

L.T.-- SUNOCO. TUES. JAN. 18, 1944

MOSCOW STORY

Soviet Russia seems to be emphasizing the theme of a separate peace-this following the Moscow story that the British have been negotiating with Hitler with a view to ending the war. The Moscow radio announced tonight that Soviet newspapers will publish a London Times Dispatch concerning proposals of peace made by the Nazis. These proposals are said to include the resignation of power by Hitler if the Allies would come to terms-the German army to take control, with the Germans to be allowed a series of concessions in eastern Europe. This Nazi suggestion is said to have been made two months ago, and now the Soviets, with a blaring of trumpets, announce that the whole thing will be made public in Russia tomorrow.

All of which follows a statement by President Roosevelt here in Washington this afternoon, in which the President declared that he was as much

mystified as anybody else by that previous Russian charge of British negotiations with Hitler's foreign minister, Ribbentrop. and, from sundry sources today came information that only deepens the mystery that mystifies the President.

The story was printed in Pravda, official organ of the Communist Party and was represented as a rumor from Cairo, that raised the question- what about the British sensor at Cairo? All news emanating from that British headquarters in Egypt is subject to censorship. And the denial goes still further. Pravda stated that it had the story from its own correspondent at Cairo, to which the British response is that so far as is known, pravda has no Representative in Cairo.

It is stated ~~that~~ in London that the British government has made diplomatic representations to the Stalin regime on the subject of the separate peace accusation which Britain so angrily denies.

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We hear that the British will tell the Soviet government that an explanation will be welcome in the interest of Allied unity.

London is wondering-why was the Pravda story published? Nobody believes for a moment that it was done in the authority of a ~~mess~~ newspaper & editor newspapers in Soviet Russia being strictly controlled by the government and Pravda being the organ of the Communist Party which runs Russia.

London thinks that nobody but a small group in Moscow knows the reason why; but Some speculations are made that Stalin is afraid that the Western Allies may make a deal with the Nazis, which would result in the occupation of Germany by American and British armies before the Red Army could get there. Or, the suggestion is made that the Soviets are trying to get back at the British because the Western Allies are supporting the exiled Polish government against Moscow in the question of

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Soviet acquisition of former Polish territory.

These are mere speculations, and the mystery is dark indeed—the mystery why Moscow has charged that the British are negotiating with the Nazis on the subject of a separate peace.

POLAND

A story today states that Soviet Russia had already rejected British-American mediation in the Russo-Polish dispute-even before the American offer of mediation had been received. So announced by Secretary of State Cordell Hull, who explained that first Moscow turned down the British suggestion of mediation and then the American message was received.

RUSSIA

In that latest new Russian drive-progress is reported in the offensive against the Leningrad area, Red army attacks have pierced heavily fortified German lines on two fronts west and south of the city.

The Russian communique declares that the whole series of Soviet offensives from Leningrad to the black sea, are now linked up into what Moscow calls "One vast battlefield."

This coincides with a Soviet encirclement now underway on the road to the Baltic State of Ltivia-an encirclement of an important railroad junction called Novosokolnicki.

To the south, in Poland, the Red forces are menacing the city of Rovno. All a part of the titanic conflict on that "one vast battlefield."

CHURCHILL

London has its Churchill back again. The Prime Minister returned today, after his recovery from the attack of ~~pneumonia~~ pneumonia that befell him while he was away at the Theran and Cairo conference. Churchill looks fine, hale and hearty after a period of recuperation under the hot North African sun. He says he had a fine stay at the foot of the Atlas Mountains taking it easy, basking in the sun.

But London today saw Churchill without a cigar. Not once did the Prime Minister appear with that familiar long Havana stuck in face. Presumably he is off smoking, doctors orders--perhaps until the last sign of his illness has gone. Meanwhile he's a cigarless Churchill.

ITALY

In Italy the gale is howling a bitter winter storm in the Italina mountains. And there is a river called "Rapido," which name means rapid. So you have a picture of a raging torrent, as well as the howling storm, That's the state of affairs for American troops, as they cross the river to come to grips with the Germans in their number one fortress-Cassino.

