

L7. - Sunoco. Monday, April 26, 1943. (Washington)

POLAND

The diplomatic history of the war took a <sup>new</sup> ~~new~~ turn today.

Soviet Russia <sup>breaking</sup> ~~breaking~~ off relations with Poland. <sup>So</sup> ~~This was~~ announced by

Radio Moscow this morning. <sup>Sounds unusual: - a major</sup> ~~That makes, I should think, the first~~

~~instance in all history of a great power breaking off diplomatic~~

relations with a government in exile, a government <sup>entirely out of</sup> ~~entirely out of~~ <sup>touch</sup> ~~touch~~

~~by underground means~~ with its own country. ~~except~~ <sup>via the Underground.</sup>

Russian foreign commissar Molotov broke the news to the

Polish ambassador. He sent for him and read him a note that had been

drawn up, a note which included such sentences as, "the attitude of the

Polish government to the U. S. S. R. recently is considered by the

Soviet government as entirely unnormal, breaking all rules and usances

in the mutual relations of two allied countries."

<sup>Russian says</sup> The note ~~continued~~: "The slanderous campaign begun by the

German Fascists, which was hostile to the U. S. S. R. in the question

of Polish officers killed by them (the Germans) in the Smolensk region

on territory occupied by German troops, was immediately taken up by

the Polish government and stirred up in every way by the Polish official

press."

2-Poland

The note <sup>adds:-</sup> ~~says~~ "The Polish government not only did not oppose the mean slander against the U. S. S. R. but even did not find it necessary to approach the Soviet government with any questions on the matter or ask for any explanation."

And it concluded: "The Hitlerite authorities, after having committed monstrous crimes against Polish officers, are putting up a comedy of investigations in the stating of which they use some Polish pro-fascist elements picked up by the them on occupied Polish territory where everybody is under the Hitler heel and where every honest Pole cannot openly express his opinion."

Later on, the Russian note accuses the Polish government of favoring Hitler's tyranny and "dealing a treacherous blow to the

Soviet union." The note says further that the present government of

Poland has put itself in a position hostile to the Soviet Union.

*So Moscow breaks relations with the Poles in exile.*

GERMANY

There is a rumor ~~about~~ that Hitler is planning ~~for~~ a single unified command for the defense of all Europe. ~~It is only a~~ <sup>The</sup> rumor ~~and~~ comes from Stockholm, where rumors ~~are made at the rate of one~~ <sup>abound.</sup> ~~an hour. The factual foundation for it~~ is that <sup>Hitler</sup> ~~the Nazi Führer~~ has been holding ~~secret~~ conferences with the heads of the vassal states, Italy, Bulgaria, Rumania, Norway and Slovakia. <sup>And this</sup> ~~They~~ gave rise to the report that the object of his conferences was unified command, ~~The~~ forces of Bulgaria, Rumania, Italy and all ~~the~~ Nazi vassals ~~will~~ <sup>to</sup> be under the Nazi high command.

From Geneva comes a story of German troop movements to Bulgaria, <sup>and of</sup> ~~also~~ German motorized units ~~have been~~ going south through Budapest for several days. The inference is that all this has been done to prepare for an Allied invasion of southern Europe, when Bizerte and Tunis fall. ~~However, it might be remarked that Bizerte and Tunis~~ ~~have not fallen yet and that all generals tell us that a great deal of heavy fighting, with severe casualties, has to be done before that happy consummation.~~

RANGER

The Nazis in Berlin put on a special radio show yesterday.

It started with the roaring of drums and a fanfare of trumpets.

Then a spokesman announced that a Nazi u-boat had fired four torpedoes into Uncle Sam's aircraft carrier Ranger. She sank, claimed the Nazis, in the middle of the North Atlantic.

Our Navy answered this today. Simply not true, nor even remotely true. A high officer said "neither the Ranger nor any other United States carrier has been sunk or damaged in any ocean." The

Navy points out that a year ago, the Germans claimed to have sunk our carrier Wasp, in the Mediterranean. ~~on that day the carrier was~~

*And it had happened*  
~~set-~~even~~~~ at all. Now the Navy tells us that

Not only ~~was~~ the Ranger not <sup>been</sup> sunk, but <sup>that we</sup> ~~the Navy~~ launched a

brand new aircraft carrier today, the Intrepid, ~~she is~~ <sup>and</sup> the fourth

ship to bear that name. The new Intrepid is a sister ship to the

Essex and the new Yorktown.



## McNAIR

Tonight we have more specific information concerning what happened in North Africa to Lieutenant General Leslie McNair, Commander of all of Uncle Sam's Ground Forces. General McNair was in a forward observation post, watching the American advance-guard in action. In fact he was at one of the most dangerous points on the front. The enemy directed heavy artillery fire against that part of the line, and if it had not been for his steel helmet, one of our highest ranking military figures would have been killed. As it was, a fragment of a steel shell pierced his helmet and wounded the General, rather severely. Also he was seriously wounded in the shoulder.

General McNair made the headlines a few months back ~~when~~ <sup>with</sup> his order to our soldiers to get tough and "kill or be killed." He is particularly noted for his skill at training troops - and for keeping out of the

news. Temporary command of all our Ground Forces, for the time being has been turned over to Lieutenant General Ben Lear.

