

The Pacific War Council met at Washington today and apparently there was one chief topic of discussion. ~~That was,~~ the impending attack by the Japanese on Siberia. T.V. Soong, the Chinese Foreign Minister, said it was ^{now only} ~~purely~~ a matter of time. And he added that the Chinese authorities believe ~~that~~ the Japs are all ^{for the} set ~~to~~ attack. This was partially corroborated by the British Ambassador, Lord Halifax, but he was characteristically cagey, ^{and only} ~~about it.~~ He admitted ~~that~~ there had been some discussion ^{concerning the} ~~over the particular~~ possibilities of the strategy of the Japanese and what they might have in mind. ^{Chinese Foreign Minister} But Soong was the only member of the Council who was candid about it. ^{He said the Japs are set to strike} ~~it.~~ ^{The} general belief is that the supplanting of Togo by Tojo in the Tokio Foreign Office means the long predicted move against maritime Siberia.

But in Tokio, Tojo, upon taking over his job,

told the staff of the Foreign Ministry that the change would not result in any way in the alteration of Japan's foreign policy.

Sounds like throwing sand in our eyes.

Another spokesman for the Japanese Government said ~~most~~ positively that Togo's resignation was for purely personal reasons and had nothing to do with any change in ~~the~~ Japanese policy.

Which sounds all the more as though they are trying to fool us.

CHINA

But there is ~~still~~ more good news from China. First came a dispatch that the Japanese had withdrawn from the Lishui sector. Chinese armies on their heels have recaptured four key towns between Lishui and the railroad from Chekiang to Kiangsi. ^{TF However} The Japanese declare that their retreat is according to plan. But, the Chinese ^{say the Japs} ~~claim that they~~ have been making desperate stands to hold the ^{get} towns, ~~that still remain in their~~ hands, particularly Kinhwa, ^{and its} ~~an~~ important air base.

A late dispatch from Chungking reports that the recapture of Kinhwa is imminent, ~~might happen at any~~ ~~Kinhwa is not so far from Shanghai,~~ time. With Kinhwa in Chinese hands again, the United Nations will be in a ~~fine~~ position for ^{launching} ~~most damaging~~ air raids upon the Japanese. ~~The most optimistic people~~ talk of more bombing raids on Japan itself, Kinhwa being ^{only about} ~~not much more than~~ six hundred miles from Nagasaki. ~~It is only a short distance from~~

~~Shanghai~~

Some experts say
~~Of course many people believe that~~ the Chinese
could never have recaptured all those towns and air
bases in Chekiang if the Japanese had not weakened their
armies for the purpose of ^{an all out} ~~their~~ attack on Siberia.
But the invasion of Siberia ~~would be considerably~~ ^{somewhat}
offset by heavy bombing raids on Japanese territory
from the Chinese mainland.

COAST GUARD

The Navy announced tonight that officers and men of Uncle Sam's Coast Guard have been under fire in the Solomons. They ^{were ing} served as crews of ~~the~~ transports. ~~They~~ ^{ing} also manned the guns on those transports when the American invasion fleet moved in ^{to} ~~on~~ the Solomons.

And, That is historic. ^{Far} This is the first time since the Coast Guard was established, that anybody in ^{its} ~~that~~ service has been on the fighting front, so far from home.

The Navy tells us that its officers were impressed by the skill of the Coast Guardsmen, the way they handled their ships and the way they manned their guns. The accuracy of their fire was exceptional.

KNOX

There has been too much optimism over the Nazi submarines operating off our Atlantic Coast. That was indicated by Navy Secretary Frank Knox today. He gave his first press conference in Washington in almost five months. ^{The Navy Secretary} ~~He~~ told newspapermen that the submarine problem has not by any means been solved. It is true, he admitted, that there has been a steady decrease in the sinking of ships off our own shores. But he added that the minute you make it tough for them off our coast and the British Isles, they hunt new areas. ^{with the seven} ~~They have the whole high~~ seas, far from land, as a field of operation.

That submarine problem involves a long, tough struggle. Nevertheless, the Navy expects to solve it some time.

One reporter asked the Secretary about the Japanese bases in the Aleutian Islands. ^{See,} Knox's reply

was rather indefinite. Probably, he said, the Japs are using Kiska as an observation post. And he added that they have built no land bases on the ^{oal} islands ~~in the~~ ~~Alaxixix Islands~~ that we know of. Those were his words, "no land bases that we know of."