Meanwhile, the French in their flanking drive ~~against~~ against Cassino have driven to within four miles of that fortress on their road to Rome.

ITALIAN TREASURES

Some more Nazi looting is reported and this is a reminder of one particular habit of the King of Italy, Victor Emanuel. He is one of the world's great coin collectors, we are told. He possessed at least fifty thousands ancient gold coins, these treasures of the past dating back to the early days of the Roman empire. The Nazis have seized that numismatic hoard, together with other hereditary possessions of the royal house of Savoy. A German newspaper report describes these as "three hundred and seventy huge cases bulging with jewels, gold bullion and precious stones."

..... Anne O'Hare McCormick in the New York Times tells of an interview she had with Ciano just before Italy took the fatal step into war. She says that Mussolini's foreign minister was opposed to war, although he had supported the alliance between Facist Italy and Hitler's Germany. Why had he advocated the Nazi-Facist pact? The answer is rather paradoxical. Ciano, she says, had believed that the Axis treaty between the Nazis and Hitler would prevent Hitler from plunging ~~Europe~~ Europe into the maelstrom-because Italy was not ready to fight a war. "In a conversation with the writer," says Miss McCormick in the Times, "he said the pact was signed in the hope of restraining Hitler from waging war."

"But," he added somberly "the Duce will not listen."

"The Ciano of that last interview," writes Anne O'Hare Mc Cormick, "was not the vain, frivolous

CIANO

Pompous young man who aped Mussolini's swaggering poses. He was, " she adds, "the Italian who had learned to hate the Germans, too intelligent not to see that his country was headed for disaster," she goes on, "he was worried, uneasy, and afraid."

So that was the Count Ciano, who saw his fears for his country come true, and who therefore helped to overthrow his father-in-law and was finally executed by Fascist puppets of the Nazis at Verona.

PACIFIC

We are far away from the bitter jungle fighting in the Southwestern Pacific, and reports are late. But the ferocity of the struggle is indicated by a report tonight about the fighting on New Britain Island. We are told that allied ground troops on the Arawe peninsula have driven the Japs back for a thousand yards, in a bitter, stubborn battle on Sunday.

SOLDIER POLL

An investigation is being made of the poll that is said to have been taken among American soldiers overseas, a political poll. Ten days ago Republican National Committee Chairman Spangler told newspapermen that such a poll had been held. He said that at his request four officer friends had inquired among American soldiers in Great Britain and had reported that fifty-six per cent of these were opposed to the Roosevelt Administration.

Today Secretary of War Stimson declared that the alleged poll is being investigated by General Eisenhower, United States Commander for the coming second front. The Secretary declared that General Eisenhower has already submitted a preliminary report saying that any such political survey was made without his knowledge or consent and that he is looking into the matter thoroughly.

ELECTIONS

Today was election day in Pennsylvania and in Louisiana. The Louisiana contest of votes has mostly a picturesque importance, with one of the candidates being a juke box song composer, who writes and sings those raucous lyrics of sentimentality of the jazz variety.

Louisiana has always been entirely democratic, and its hardly more than a curiosity to note that the regular machine nominee, backed by the local state machine, took a slim lead tonight over the singing, swinging candidate, Jim Davis.

Pennsylvania, however, presents an election day picture of national interest-this because of the fact that half a dozen vacancies in the House of Representatives are to be filled by special election. The Democratic majority is mighty slim right now, and the result of the elections might make it still more slender. So what did Pennsylvania do today? The places of two Congressmen to be filled, one Democratic, and the other Republican?

ELECTIONS

Well, In Philadelphia, a Democratic Congressman resigned, and tonight we find a Republican has won out. Republican Joseph M. Pratt has defeated his Democratic opponent.

In Pennsylvania's Montgomery county, the seventh district was represented by a Republican who was killed in a Navy plane crash last November. The District still remains Republican, with tonight's returns showing the GOP candidate to be the victor by a large majority.

