

C.J. - Luroso. Wed., July 21, 1943.

In Washington today the statement was made that anti-administration Democrats are going to put up a Presidential ticket next year -- with Senator Byrd of Virginia for President and Jim Farley for Vice-President. This was said today ~~x~~ by Senator Guffy of Pennsylvania. That stalwart New Dealer is just back from a tour of the south, during ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> he noted moves being made by Democrats opposed to President Roosevelt and a fourth term. *And these, he says, plan on a 1944*  
~~They had idea of a nineteen ~~forty~~ ~~forty four~~ ticket with Byrd and Farley heading it.~~

Saying this, Senator Guffy ridiculed the notion that the south might go Republican next year. "Nonsense," said he.

## COAL MINE

Today the coal mine union reached an agreement with the coal mine companies of Illinois. Ever since the last coal strike, weeks ago, the union and all the operators have been negotiating -- while the Government has been operating the coal mines. Today's Illinois settlement represents the first break in the long deadlock.

The agreement announced, provides that the miners shall receive a dollar and twenty-five cents a day for portal-to-portal pay. They will get, moreover, an extra dollar and a half a day by a lengthening of working hours. Hitherto, the working day has been seven hours. Now it will be eight. The two items of wage increase add up to a pay boost of two dollars and seventy-five cents a day -- and that would seem to be a decided victory for John L. Lewis. The original union demand, as insisted upon by Lewis, was a raise of two dollars a day.

The agreement is to be submitted to the War Labor Board for its approval, and applies, of course, only to the Illinois coal mines, but the union hopes to make the same settlement with the same pay increase with the companies throughout the coal mining areas.

## SICILY

Last night we had the Americans in Central Sicily pushing past the town of Enna, and today the headline was -- the capture of Enna, ~~and today~~ This is a decisive event, because Enna is a dominating junction of the principal network of roads and railroads linking Sicily from East to West. The seizure of the place by the Americans virtually cuts the island in two, so far as transportation is concerned. Western Sicily is <sup>now</sup> ~~virtually~~ isolated from the Eastern angle, where the bulk of Axis strength is concentrated.

At that eastern tip, the battle is fierce. The British, in their efforts to capture Catania, are fighting against desperate German resistance. Nazi Panzer Units have been counter-attacking heavily, and the British find the going hard.

It would appear that the Axis command intends to pull what forces it can into the eastern tip of Sicily, and there put up a last ditch ~~fit~~ fight in a craggy terrain of mountains -- the historic volcano, Mt. Etna, heading the list *of those mountains.*

But let's go to headquarters for direct word, *From* General Eisenhower. Today *9* stated: "The enemy apparently plans to make a stand along a line at the northeastern ~~peninsula~~ peninsula

of the island, including Mt. Etna." That line, mentioned by General Eisenhower, would be about fifty miles from the city of Messina, which is the nearest Sicilian point to the Italian mainland. General Eisenhower stated today that the Axis have been able to land ~~troops~~<sup>men</sup> and equipment to reinforce the defending enemy troops.

It's ~~rough~~<sup>tough</sup> terrain, but it's also a beautiful and poetic land there in the vicinity of Mt. Etna. A dispatch tells of a desperate battle for the possession of an airfield -- where the struggle raged in perfumed groves of Oleander and Eucalyptus. A British officer describes a scene of fighting as follows: "In a garden of Oleander, Jasmine and Hibiscus bushes and Eucalyptus trees, ~~but there were~~<sup>with</sup> wrecked aircraft of all kinds among the flowers."

If you should demand more romance than mere flowers, take the fact that the British Eighth Army is fighting its way to the town of Bronte. There was at one time a Duke of Bronte. He was called that in Italy. In England he was better known as Lord Nelson. Back in the days of Nelson and Napoleon, the Great Admiral on one occasion rescued the king of Naples and the Neopolitan Royal

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Family, who were fleeing from Napoleon's Army. Nelson took them across to Sicily, and in these transactions he was aided greatly by the famous Lady Hamilton. She was then the wife of the British Minister of the Court of Naples, and was able to lend support to the winner of Battles on the sea.

