

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1943.

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Uncle Sam's men accomplished a clean-cut repulse of Rommel's Nazi panzer columns in Tunisia. This is no empty boast or ballyhoo. Those are the words of Secretary of War Stimson himself, who is not given to drama or fustian. There is no question about what happened in that battle, the fiercest in which American troops have yet had to fight.

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This afternoon the Berlin radio for the first time admitted a set-back in Tunisia. The Nazi communique phrases it: "Marshal Rommel detached his troops and ordered them back to more favorable positions."

So The two columns which Rommel sent rolling

westward toward Tebessa and northwestward toward

Thala, were definitely ~~trown~~ <sup>See</sup> back. ~~Solonej~~ <sup>Stimson</sup>

~~says, further:~~ <sup>adds that:</sup> "Their retreating columns are being harrassed by our troops and planes of every type."

And <sup>further:</sup> ~~he adds:~~ "The air support has been exercised with great skill and has contributed greatly to our success."

The War Secretary adds a word of caution. <sup>That</sup>

"We must not expect an easy or quick victory."

<sup>He also</sup> ~~The War Secretary~~ announces that our losses in the last ten days have been large. But, by way

of reassurance, <sup>that</sup> they were not <sup>as</sup> heavy <sup>as</sup> we were led to expect <sup>from</sup> ~~in~~ the first grim accounts of that battle.

Several American units were cut off by the advancing

Axis columns <sup>right at the outset - cut</sup> ~~in the first days of the fighting, cut~~

<sup>But turns out that</sup> off and given up for lost. ~~But~~ they were not ~~completely~~

<sup>For</sup> completely lost. They fought their way back <sup>right</sup> through the

rather scattered Axis lines.  
~~the Axis lines.~~

Secretary Stimson remarks that what our army  
~~achieved there shows~~  
~~accomplished there is a fine comment on~~ not only the  
valor but the ability and training of those troops,  
unseasoned as they were and pitted against Rommel's

veterans. Our forces were not broken by the Germans,  
*he says.*

"On the contrary, when the enemy came through, <sup>the Yankees</sup> ~~our men~~  
took everything the Germans ~~had~~ ~~threw~~ ~~at them~~ ~~and then~~  
~~and then~~ counter-attacked ~~with the utmost vigor.~~ Lieutenant

<sup>77</sup> General Eisenhower reports that all complacency has  
been dropped and our soldiers are thoroughly mad and  
ready to fight.

*According to the latest*  
*word,* We suffered losses not only in men, but in  
equipment. ~~Among them were~~ <sup>*Including*</sup> numbers of tanks, field

~~guns,~~ <sup>*and*</sup> ~~also~~ scout cars. However, <sup>*See,*</sup> said Stimson, a  
formidable proportion of what we ~~we~~ lost has already  
been replaced.

The Secretary also paid a tribute to the

British. He said General Kenneth Anderson's First Army in northwestern Tunisia was of great help to us in the counter-attack. The greater part of that First Army is at present demobilized by mud. But now the pressure from General Montgomery's Eighth Army is beginning to make itself felt. *And has* ~~It is pushing on the Mareth Line and has~~ *on the Mareth Line -* already taken two or three strong points, <sup>TP</sup>The Secretary

then used these words: "The outlook is that there will be heavy fighting all along the Tunisian front." And he

<sup>S: -</sup> warned ~~us~~ "We must expect setbacks and casualties."

From the front itself, ~~we learn that~~ United Press Correspondent Virgil Pinkley reports that Marshal Rommel's defeated army is now streaming eastward through the Kasserine Pass. *with* An avenging swarm of Allied planes ~~is~~ battering at their ~~xx~~ transport lines along the road.

The *question* ~~guessing~~ now is, when and where Rommel will ~~try to~~ *get set to* fight it out. Officers stand. ~~Newsman~~ on the spot are sure of one thing - it

will not be in the area immediately west of the pass.

Rommel

~~He~~ is being pushed too hard for that: the vanguards of the American and British armies have already chased him out of there, <sup>Kasserine gap.</sup> and back into the ~~gap.~~ He has got to keep ~~on the run until he can extricate his army from the bottleneck.~~

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The Axis position in central Tunisia is also being threatened. Advance British and American patrols have headed as far as the neighborhood of Sbiba, northeast of the Kasserine Pass. The Germans and Italians are <sup>now</sup> between Sbiba and Sbeitla. A squadron of French fliers is also on the job helping the British and American air forces ~~to~~ bomb and machinegun the retreating Germans.

Another correspondent on the spot reports ~~that~~ the American soldiers are begrimed and unshaven, but grinning, after chasing the Germans and Italians

all the way from Thala to the mouth of the Kasserine  
*where the Americans*  
Pass, ~~they~~ took a short spell, ~~to chortle over the~~

~~bloody nose they have given the Axis forces.~~ Among

the soldiers in the group was <sup>a</sup> Private Hornsby from

*famous*  
^

Harlan County, Kentucky, "~~Bloody Harlan,~~" as we ~~called~~

~~call it.~~ Said Private Hornsby: "We used to do plenty

of fighting around Harlan, but they sure play rougher

here. Down here yesterday," he explained, "those shells

were bursting ~~around~~ like rain on a tin roof."

