

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, SEPT. 7, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The capture of the toe of the boot is complete. British Eighth Army forces have made their way across the Aspromonte Mountains, and have come down on the other side - to the other coast. The distance was not great as the toe of the Italian boot is a narrow peninsula. The British had about thirteen miles to go, and there was little, if any, fighting. Progress was slowed down, however, by the difficult mountain country and demolitions - the blowing up of railroads and bridges.

The Axis continues to regard the invasion as a blind, a diversion to mask something larger. Berlin expects the important landing to be staged somewhere else - probably up near Naples. Again tonight we have another rumor that the American Seventh Army is moving by sea,

with the city of Naples again mentioned as the probable objective. And once more the rumor has General Patton's Seventh Army sailing from North Africa, though there is no indication that it ever went back to North Africa after the conquest of Sicily. That great fighting force of ours is rapidly becoming a mystery army.

London remarks that the conquest of Italy is not likely to be an all-British show -- without any American participation. So watch for General Patton's army.

London also notes that at the toe of the boot there has been virtually no Italian resistance, and takes it for granted that this will be the case right along. The suggestion is that the Italians are determined not to put up any opposition, and that the Germans are not likely to fight south of the line of the Po. In fact, London senses a little air of make-believe about the Italian campaign thus far, and thinks that the principal purpose may be to hold the Badoglio government make up its mind about surrendering.

AIR WAR

The newest stretch of round the clock bombing by planes based on Britain went into it's sixth day today. American# bombers smashed at targets in France and the Low Countries in daylight attacks. Thirty-five assaults in all were launched during the daytime raiding on targets that included air bases, rail centers and seaports.

Last night Munich was the mark for the R.A.F. A thousand tons of bombs were hurled on the South German city where Hitler started the Nazi movement. The R.A.F. planes ran into stiff opposition, with the Germans throwing all their ~~resources~~ resources into the defense of the ~~hit~~ birthplace of Nazism. Light and heavy aircraft batteries were in action, squadrons of night fighters, hundreds of searchlights, and thousands of flares. Some R.A.F. pilots reported as many as forty brilliantly glowing flares falling at the same time, from a great height.

That flare business however is a double-edged weapon - and works against the Nazis as well as for them. The flares light up the R.A.F. bombers, but they also illuminate the Nazi night-fighters, and make these ~~xxx~~ rare targets for bomber guns.

We are not told the actual size of ^{the} force that ~~xxxx~~

raided Munich, but observers noted that the formations of bombers, which streamed over London and the Channel Coast, seemed to be the largest airmada ever to leave England.

RUSSIA

In Russia, the Red Army is sweeping forward on a front of four hundred miles, and today announces the capture of three hundred more towns and villages. One report is that Soviet troops have broken into the great industrial city of Stalino, where fighting is going on in the streets.

Again today it is apparent that the Germans are being forced back all along the southern Russian battle front in what appeared to be a retreat to the line of the River Dnieper. Moscow tonight states that since the beginning of their ill-starred offensive in July the Nazis have lost a million and a half men, killed, wounded and prisoners.

Here's a statement emanating from what a Washington dispatch of the United Press calls a highly placed source. "The statement is that after the war there will be a substantial cooling off period, during which the world will have time to recover from the shock. And the victorious allies will have leisure to build solidly for an enduring peace.

In other words - no immediate peace conference with one signing of major treaties. Instead - a period of cooling off. This is the very policy that has been advocated for some time by Ex-President Herbert Hoover and our former Ambassador to Belgium, Hugh Gibson.

Today at his news conference, President Roosevelt stated that progress is being made in the arranging of a conference with Soviet Premier Stalin. He said he could give no details, but expressed the hope that there would be further progress during the next twenty-four or forty-eight hours - progress in negotiations for a Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin conference.

Today Republican leaders, meeting at Mackinac Island, Michigan, issued their program on foreign policy. They declared themselves in favor of a middle-road between isolationism and radical internationalism.

The Republican Council adopted a three-point resolution outlining American responsibility in the making of peace. First - the preservation and protection of all our own national interests. Second, aiding in the restoration of order and decent living in a distressed world. Third - doing our full share in a program for permanent peace among nations.

The Council called for a prosecution of the war to total victory, and gave a further declaration of post-war policy by pledging what it called:-
"responsible participation by the United States in post-war cooperative organization among sovereign nations to prevent military aggression and to attain permanent peace with organized justice in a free world."

The foreign policy declarations by the

Republican leaders avoided a decision on such matters as the use of force in maintaining the peace, and also the alliance with Great Britain, advocated by Governor Dewey of New York and others.

U BOATS

We have a warning from Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, a warning about the submarine war. Don't be complacent about it - says the Secretary. Right now, U-boat attacks in the Atlantic have tapered off, and there is a comparative lull. Secretary Knox thinks that this may be ~~xx~~ because the Nazi submarines have been called home to be refitted for new tactics - "fight-it-out" tactics.

The U-boats of late have been fighting instead of ducking. ~~That~~ is, they have been battling against the aircraft that the Allies have been using so successfully against them - airplanes, ~~and~~ blimps, ~~and that newest thing of all, which is coming into action, the helicopter.~~ The U-boats used to dive, and the aircraft would drop bombs after them. But now they shoot it out, and scored one notable success when they brought down a big blimp. Secretary Knox stated today that the new fight-it-out tactics have reduced the usefulness of blimps, and they make helicopters less effective than we had been hoping.)

So the lull in the submarine war may be deceptive. The U-boats may be back at their bases, for the purpose of being fitted with new weapons-like powerful anti-aircraft guns.

"Just as sure as sunrise, there'll be fresh attacks",

says the Secretary. And speaking of the submarine war, he added:
"It has been diminished, no question of that- but not eliminated".