RUSSIA

The defenses of Stalingrad have begun to crack, even judging by dispatches from the Russian side. *That is* The Red forces have been pushed back to a new line of defense. *Their* ~~That is the~~ fourth retreat ~~they have made~~ in forty-eight hours. Moscow admits that the peril to the city and to Soviet control over the Volga River grows more acute every hour. *TP* A large armored force of Nazis broke through the defense lines in the southwest in spite of the most desperate attempts of the Red army to stop it. *TP* On the front northwest of Stalingrad, the invaders are again pushing ahead. The Nazi high command announces that its troops have reached the Volga north of Stalingrad and Moscow says nothing to contradict it. In fact, the Red spokesmen admit that there is real danger that the Nazis may break through at that point.

In the Kletskaya sector, the Soviet Army had driven a wedge into the Nazi and Italians lines on the

west bank of the Don. Nazis and Fascists have made constant counter-attacks but the Russians are still holding ~~on~~ there. ^{TP} The Russian army newspaper RED STAR reports that the Germans are drawing near to the ^{coast of the} ~~XXXXXX~~ Black Sea in the northern Caucasus. ^{TP} Soviet troops have driven back repeated attempts of the Nazis to land from the Kerch peninsula. ^{TP} South of Krasnador, the Russians are outnumbered by two complete infantry divisions and numerous tank units.

There is only one bright spot in the news from Russia, and that ~~xxxx~~ again comes from the neighborhood of Rzhev and Kalinin. There the Red Army is again advancing, though not much.

RAID

An outstanding success was ~~that~~^e raid ~~that~~ the Royal Air Force made last night on the Nazi coal and steel City of Saarbrucken. Those are the words used by the Air Ministry in reporting the visit. It was far from ~~being~~ the first time that the R.A.F. dropped cards there, but it was reported that this was the most effective raid they have made yet.

And, It was followed today by daylight raids. ~~And~~ Shortly before noon a large force of American planes flew across the Channel in the neighborhood of Dieppe and returned soon after without losing a man or plane.

EGYPT

and some Americans,
In Egypt the British, and the Germans are at it
today
~~for all they are worth~~ along a twenty mile front. And
American bombers are ~~thick~~ *in the* ~~in the fray,~~ *of it,* their first
big ~~combat~~ *Today* action in this global war. They joined the
~~men of the~~ Royal Air Force in attack after attack on
— also a raid on Candia in Crete.
Rommel's concentrations. Early *today* it was reported
that they had taken part in no fewer than seven
And bombardments. The American bombers fought their way
through ~~heavy~~ *And* clouds of Axis fighter planes. They were
protected by both British and American pursuit planes.

The battle is being fought on a rolling, rocky
terrain between a peak at the south end of the El Alamein
line and the ~~Ruweiset bridge toward~~ the center of the
Egyptian front,
~~line.~~ For the time being, it appears to be mostly
a clash of tanks and planes.

Up to ~~the~~ *late* ~~middle of~~ this afternoon, the
progress of that battle *was in doubt.* ~~still was rather indeterminate.~~

As we learned yesterday, Rommel got off to a ^{fair} ~~pretty~~ good start by penetrating the British lines for eight miles. After he had done that, he sent his tank forces ~~on~~ pivoting northeast with an infantry division to cover the point where they pivoted. The ^{interpretation} ~~culmination~~ of this is that he hopes to cut across the communication lines of the Eighth Army and put his advance guard astride the railroad that runs along the coast between El Alamein and Alexandria.

EXECUTION

Today
The British hanged Thomas Williams of the Irish Republican Army, whereupon riots and disturbances broke out in widely separated parts of Ireland. The Government had turned down all pleas for a reprieve. The Duke of ^{ABERCORN}~~Abecombe~~, Governor-General of northern Ireland, declared that the law must take its course, murder had been done and must be punished.

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In Dublin, nearly all activities came to a dead stop for one hour. Most business men and employers closed up to avoid trouble. Some refused and soon found *threatening!* angry crowds outside ~~threatening them, so they adopted the better part of valor.~~ Mobs of people formed in front of buses and street cars and obliged them to stop. One firm on O'Connell Street defied the mob which thereupon smashed the shop plate glass windows. There were similar scenes in smaller towns throughout Eire.

The most spectacular disturbances were in
Belfast itself, ^{where} There was a riot around the city hall.
Workers at the Belfast linen mills went on strike,
also five hundred dock workers. Many ^{Belfast} shops were closed.
~~even in Belfast and the shutters up.~~

Belfast had been declared out of bounds for
American troops by their commanding officer. Nevertheless
there were ^{a couple of} ~~a few~~ doughboys in the ^{crowd} ~~union~~ looking on at
the fracas around the city hall. Two women saw them,
stopped and jeeringly gave them the Nazi salute. There
were shouts of, "Why don't you go home?"

54.
Early this evening, a United States Army car
was being driven down Doren Street in Belfast, when a
mob threw stones at it. The driver merely stepped on
the gas and nobody was hurt.