It was a cheerful sight to American soldiers every time an Axis position was blown up, but a

spectacle even more cheerful was that of kitchen trucks

dashing out on the field of battle after dark with hot

meals. Those kitchen crews <sup>doing</sup> ~~did~~ their <sup>job under</sup> ~~stuff~~ while the

heavy artillery <sup>fire.</sup> ~~still was roaring.~~ <sup>American</sup> ~~But the~~ food trucks

delivered <sup>ing</sup> ~~ed~~ hot meals right to the tanks.

A later dispatch reports that General

Eisenhower visited the battlefield himself this afternoon. With him was his deputy, British General Sir Harold R.L.G. Alexander. ~~They held considerable conferences on the battlefield.~~ With them was ~~United States~~ Major General Fredendall, who is in personal command of our columns on the spot and has received a good share of credit for tossing the Nazis back.

*TP* General Eisenhower <sup>*actually*</sup> ~~himself~~ witnessed the final stage of the battle when the Germans were thrown back at Kasserine Pass.

## TANK

*announces that 'it*  
The United States Army has an answer to the Mark-Six tank, the German land battleship with which Marshal Rommel's Afrika Korps did so much havoc last week. The Mark-Six is a fifty-seven tonner. But Uncle Sam has a sixty tonner. Not much has been said about it until today. ~~The first specimen was made a year ago, but nothing was made public about using it.~~

*problem in*  
One ~~objection to~~ sending these monsters into action abroad is the difficulty of unloading them. But the Nazis were able to unload their Mark-Sixes, so we should surely be able to do at least as well as they. However, there is one definite drawback to the Mark-Six, which would also apply to our own sixty tonners. *are that* Tanks that heavy are not so mobile. Furthermore, they are liable to crush through many culverts and bridges which can easily carry the lighter thirty and forty ton tanks.

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RUSSIA

There is a made-in-America flavor to the latest move of Russia's Red Army. Stalin's troops are attacking the Germans on the central front now, southwest of Moscow. And at the spearhead are entire units of tanks forged and built in the U.S.A. Actually, this is the second front into which the Soviet generals have thrown American tanks recently. In the spearheads driving on Orel, are <sup>both</sup> ~~not only~~ American <sup>and</sup> ~~but~~ British tanks. ~~also.~~

The news comes from Berlin by way of Stockholm. <sup>and</sup> It is the Nazis who report that no fewer than twenty units ~~of American~~ <sup>of American</sup> ~~of United States~~ made tanks are doing their bit in a Russian attack, along the <sup>old</sup> ~~road of~~ Moscow, ~~Smolensk and~~ Warsaw. <sup>road - -</sup> ~~That is~~ the Napoleon road, the road along which the great Corsican invaded Russia, and the road along which the tattered remnants of <sup>his</sup> ~~the~~ Grand Army retreated.

Most of our news about Russia comes out of Berlin tonight. ~~By the way,~~ The Nazi high command

reports that the Red Army is attacking ferociously, east of Gzhatsk, ~~That is~~ a strong point on a highway one hundred miles west by south of Moscow. <sup>Which</sup> ~~That~~ points to the probability that the real objective of the Russian tank attack is Vyazma, one of the strongest points in the German line. <sup>TP</sup> The Nazis are complaining that the Russians continue to attack in ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ wave upon wave without tiring. The Germans howl loudly that the Russians do not play fair because one division of Red troops advanced through deep snowdrifts to capture a series of villages before Orel. <sup>TP</sup> However, west of Kharkov, the Spring thaw is beginning to set in. The winter cold is letting up on the more southern front and there the German counter-attacks are growing stronger. In the Donets basin, the Nazis are fighting back with increasing power and savagry. <sup>e</sup> ~~^~~ The German air arm is being strongly reinforced. The weather is better

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now for flying. <sup>Nazi</sup> ~~German~~ reserves are arriving from western Europe. German aircraft is also more active in the Caucasus around Novorossisk.

Secretary of War Stimson had this comment to make on that eastern front. He pointed out that the Russians ~~now~~ control all the railway systems in the Don Valley in the basin of the Donets and in the Caucasus. The Germans, he added, are now concentrating their efforts to keep open their corridors of escape to the Dnieper. <sup>Also that</sup> The Soviet army drives from Leningrad will isolate Finland from Germany, and that may account for the reports that the <sup>Finns</sup> ~~defenders~~ are ready to make peace.

CHINA

The headquarters of Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek makes a favorable report tonight. The Japanese attacks in the Provinces of Hupeh and Kiangsi have ~~xxx~~ been set back with heavy losses to the enemy. Supported by heavy artillery and planes, the Japanese tried to cross the Yangtze River in central Hupeh, but were repulsed and many of them drowned in the river. After that, the rest of them retreated.