The story of the romance of Nelson and Lady Hamilton began at that time -- when the British Admiral was saving Neapolitan royalty, and the King of Naples made him -- the Duke of Bronte. And tonight British troops are fighting their way to the seat of the Sicilian Dukedom of Britain's hero Admiral Nelson.

ROME

Rome reports another air raid, this one directed against the suburbs -- not the city itself. Italian bulletins declare that incendiary and light explosive bombs were dropped in the outskirts of Rome today and the capital of Fascist Italy had an air raid alarm lasting for sixty-five minutes. This is not confirmed by Allied sources, which make no mention of any raid on Rome or its suburbs.

From allied Air Headquarters we have an official statement that none of the religious and cultural monuments were damaged by the bombing on Monday. This is stated by Major General Brereton on the basis of a study of aerial photographs. His statement does not mention the basilica of San Lorenzo, which seems to have been damaged, according to reports from the vatican.

Washington tells us that in the United States there is increase of Catholic sentiment for having Rome declared an open city -- demilitarized. Washington officials note that if the Fascist Government of Italy could be made to stop using the eternal city for purposes of war, it would represent a victory for the Allies. For Rome is the hub of the railroad system of Italy, and if it were no longer used as a route of war transportation -- this would handicap the Axis.

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## PRISONERS

Here's a late story from the War Department telling us about prisoners of war in the United States. How many are there? Sixty-five thousand and fifty-eight. Do you think that most of them are Italian? Not at all. More than forty-five thousand are Germans, and less than twenty thousand are Italian. How many Japs? You are right about that. To this country have been brought just sixty-two Japanese prisoners of war. The War Department adds that of the two hundred and sixty-seven thousand captives taken in North Africa, a whole lot are coming over here

RUSSIA

Moscow announces new gains at Orel -- from three to nine miles. Soviet advances have engulfed ninety more towns and villages, and the Red Army is only eleven miles from Orel on the East, and nine miles on the northwest. Moreover, Soviet troops have driven around and behind the city, and are now within five miles of the only remaining railroad on which the Nazis must depend for transport. Orel, of course, represents an important salient, which the Red Army is battling to pinch off, and it looks as if the pinching off process might soon be completed.

GERMAN COMMITTEE

Soviet Russia announces a move that may be of considerable importance in the politics of war and post-war. In Moscow, an "Anti Nazi German national Committee" has been formed. Its members are Germans opposed to Hitler, and its purpose as described, is to overthrow the Nazis and establish a democratic regime in Germany.

TP The committee represents anti-Nazi refugees and prisoners of war. An exiled German poet is the president, and a German army major is named as one of the vice-presidents. Another vice-president is Lieutenant Count Heinrich Von Eidel, which has a Prussian junker sound. On the other hand, one of the important members is a former leader of the Communist Party in Germany, Wilhelm Piek, who headed the Communist delegation in the Reichstag and more recently was secretary of the commintern, before it was ~~abolished~~ abolished.

This Anti-Nazi Committee in Moscow has issued a manifesto which is printed in Pravada, official newspaper of the Russian Communist Party. The manifesto cites a declaration by Stalin last November -- in which the Soviet war leader called for the destruction of the Nazi state and the Nazi Army, but added that the German people, army and state, are indestructible. "The day is approaching,"

→ declares the committee, "when Germany will collapse under the impact of ~~xxx~~ simultaneous attacks from all ~~Sides~~. ~~The war is lost~~ But," it adds, "Germany must not die."

Other nations under Nazi domination are represented by exiled governments and committees, and one wonders whether this anti-Nazi German national Committee in Moscow may not intend to be something along the same line. Most of the other conquered nations are represented in London -- the French in North Africa. This German group is in Soviet Russia. Might this hint at Soviet ideas concerning the Germany that will exist after Hitler?

Suzanne  
Silvercray.

July 21<sup>st</sup>  
1943

BELGIAN HOLIDAY - SILVERCRUYS

Today, July Twenty-First happens to be the national holiday of one of the United Nations, one of our Allies. July Twenty-First, Eighteen hundred and Thirty-One was the day when Belgium declared itself a free and independent country and signified this by the signing of the Belgian Constitution.

