. Rudolf Hess, however,
 was different. Hitler's lieutenant, who made the ~~melodramatic~~
 melodramatic airplane flight to Scotland, is said to be pretending
 insanity - and, in accordance with this, merely stared blankly
 as if he did not know what it was all about.

END

German trial.

A strange turn in a war criminal trial came today in testimony at Lueneburg- where a British court is trying Nazis for prison camp atrocities. One of the defendants is Oskar Schmitz, charged with having been a guard at Belzen, that infamous haunt of horror. Today Schmitz declared that he was no Nazi guard, ^{that} on the contrary, he was a communist - and one of the victims at Belzen. Yet, when arrested, he wore the uniform of a Hitler storm trooper.

He explained it this way. When the British arrived at the Belzen concentration camp to liberate the victims of Nazi persecution, a riot broke out - with fighting between the victims themselves. Russian prisoners attacked German prisoners.

The defendant at the trial states that he was one of the German inmates assailed by the Russians - and was stripped of his clothes. He got away, and then all he could find to wear was a uniform that some Nazi storm trooper had left behind. This he put on, and then the British arrested him as an atrocity camp guard.

GERMAN PRISONERS.

An agreement was made today for the better treatment of prisoners, not victims of the Nazis, but German soldiers, prisoners of war. This follows a complaint by the International Red Cross against the French, who are accused of mistreating prisoners turned over to them by the Americans.

The Allies, as has been stated many times, have agreed on the principle of making Germans help in the repair of war damage done in countries ravaged by the Nazis. In accordance with this, the United States turned over to France seven hundred thousand prisoners of war - for forced labor.

The International Red Cross investigated to see how they were being treated, and came forward with a strenuous complaint - saying that thousands of the prisoners were living in conditions of neglect and starvation, conditions as bad as in the Nazi harrer camps of Dachau and Buchenwald..

All of which led to an argument , which was settled today - by an agreement between the Americans and the French. The Americans are going to take back ninety thousand of the ailing prisoners, and look after them. The French promise to give better treatment to the

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Germans they retain as forced labor - feed them according to the standards of the French civilian population and provide them with proper clothing and shelter. To enable the French to do this, the Americans will lend supplies of food and blankets.

Today, general Walter Smith, chief-of-staff to General Eisenhower, stated that it was no case of being sympathetic toward the Germans, who are being used ^{for} forced labor. It is simply a matter of good faith - the United States being responsible, under the Geneva convention, for prisoners of war captured by American forces.

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

From Berlin today we have news of how the American doctrine of the freedom of the press was preached by an American major general, with a Soviet lieutenant general as the number one listener. This occurred at a meeting of the four power commission that controls the German capital.

The subject of the freedom of the press was brought up by newspaper accounts of a raid on the Berlin black market. Last Sunday, British troops raided a haunt of the black market, and there among the customers found a lot of Russian soldiers - and a Soviet general. This was reported by the newspapers ^{--- all of} which aroused the anger of the Russians.

A complaint was entered by Lieutenant General Smirnev, Soviet representative on the Berlin commission, who declared that publication of the story should not have been permitted. He said it was an attempt to discredit the Red Army.

This was answered by American ~~xxx~~ representative, Major General Barker, who stated that the press should be free to report the news, and added that the newspaper accounts of the Russian soldiers and the Soviet general found at the black market

WERE substantially correct.

As for any attempt to discredit the Red Army, General Barker told General Smirnev the following: "You will find," said he, "that the United States Army draws far more criticism in the American press than does the Red Army." All of which is only too true - the U. S. Army taking plenty of newspaper criticism and being philosophical about it.

HITLER'S BROTHER.

From Germany we hear- you could never tell about Hitler. You could never be sure about what he'd do. You can't even trust him to be dead. This is stated by a half brother of Der Fuehrer, who adds: "I wouldn't be surprised to see Adelf turn up some day."

During the Reign of Hitler we occasionally heard about his half brother, *Ahloyses* - or maybe pronounced it *Ahleyses* (pronounced *AH-LO-EES*) who at one time ~~was~~ ran a restaurant in Berlin. Aleis declares that he had not spoken to Adelf in forty years. *And he* never did have a good opinion of his half brother.

"He was always temperamental and bad tempered," says Aleis. "I ~~remember~~ remember one Christmas when he couldn't build what he wanted with his blocks and he kicked and flung them all over the house." Adelf showing his true character even in the supposedly tender years of youth.

The half brother states that when he heard the melodramatic story of Hitler suicide at the Flaming Reichschancellery in Berlin, he, as he says -- "thought it was a big bluff." And he still isn't so sure that the devil *has* really *der* Fuehrer at last.

HITLER'S BROTHER

Alois Hitler is living in the British zone of occupation - Hamburg, and has asked the British authorities for permission to change his name - not much, just a little. He wants to change it from Hitler to Hiller. "It would save a lot of complications in life," explains the man who wants to become Herr Hiller.

JAPAN.

The ~~Japanese~~ Japanese news features the queer sounding word-- Zaibatsu. That signifies a trust or a corporation -- ~~especially~~ such as are traditionally run by families, like the giant concerns of Mitsui ^{and} ~~or~~ Mitsubishi.