SUBSTITUTE RAILROADS

The railroads are ~~back~~ back under the control of private ownership. The return from government control was effected tonight by Secretary of War Stimson after President Roosevelt had stated that the labor disputes had been completely settled. Secretary Stimson in returning the railroads to the management of their owners, declared that the wage settlement provides assurance that there will be no stoppage of railroad service

PILOT

Over in England, the flying fortress crews found their hero. Last week I told how the men of the big bombers were looking for an unknown pilot who had protected them in that greatest of air battles fought over Germany just a week ago today. A big formation of fortresses was hard-pressed by a swarm of Nazi fighters the bombers having lost their own fighter escort.

Then suddenly one lone American Mustang appeared and attacked the whole German swarm. Waging an epic battle against incredible odds, the Mustang protected the Fortress formation, and was last seen diving through a cloud on the tail of a Nazi fighter.

The bomber men didn't know who he was, couldn't guess whether he had been shot down or whether he got back. They hoped he had made it and were looking for him to give him thanks & xxx and honor.

Today his identity was disclosed. He is

PILOT

Major James Howard of Missouri; and he had indeed got back.

The story from Britain pictures him as a particularly interesting type of pilot. A veteran of thirty, a former member of those astounding flying tigers who, with General Chennault, made history in China. Major Howard was, in fact, born in China, at Canton the son of a medical mission and out there he was, in a sense, fighting for the land of his birth.

He shot down six Japs, then later joined the U. S. Army Air Force and was sent to Britain, not to go on with records of new exploits over there.

He is tall and lanky, so tall he can hardly fold himself into the constricted cockpit of a fighter plane. He is of the blond western type and looks a lot like Lindbergh.

Today he told his story reluctantly, having said nothing much about it-until the Fortress crews

PILOT

found him. He said he just got lost from the rest of his squadron and, he continues, "when I reached bomber altitude I found I was flying alone. Up ahead," he relates, "about 25 flying fortresses in a very compact formation, seemed to be under a pressure attack by enemy aircraft. There must have been about thirty or forty planes working the bombers over individually."

Whereupon he closed for the attack, choosing one plane after another and diving at it before the Nazi could get within range of the bombers. In that way he drove them off or shot them down.

"We would fight down to fifteen thousand feet," he says, "then I would climb up to bomber level, when I would find another Jerry tooling up for an attack. I was pretty busy," he explains, "in a constant merry-go-round of clumbing and fighting." He says he had five encounters with enemy planes in half an hour and he shot down two, and possibly two others.

Thus the onetime paladin of the Flying Tigers

PILOT

in China did a single-handed job in beating off the enemy attack against bombers-the exploit of which he said so little, until the bomber crews hunted him down and disclosed his identity today.

city of the Lhasa of Tibet. This time it's a case of war, as is most everything these days. The journey to Lhasa was made by a party of American flying men although they had not the remotest intention of visiting that Shangri-la of the Finlayans.

A big transport was on that treacherous run from India, across the towering mountains to China. It got into a violent Himalayan storm and was blown far off its course. The gasoline supply was running out, and the fliers were over some of the most frightful country in all the world. Over on one side something seemed, something huge...Flight Officer Harold McCallum of Quincy, Mass. thought it was an immense cloudbank. Then he yelled.

"That's not a cloud, it's a new 'LA."

By which he meant Corporal Kenneth Spence

TIBET

Today's news gives us a headline that's always a classic in the world of travel and exploration: a trip to Lhasa, a visit to that long famous forbidden city of the Llamas of Tibet. This time it's a case of war, as is most everything these days. The journey to Lhasa was made by a party of American flying men although they had not the remotest intention of visiting that Shangri-la of the Himalayas.

A big transport was on that tremendous run from Indian, across the towering mountains to China. It got into a violent Himalayan storm and was blown far off its course. The gasoline supply was running out, and the flyers were over some of the most frightful country in all the world. Over on one side something loomed, something huge...Flight Officer Harold McCallum of Quincy, Mass, thought it was an immense cloudbank. Then he yelled.