There are many distinguished citizens of Belgium in this country at present, and I have asked one of these to give us an item or two of news, something about present day Belgium that most of us don't happen to know. The name of this lady is Suzanne Silvercruys and she is married to a distinguished American Army officer, a hero of World War Number One, Major Edward Stenson<sup>re</sup>, a much decorated officer who is now with the United States Signal Corps, but at this moment sitting beside us.

Suzanne Silvercruys, incidentally is one of the world's foremost sculptors, and also a distinguished lecturer, and the sister of the Belgian Minister to Canada. Her latest bit of carving was a bust of General Clair

Chennault which she finished just before Chennault flew back to China. Suzanne Silvercruys, on this the National Holiday of your country what can you tell us of Belgium?

FOR SUZANNE SILVERCRUYS:

I have one bit of news that hasn't yet reached the press. The Belgian Embassy has just been informed that the Germans have arrested Monseignor van Weyenberg, President of Louvain, our great university to which you people of America presented a magnificent library.

And here are a few things about my country which I do not believe are common knowledge:- of all the countries under the heel of the Nazis, Poland, Greece, and Belgium are the only ones that have no Quisling government.

FOR L.T.: Not only that Miss Silvercruys, but I am right, am I not, in saying that your government in exile is actually the same government that you had in Brussels before the occupation.

FOR SUZANNE SILVERCRUYS: That is so, and of course as everyone knows, our King is a German prisoner. And I have just heard that in one prison alone in Brussels the Nazis have two thousand five hundred of my countrymen whom they are holding for acts of sabotage. We have also learned that the Nazis have shot seven thousand five hundred Belgians on charges of sabotage.

On this our National Holiday we Belgians are proud to remember that the vast resources of the Belgian Congo, one of the richest parts of Africa, are all at the disposal of the Allies; and these are proving of great value in winning the war.

And then one thing more: There are more Belgian aviators flying with the R.A.F. today than there were airmen in the entire Belgian Air Force when the German hordes swept down upon us in Nineteen Forty.

FOR L.T.: On this your Belgian Independence Day, we all hope, Miss Silvercruys, that your people will be free and independent again before many more months roll by.

And may you and Poland, Holland and France and Norway,  
Greece, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia, and all the  
rest, celebrate your full return of freedom and  
independence before July Twenty-First, Nineteen Hundred  
and Forty-Four.

## FLYING FORTRESS

A flying fortress is not a dive bomber. These leviathans of the sky are not supposed to take the long and dizzy plunge, with twists and crazy acrobatics. But one flying fortress did and established a world record for a dive, long and wild, a downward plunge of fifteen thousand feet.

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It happened over the North Sea, when a fortress was returning from a raid against a Nazi base in Holland. The big plane was hit by a twenty millimeter cannon shell, and that shell did just about the most freakish thing possible. It blew a life-raft out of a compartment, and lodged the raft directly across the stabilizer of the fortress. *Something similar happened a few days ago, well in this case* The stabilizer was completely jammed, and you can imagine what that did to the controls of the ship.

The pilot ~~was Eldridge Shelton of Texas, and he~~ tells what happened: "The ship turned straight down, almost slipping over on its back," says he, "and everything started falling. Everything, including shells from the top turret gun, ammunition boxes, broken instruments and clothing, started tumbling in our direction."

The fortress ~~it~~ did the wildest kind of airobat<sup>+</sup>ics, as if the pilot had gone mad and was putting the plane through fantastic

stunts. The trip down began away up there in the stratosphere, the twenty-six thousand foot level, and down the plane whizzed for fifteen thousand feet.

*on that dive —*  
"It creaked all the way <sup>down</sup> like an old-fashioned brass bed in a hurricane," says the pilot.

Four men of the crew thought sure the plane was a goner, and they bailed out. Pilot Shelton tugged vainly at the controls. Co-pilot Robert Collette of Hudson, Massachusetts, added his own strength. ~~Kind~~ Finally, the combined efforts of the two were able to dislodge the life-raft wedged across the stabilizer. That freed the stabilizer, and at eleven thousand feet they were able to get the ship level, under control, and homeward bound.

*And now Hugh, before you are homeward bound —*

*S-L-U. Monday*