At today's Navy Department news conference, another question came up; that of Admiral Kimmel, who was Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet at the time of Pearl Harbor. Recently, the story has been that he has been demanding an early trial. Secretary Knox was asked about that and replied: "No application has reached me, and I'd be the one that he'd ask".

WRECKS

It is ominous indeed when two of the most famous railroad trains in the United States are wrecked in the space of eight hours - the Congressional Limited on the Pennsylvania Line, and the Century on the New York Central. Are we to surmise - sabotage? Or are the two disasters to be explained by the over-crowding of railroad traffic in wartime? This latter factor is so important that officials of late have been warning the public not to travel, and the wrecks of last evening and this morning only renew the appeal.

The death list in the disaster to the Congressional Limited now amounts to seventy, and there are scores of injured in hospitals. Officials are conducting a rigid investigation, with federal agents trying to establish whether or not the fearful tragedy might have been caused by sabotage.

The heat became so intense that it burned the axle right through - white heat. The wheel came

off and one end of car number seven dropped to the road-bed. The car ran off the track and the coach behind it was whipped off the rails. Most of the fatalities occurred in that coach number seven; and in the one behind it - number eight. These were torn to masses of tangled steel.

The train was on its way north from Washington to New York, and disaster came just outside Philadelphia.

It was the worst railroad accident in this country since the previous war - this accident that befell the famous Congressional Limited - favorite train for government and business leaders in their travels to and from Washington.

The Century of course is no less famous. In fact it has been a nationally known Deluxe train for forty-one years. Running between New York and Chicago, the Century made records of earnings. During the boom years of Nineteen Twenty-Seven and 'Twenty-eight, and 'Twenty-nine, the train grossed

ten million dollars in business a year. Just that one train.

This time the accident was not nearly so bad.

PACIFIC

Today we have the news of another brilliant episode of war in New Guinea. Yesterday, we heard of a slashing amphibious operation - a surprise landing on the shore between the enemy stronghold of Salamaua and Lae. Today's story tells of a stroke of war in that same area, Lae and Salamaua but not on the coast -- inland. And it was a two-fold affair of ground troops and paratroopers.

A party of Australians belonging to the forces that are ~~ixi~~ driving against Salamaua made a long and perilous tour through ~~hm~~ the jungle and worked their way around to Markham Valley -- which is to the rear of the Jap position. Then, a squadron of planes dropped American paratroopers into that same valley. It was venturesome, low level work, the paratroopers jumping at as low a level as possible -- ~~together~~ to get to the ground quickly. This aerial operation was personally surveyed by General MacArthur who rode in a Flying Fortress and kept an eye on the paratroopers' descent.

On the ground the soldiers of the sky gathered swiftly as a fighting unit and worked their way toward the party of Australians. There was a bit of fighting with startled Japs

who never expected to find enemies in any such place -- and ~~soon~~
~~now~~ the Americans and Australians were greeting each ~~the~~ other.

That happened over last weekend -- the news delayed until now.

And the latest is the word that the Australians and ^{our} paratroopers
have captured the key airport in Markham Valley northwest of

Lae. And they have closed a route of escape for ^{the} twenty thousand

Japs on the coast. These cannot now get away, inland. ^{all possible}
~~There are~~

^{escape}
~~way~~ through the jungle is ~~un~~blocked.

We have a vivid account of the descent of the paratroopers;

~~This is~~ written by Lt. Monte Kleban of San Antonio, Texas, who

is assistant Public Relations officer on the staff of General

MacArthur. ^{The Lieutenant}
~~He~~ volunteered to go with the paratroops, -- and,

jumped with them.

"We were over the Markham Valley of New Guinea" he

writes. "One of the greatest ~~paratroops~~ parachute jumps of the

war was about to begin. It was a quiet Sunday when we made the

descent. My heart stopped in my throat", he continued, "as I

stepped into
~~the~~ ^{the} parachute-filled air. One, two, three I counted

quickly. The tremendous jolt of the opening of my chute brought

painful relief. Before my senses cleared I hit the ~~xxx~~ ground".

He relates how paratroopers were in the thick of the tropical grass, grass twelve feet high. They struggled their way through it, heading to the point where they were to assemble. There they gathered, and took up firing positions -- for a breathing spell before they started out to find the Australians.

Lt. Kleban ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ continuing his story relates, ~~THE~~ ~~ONE~~

"a Catholic chaplain, Captain John Powers, ^{of} Oneonta, New York, threw ~~him~~ himself down beside me. He was soaking wet ~~with~~ from sweat.

One man called out "say father do you think the Japs will be shocked at our doing this to them on a Sunday?"

"The Chaplain smiled and replied "the better the day, the better the deed".

"And down the trail", Lt. Kleban goes on, "a low muttering voice could be heard. A husky paratrooper hove into sight staggering with a huge box in addition to his regular heavy equipment. He was talking to himself, "still like Brooklyn", he muttered. "I still like Brooklyn".

The paratroopers moved on and ~~presently~~ presently ~~met~~ met the Australians. "We saw each other at the same moment" says Lieutenant ~~Kleban~~ Kleban. "The Aussies and ~~Yanks~~ Yanks ran together

and hugged one another like long lost brothers. Backs were slapped, smokes were swapped and hundreds of questions were hurled back and forth.

Then the combined forces pushed on for a fighting advance to the Markham Valley Air Base. There was plenty of shooting and sniping, not counting those delightful comforts of the jungle.

General MacArthur's Assistant Public Relations officer writes:- "I spent the night dosing now-and-then as the ~~maxix~~ mosquitos bit me and the lizards ran into my clothes".

And after that what have you to say, Hugh?