PARADE

The people of London turned out today for a spectacle they had not seen in almost a quarter of a century. It was a parade of American soldiers. Led by a band playing the last World War song, "Over There", they marched along Knight's Bridge, up Piccadilly, then along the Strand through Fleet Street, ^{on} ~~past Olson~~ ~~Palls~~ to Ludgate Hill and into the ancient City of London itself. ^{and,} They were in full dress uniforms, ~~the~~ infantry, Air Corps, Marines and Engineers. ^{IP} Three hundred thousand Londoners turned out to see them and ^{to} cheer. As they passed into the City of London proper, they were welcomed by ~~His Worship~~, the Lord Mayor, ~~of London~~, wearing the same regalia that his famous predecessor, Dick Whittington, wore centuries ago. With him were the Aldermen and Common Councilmen, arrayed in the historic costumes of their guilds.

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A reporter ^{tells us} ~~says~~ that the spirit of the crowds

was expressed by one old lady who said to a doughboy

" *Thanks you, thanks you,*
on leave, ~~"Thank you so much,~~ for coming over."

FOSTER

An American doughboy was taken for a ride in England, a ride he had not expected. Private Ora A. Foster of Pontiac, Michigan, was walking along a country road in the pleasant County of Wiltshire. Along came a motor car with several women, and a British Colonel in uniform. The story does ^{not} say whether twenty-two year old Private Foster made that familiar gesture with his thumb. At any rate, ^{— a big one —} the car stopped and one of the ^{— the older, rather austere one —} women asked if he would like a ride. Yes, Private Foster would. The Colonel, with his ribbons and all, climbed out of the back seat and climbed in front beside the chauffeur. So Private Foster rode ceremoniously in the back of the car. And the woman asked him the usual question, "How do you like England?"

Private Foster replied, "Nice place for a vacation, but there is no place like home."

^{elderly}
The ^{English} woman chuckled, and asked Private

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Foster a lot more questions. Before she got through she had a working description of the State of Michigan in general and Pontiac in particular, with intimate details about the home life of the Fosters.

When one of her companions called her "mam", Private Foster was a little puzzled; and then he thought, "By cracky, I've seen this lady in the movies - in the newsreel." Then it dawned on him that the hospitable lady was Queen Mary. Whereupon Private Foster became speechless. The Queen Mother opened her bag and gave Private Foster a little medal stamped on one side with the royal crown and the letters M.R., meaning Mary Regina. On the other side the words "Good Luck."

And that's the story of a buck private from Pontiac who was thumbing his way and was given a lift by a Queen.

VICHY

57

Something seems to be brewing in French West Africa. I mean Vichy West Africa, principally Dakar. Rumors were first started when General Boisson, the Governor-General, paid a hurried visit to Vichy. The Petain Government would say nothing about that conference, and would not permit French newspapers to print anything except the fact that it had taken place. On top of that, the Vichy Government tightened the censorship on dispatches to the United States. It is from Berlin that we learn that after the conference, Governor-General Boisson returned immediately by plane to Dakar.

CONGO



American soldiers ⁱⁿ ~~are on~~ the Congo River.
~~That~~ Sounds puzzling. ^{However the} ~~Just what they could be doing~~
~~there is beyond the layman's imagination.~~ The
information comes from a spokesman for the Belgian
Government in London, ^{who} ~~He~~ announced that American
troops have arrived at Leopoldville, ~~That is the~~
capital of the Belgian Congo, ^{and} quite a distance up the
river from the coast, ^{Rather far} ~~and quite a distance,~~ from any
of the theatres of war.

LABOR

The War Labor Board has just published a report on strikes. In the first seven months of this year, from January First to August Thirty-First, they have caused a waste in the war effort of one million, a hundred and thirty thousand, six hundred and seventy-eight man days of work.

8
This does not include any strikes in industries not concerned with munitions. Many of the strikes were in violation of a pledge not to strike, the pledge that President Roosevelt asked labor to make soon after the war began. Altogether, two hundred and ninety-five thousand, seven hundred and thirty-four workers ignored that pledge.

MUSSOLINI

8/12 Almost any day you can read a feature story from Europe telling about the hardships of the Italians. For instance, there is one today taken from the figures issued during July by the Fascist Rationing Committee. According to ~~those~~^e, an Italian in Italy now has only eight ounces of bread a day, two ounces of spaghetti, one ounce of rice, one ounce of meat, one ounce of sugar, and half an ounce of oil. As for butter - four ounces a month.

It is being told throughout Europe that after Mussolini had returned to Rome from his last meeting with Hitler, he wired the Fuehrer these words: "Need food immediately." Hitler replied; "Sorry, advise tighten belt." To which Mussolini wired back: "Please rush belt."

9 And here's Hugh,
in a rush.