The Japanese are attacking on a wide scale in several parts of China. But in only one region have they made any substantial advance. That was in the French leased territory of Kwanchowwan, which was undefended. The Japanese claim to have the consent of the Vichy Government to their advance in that region. They also massed thirty thousand troops in western Hunan Province and occupied thirty-seven miles of the west bank of the Salween River. So far they have been unable to cross the

~~Salween.~~

Meanwhile, in Washington, Chinese Foreign Minister Soong had good news to report. The public appearances of his sister, Madame Chiang Kai-shek, appear to have been effective already. Foreign Minister Soong said that with increased airplane aid from America, his country would be able to drive the Japs out of China. A reporter asked him if a thousand planes would be enough, and he replied: "We could do it with much less than that." Secretary of War Stimson at the same time reported that the fighting strength of the United States Army in China is growing steadily. Said Stimson: "For their invincibility and courage, the Chinese deserve all the aid we can supply, and they will get it."

ROOSEVELT

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President Roosevelt has cancelled his engagements for the next few days. He is not seriously ill, just indisposed, less than one degree of fever. But, he is going to take it easy and receive no callers until he feels entirely himself. The illness is described officially at the White House as "a little intestinal upset."

To console him, the President received a new honor. He was awarded the Grand Cross of the Holy Sepulchre, the oldest decoration in Christendom.

It was bestowed on Mr. Roosevelt by the patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church of Jerusalem, His Beatitude, Timotheos. <sup>r</sup>  
*A colorful, gorgeously robed*  
~~delegation~~ <sup>delegation</sup> of Greek prelates were at the White House today, headed by the Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Americas, the Most Reverend Athenagoras. *This is a*  
~~It is a beautiful and~~  
*handome*  
particularly ~~interesting~~ <sup>handome</sup> decoration. It consists of

a gold cross and locked within it is a piece of the  
sacred wood from the <sup>Holy</sup> Cross <sup>itself, we are told.</sup> on which Christ was  
~~crucified~~. With it the Greek prelates brought a small  
stone from Calvary. <sup>TR</sup> The Order of the Holy Sepulchre  
was founded as long ago as the era of Constantine the  
Great, <sup>Constantine</sup> who made Christianity <sup>the</sup> state religion of the  
Roman Empire.

WIRES

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There was a Signal Corps mystery on one of the islands occupied by ~~the United States~~ <sup>American</sup> forces in the South Pacific. The Signal Corps had strung telephone wires through the jungles. Though there was not a single enemy on the island, somebody kept cutting those wires. One evening, a couple of enlisted men, listening to native music in a village, noticed that the musicians had brand new wire strings on their instruments. Yes, ~~that was what had caused the cutting~~ <sup>the natives were using</sup> of the telephone wires, ~~The natives used them for~~ <sup>for their island</sup> their guitars, ~~or ukuleles or what not.~~ And, some of their ~~wives were using~~ <sup>wives were using</sup> ladies used them for clothes lines. They thought, with such long stretches of wire, nobody would miss a few feet here and there.



SWIMMER

~~A swimming story from Argentina may make a lot of our athletes open their eyes. We think anybody who swims the English Channel is quite a water ace. But~~  
*in Argentina*  
~~In the land of the tango,~~ the blue ribbon stunt is to swim down the River Plate all the way from Rosario to Buenos Aires, ~~It is~~ *a distance of* two hundred and five miles. Nobody has ~~done~~ *made* it yet, but one expert has ~~made~~ *had* five tries at it, ~~He is~~ Pedro Candiotti, known to fame as the Number One endurance ace of Argentina.

*And Pedro*  
He has just finished his fifth attempt, ~~and~~ *this time giving* ~~although he didn't quite succeed~~ -- he gave up only twelve miles from his goal. A hundred and ninety-three miles ~~to swim~~, this Pedro Candiotti ~~did~~ *swam* in seventy-four hours and thirty minutes. And at that, the only thing that beat him was the tide. Though the point at which he gave up is more than a hundred miles from the mouth of the River Plate, the tide goes up that

far, a tide strong enough to overcome the speed of  
the ~~river's~~ <sup>river's</sup> current. For two hours Candiotti swam  
with the tide pushing him back half a mile an hour.

~~So the sporting world will have to admit him~~  
quite a swimmer. One of his <sup>other</sup> attempts, last year, would

have succeeded but for a tropical storm. The other  
time, ~~curiously enough~~, Candiotti ~~xxx~~ fell asleep

while swimming down the river. ~~And that is a curiosity~~

~~I've never heard of before~~

And ~~the~~ now <sup>lets all</sup> ~~arouse ourselves if we~~  
~~will you arouse yourself~~  
~~have dozed off and~~  
~~and tells us what you~~  
~~have to tell us?~~

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