General MacArthur has ordered the ~~Tokyo~~ Tokyo government to break up the monopolies, eliminate the zaibatsu. And that has produced something unusual -- Japanese reluctance to obey. Hitherto the news stories ^s have pictured the Japs as falling over themselves to carry out MacArthur directives. But today the Tokyo cabinet failed to take action on the MacArthur order. The cabinet postponed action, stalling, delaying.

Foreign Minister Yoshida, expresses the reluctance of the cabinet. He draws a distinction between the old zaibatsu and the new zaibatsu. The old zaibatsu, like Mitsui and Mitsubishi, says he-- did not support the war lords in their mad ~~war~~ war of aggression. The war cost them money -- they incurred only losses. The old zaibatsu claims the foreign minister, are a peaceful crowd of industrialists, who want to make peace time profits.

The New zaibatsu, on the other hand, are the armament monopolies, the makers of munitions, who profited during the time of war, and cooperated with the militarists.

So it wouldn't be so good to abolish the old zaibatsu, while it is okay to put an end to the new zaibatsu. That's the gist of what the Tokyo foreign minister has to say, although he puts it in exceedingly cautious words.

Meanwhile, Tokyo has had a rally of five thousand Japanese workers - mostly demobilized soldiers. Meeting in a big hall, they formed what they call "the all-Japan tailors' federation."

The demand of the ex-soldiers[^] worker group is - jobs. They call upon the Tokyo government to take measures to provide employment.

The character of the "all-Japan tailors' Federation" is not revolutionary, apparently. Their meeting was held with a display of banners upholding the imperial system of the emperor.

VENEZUELA

The government of Venezuela overthrown - after fierce fighting. Three hundred casualties reported in the capital city alone, as a military revolt flared against president Medina.

For weeks the republic on the Caribbean has been in the throes of a hot political campaign - a new president to be elected.

There was a government candidate, an opposition candidate, and all the usual trimmings in Latin-American electioneering for the presidency. Some army people wouldn't wait for the election, and staged a revolution. They are described as being the younger element of army officer - in a military revolt.

The rebellion concentrated at the military headquarters of Maracay, from which the insurgents marched against the government garrison in Caracas. They had tanks and planes, and the government forces could ^{not} hold off the armored drive supported by strafing from the air.

So now a new regime comes into power in Venezuela, with the rebel leaders claiming that their aim is to establish what they call - "real democracy in Venezuela, in the manner of the United States." The younger element of army officers is described as

having liberal ideas - they want democracy.

I don't want to be disillusioning, but here is a line of comment from a sector inclined to chilly realism - New York banking circles. The bankers up here are pointing out that in the case of the Venezuelan revolution^t, there is a large financial stake - about a hundred million ~~million~~ dollars in gold, for example. Venezuela, as we know, is famous for being oil rich, the government taking a great revenue from the Venezuelan oil fields. And in the ~~the~~ vaults of the treasury at Caracas is a hundred million dollars in gold. And that might have its attractions- in addition to democracy.

General Arnold, addressing the Senate Military Affairs

Committee, ~~he~~ stated today that it will be difficult, if not

impossible, to set up a defense ^{at the receiving end} against ocean spanning robot- atom

bombs. He says our defense must consist of going to the source,

prevent any enemy from firing atom bombs at us. He states that

this obviously is an air problem. Therefore, air power is a

fundamental ~~basic~~ basic part of our national defense, and should

be on an equal footing with ground and sea forces in a new unified

command - Navy, Army and Air under one ~~head~~ head, ^{with} special

emphasis on air because ~~of~~ our weapons of defense must fly right

to the source of any aggression.

STRIKES

~~President~~ President Truman today held a cabinet meeting for discussion of the wave of strikes. ~~and~~ The belief is that most of the members of the cabinet agreed ^{today} that sizeable pay boosts should be granted.

Meanwhile, ⁱⁿ Michigan, ⁱⁿ ~~is having a strike of utilities workers~~ in three cities today, heat was cut off in hotels, office buildings, and stores. The weather can be cold in Michigan, ~~at this time of year~~, and the governor says he's going to take action.

In New York, newspapers are noting the case of a thrice wounded veteran who is facing ruin because of a union dispute. He has the classical name of Dante Stradella, and three times felt the bite of enemy bullets and shell fire in North Africa, and Sicily. He is now operating a tavern called The Hide-Away, and refuses to compel ^{his} employees to join the union, employees whom he pays fifty-five dollars a week, while the union rate is fifty. As a result the place is being picketed, ~~and~~ union men won't deliver supplies -- and it looks as if Dante Stradella will have to close up.

LASHING.

There's an old old story to be told about the legal flogging of a prisoner in Maryland today - the way it all ended. A wife beater was punished, a burly husband of a hundred and seventy-five pounds convicted of beating his frail ninety-eight pound wife. For that sort of thing an old Maryland law prescribes - the lash. And today the sheriff laid a rawhide ten times across the wife beater's naked back - raising livid welts.

After which the man who had been flogged put on his clothes and went home, where his wife was waiting for him - having dinner ready, I guess, and some medical treatment for the welts. Anyway, she gave him a fond welcome home - saying she still loved him.

And that was the old, old story.

And now Hugh, what old or new are we to hear from you?