## AFRICA

In Tunisia, one of Uncle Sam's armies is pushing ahead to Bizerte, and the Germans are retreating. That is the news from Allied Headquarters in North Africa. The Nazis deny it. The Berlin communique claims that in spite of great numerical superiority, every attempt to break through ~~was again~~ <sup>has again been</sup> defeated. Berlin continues: "Break-throughs of concentrated tank detachments were stopped and the enemy repulsed with heavy tank losses after violent fighting."

*All of which doesn't jibe at all*  
~~But that does not jibe~~ with what our own high command tells

us. The one point on which both sides agree is that a violent armored battle is going on, particularly in the central sector, where the British first army knocked out twenty of Von Arnim's tanks; ~~this is~~ in the region southeast of Medjez-El-Bab, ~~right~~ at the hinge of the Tunisia battle front. ~~in Tunisia~~. There, the Germans threw in most of what tanks they have left, trying to hold back the British advance. General Kenneth Anderson's army is now within seven or eight miles of Pont du Fahs. The fighting is <sup>mostly</sup> ~~mainly~~ concentrated on the north and south shores of a salt lake northwest of Pont-Du-Fahs. A few miles to the south, the British have captured <sup>another</sup> ~~an important~~ key hill position. A spokesman for the Allied armies used these words:

"The enemy has committed most of his armor now and is fighting it out."

The French nineteenth army corps is also pushing ahead.

Radio Algiers broadcast a communique that the French forces have broken through the defense ring in <sup>the</sup> Tunisian mountains and are on the plain only three miles from Pont-Du-Fahs. After taking Djebel Mansour, they advanced twelve miles in thirty six hours and have a strong foothold on the plains. They <sup>French</sup> captured six important hill positions, taking many prisoners and much booty, <sup>so much that it hasn't</sup> ~~which has not~~ yet been counted.

On the British front the battle to the east of Medjes-El-Bab

continues to ~~go~~ in our favor. <sup>Doolittle's air men continue</sup> ~~the United States military force has~~ <sup>their</sup> ~~kept up heavy~~ attacks on enemy transports, setting ~~a number of~~ vehicles on fire, and <sup>laying</sup> ~~dropping~~ bombs among enemy troops and gun emplacements, and <sup>pounding</sup> ~~also started several fires on an enemy air field in~~ ~~enemies~~ ~~air~~ ~~fields~~.

One story tells us that the Germans are pulling out so

fast, after being hammered for ~~more than~~ sixty five hours, that they are leaving their dead ~~ambushed~~ on the hill sides. However, ~~the~~ ~~American~~ ~~commanders~~ ~~are~~ ~~advancing~~ ~~with~~ ~~great~~ ~~caution~~ ~~as~~ ~~they~~ ~~march~~ ~~toward~~ ~~Mateur~~. ~~They~~ ~~are~~ ~~taking~~ ~~no~~ ~~chances~~ ~~of~~ ~~being~~ ~~led~~ ~~into~~ ~~a~~ ~~mouse~~



A United Press correspondent asked one officers why the

Nazis are withdrawing so rapidly. The officer replied; ~~"that is what~~

~~we would like to know"~~ A general of our Second Army Corps explains

it this way: <sup>"It's</sup> ~~"it is just~~ like having two boxers in a ring. ~~"he said:~~

"Naturally, the <sup>fellow</sup> ~~guy~~ who is getting it on the chin <sup>is nearly</sup> every round is going to start bicycling." ~~So far," he added, "we have been able to reach out~~

~~and slip the enemy right on the button every time. That is what~~

~~happens when the team gets going."~~

And what of the British Eighth Army in all this? <sup>After a</sup> ~~lull~~

~~of~~ <sup>two days</sup> ~~and then started up~~ <sup>again</sup>. While their commander,

General Montgomery, was attending Easter services at Cairo, his army

pushed ahead northwest of Enfidaville, ~~It took by storm a place called~~

~~Sidi-Berkham~~, clearing out an enemy pocket. The Eighth Army is now <sup>a few</sup>

~~some~~ four miles beyond Enfidaville.

## AXIS LOSSES

General ~~Dwight~~ Eisenhower's headquarters in North Africa have announced <sup>S</sup> a list of total losses <sup>to</sup> of the Axis forces for the first three and a half months of the year. Between January first and April fifteenth, sixty-six thousand Germans and Italians killed, wounded or captured; two hundred and fifty tanks captured or destroyed on the battlefield, in addition to some three thousand vehicles and four hundred and twenty-five field guns. Of their loss in manpower, thirty-six thousand were taken prisoner by the British, Americans and French.

Besides all that, Eisenhower's headquarters report that the total enemy planes destroyed in that same period was well over a thousand. Land based <sup>Allied</sup> planes also destroyed eight enemy merchant vessels, two tanks, two barges, and eleven fleet submarine<sup>S</sup> two destroyers, one cruiser and eight unidentified vessels.

<sup>And</sup> this takes <sup>no</sup> ~~into~~ account of what the Axis lost in naval action in the Mediterranean.