"That's not a cloud, it's a mountain."

To which co-pilot Corporal Kenneth Spencer

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of Rockville Center, New York, Echoed.

"Yes, and there's another mountain on this side."

And at that moment, their gasoline gave out, and the motor died with a few last gasps.

They took to their parachutes and all came safely to the ground, where they rendezvoused by shouting. Some Tibetan natives found them, and guided them along the ricky trails to a town, where they were greeted by a Buddhist monk who spoke English. And then they were taken through the mountains for sixty miles to LHasa, the Shangri-las of his serene highness the Dolai Limas of Tibet.

Mighty few people of the west have ever visited that forbidden city. Time was when it meant death for an outsider to try to get to Lhasa. But now the lost Americans who has descended from the sky were entertained hospitably enough in the forbidden city and then were escorted on the long arduous trip

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over the high Himalayas and back to India.

"The escape story to end ~~all~~
all ~~the~~ escape stories!" they are saying over in
Calcutta.

And what are you saying over there in
N.Y., Roger?

PLANE

Over in Britain there is an American fighter plane with the cutest name. It is called, "Lamby." Which sounds just too ducky. Well, the name may be sweet and girlish but the plane is a hard-boiled battler of the sky. Its pilot, Major John G. Meyer of Forrest Hills, Long Island has just been decorated with the Distinguished Service Cross for shooting down three Nazi planes over Germany. This is related in today's news dispatch, which goes on to tell how Major Meyer happened to give his ship that sentimental name.

Naturally, there is a girl in the story, Miss Mora Schell of Jamaica, Long Island, She is a Grand-daughter of the late Brigadier-General A. L. Klein, one-time Mayor of New York, and has a gift for those dotting locutions which are commonly called baby talk.

This she demonstrated when the fighter plane pilot left for sky battles abroad. Saying good-bye, she murmured sweetly "whose lamby is oo?"

PLANE

to which he replied that he'd answer that question when he got into the battles of the air in Europe.

"Whose lamby is oo?" He remembered that fond query and proceeded to name his plane "Lamby."

The baby-talk worked out all right, as is illustrated by the prompt shooting down of three Nazi aircraft and the winning of the Distinguished Service Cross.

Today at Jamaica, Long Island, Miss Shcell made the following comment about the news of the Major's exploit.

"If you can get in touch with him, please send him my love and kisses." Which would indicate that her sentiments have not changed one bit, and she's still asking, "Whose Lamby is oo?"

HOPKINS LETTER

Today that much talked of letter, the one in which Harry Hopkins is supposed to have predicted that Republicans will nominate Willkie, was officially pronounced to be a forgery. This was stated by an official of the Department of Justice.

And at the same time an employee in Secretary Ickes' department of the Interior was suspended from his job, a five thousand dollar a year assistant, Geroge N. Briggs. The allegation has been made that Briggs turned the letter over to the author of the book in which it was printed, the Book "One Man Wendell Willkie" by C. Nelson Sparks, former Mayor of Akron, Ohio. And it is claimed that Ickes knew about it. All of which is denied by both Briggs and Ickes.

The latest is that there is a move for a possible investigation of the circumstances surrounding the Willkie nomination by the Republican convention in 1940. Senator Langer charges that Presidential

advisor Harry Hopkins had a hand in the Republican choice of the President's 1940 rival and the Senator also claims that delegate-votes for Willkie were purchased. So today Senator Kilgore of West Virginia called a meeting of the Senate subcommittee on elections of which he is chairman, to determine whether or not there should be an official Senate inquiry into the Willkie nomination.

RAILROADS---

President Roosevelt tonight ~~through the Sec.~~
~~of War,~~ turned the railroads back to private control.
This afternoon he announced that the wage
dispute with the non-operating unions had been
settled and said that he had notified Secretary
Stimson that the Army control of the railroads ...
might now be given up.