## MONTGOMERY

Here's an Easter Parade item from the North African front. General Montgomery, Commander of that fighting British Eighth Army flew all the way back to Cairo, more than a thousand miles, just to go to church Easter morning. The story says he arrived at the city on the Nile full of his widely acclaimed enthusiasm and confidence.

A story from London today tells of an extraordinary strategem by which Montgomery achieved one of his first victories. By bluffing -- a military poker player's bluff. Observers are speaking of it as one of the cleverest since the Greeks at the suggestion of Ulysses built the famous wooden horse by which they broke into Troy. Or at any rate since Allenby fooled the Turks in Word War One by making them think there was an army where there wasn't one at all.

"Montgomery pulled his bluff when Rommel nearly broke through to the Nile. Rommel's men were exhausted, and waiting for supplies. And - the British Eighth Army was still worse off. If Rommel had known how badly Montgomery needed more tanks and guns, he could have pushed right on through. But he didn't. And resourceful Monty of the Eighth, as they call him, built thousands of dummy trucks; made them out of sack cloth and wood. And he put them right where the Nazi planes couldn't help seeing them. All of which decided Rommel that he'd better not push on to the Nile or try to, until fresh supplies arrived. And then Montgomery beat him to the punch - with new equipment largely built in America.

Under cover of night, he moved up real tanks and trucks and guns to take the place of the dummies. And it fooled Rommel completely. So say German prisoners.



After which Montgomery never lost the offensive. He struck at El Alamein, and he kept on going until now Rommel holds only a few square miles of North Africa - that Tunisian coffin corner.

When Montgomery held his first press conference, he sat in his tent playing with a fly swatter, calmly saying to the correspondents: "I'm going to knock Rommel out of North Africa." And the newspapermen wondered:- "Has the sand and heat affected his head?" In fact, he proceeded to tell the newspapermen exactly how he was going to knock Rommel out. Whereupon he took that army that had been so badly mauled by Rommel and in six months he made it into the great fighting force that has won our admiration. And we wonder what Rommel and Hitler think of it?

## CANADIAN

Now for a yarn about a twenty-year-old Canadian flier in North Africa; a member of the tactical air force in Tunisia, which in one day, April Twentieth, destroyed nineteen enemy aircraft without loss to the Allied fliers. This Canadian is Royal Air Force Sergeant-Pilot Michael Askey from Winnipeg. This Canadian lad from the west told his tale this way:- "In the morning show I found myself facing two Italian planes. I got one of them. He rolled over on his back and hit the beach."

That was before breakfast," says Pilot Mike. "Then, in the afternoon," he goes on: "I ran slap into a formation of Macchis -- Italians." He tells how he went after two of them. "I hit one of them in the cockpit and the pilot bailed out," says Winnipeg Mike. "Then I scored hits on the cockpit and wings of the other, and it dived into the sea out of control."

Making three in one day for the lad from the

wide open ~~xxxxxxx~~ spaces of Manitoba. One before  
breakfast and two after lunch. The Spitfire squadron  
to which he belongs, has a total official score since  
last July of two hundred and sixty-eight and a half  
planes; and another hundred or more unconfirmed.

## SOLOMONS

Down in the Solomons, four American fliers in Corsair fighter planes were sent on a mission to Kolombangara. There they bombed and strafed Japanese installations, turned around and headed back toward their base. While still a hundred miles from Guadalcanal they spotted ten Japanese bombers with an escort of twenty Zeros. The four American pilots neither hesitated nor tried to hide in the clouds. Instead they took on all thirty Japs and shot down five Jap zeros. Four against thirty; five enemy planes destroyed; and two out of the four Corsairs were lost.



COAL

The danger of a strike in the eastern mines today became more than imminent. In many parts of western Pennsylvania and Kentucky, the miners have already begun to walk out. <sup>Angered</sup> ~~They are furious~~ because their demands for a raise of pay were put up to the War Labor Board. Three mines of the Republic Steel Corporation in western Pennsylvania are <sup>out</sup> ~~struck~~ also one of the Weirton Steel Company. At two ~~mines in~~ Harlan, Kentucky, <sup>mines</sup> ~~bloody Harlan~~, some thirteen hundred and fifty men walked <sup>out</sup> ~~off~~. Altogether, more than nine thousand men are out, <sup>so far,</sup> and tonight ~~there appears to be a~~ ~~no real and business~~ possibility that the bituminous coal miners may strike to the number of four-hundred-and-fifty-thousand men.

Meanwhile, John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, gave a direct ~~and deliberate~~ snub to the War Labor Board. The Board had asked him to name three men from whom they might choose a labor member for a three-sided panel to consider the dispute between the miners and the operators. Lewis was asked to do this by nine thirty <sup>1/2</sup> this morning. He did nothing of the sort, and was quoted as having said that he had no intention of complying. A man who spoke for him <sup>for</sup> and the United Mine Workers Union, announced today that the entire business will be referred to the International Policy Committee of the Union. Which committee will meet tomorrow afternoon. And then John Lewis will make a public statement.

And now back to N.Y. — to Hugh.