

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here is the latest <sup>from</sup> of Tobruk - its loss  
is a disastrous blow, <sup>major</sup> but, not necessarily a calamity.  
~~That is word that~~ <sup>This</sup> comes <sup>to us</sup> from Cairo. <sup>That</sup> ~~itself~~. Two years  
ago, the Axis was farther on the road to the conquest  
of Egypt than ~~it is~~ today. Then the Italians had  
reached a point midway between <sup>Sidi</sup> Barrani and Mersa Matruh.  
The British <sup>got out of that jam;</sup> ~~recovered from that~~ and, it is hoped that the  
shock of losing Tobruk will <sup>now cause them to</sup> ~~make them really~~ hit back  
and take the offensive once more.

Tobruk fell because its defenders when  
out-maneuvered, hesitated too long to make the move  
which might have saved them. <sup>is the way</sup> That ~~is as~~ one observer  
~~sees~~ sees the picture, an American correspondent at

the front. It fell after twenty-six hours of the fiercest fighting ever known in the desert. The attack on the <sup>t</sup>ci~~dad~~adel began shortly before five o'clock Saturday morning. First, there was a bombardment of heavy artillery, helped by attacks of waves upon waves of Stuka dive bombers. ~~That was~~ followed by a <sup>screen</sup> ~~stream~~ of tanks which protected an advance of tractor borne infantry.

The attackers included two Italian divisions. They broke through the defenses at two points and made the surrender of the place inevitable. They attacked <sup>Tobruck like</sup> ~~like~~ battering rams, for two hours. The heavy barrage had cut the Heavy barb wire entanglements and Rommel hurled waves after waves of men through the openings. As one wave advanced, the tanks that were supporting, scattered fanwise. The tanks widened the gap on the southeast. Meanwhile, another strong tank unit

followed up by infantry poured down the main road on Tobruk from the south.

The British, according to this account, fought doggedly and valiantly; but, they waited for attacks. When they finally sent out two strong tank forces to meet the enemy, those tanks ran into a ceaseless fire of artillery shells. <sup>And</sup> The tanks of the Imperial forces were smashed one by one.

It soon became evident to the defenders that they could not hold out. <sup>So</sup> They started destroying stores. All though the night fires blazed, stores being burned.

Tobruk surrendered at seven o'clock Sunday morning. <sup>TP</sup> According to the dispatch of a United Press correspondent, it was one more lesson in the quickness of Nazi decisions, boldness in maneuvering, and superiority in tactics. In plain language, he continues, the British sat back and allowed the enemy

to make every move. When the British did move, he adds, it was too late. ~~It was~~ the old story of wait and see.

The American correspondent gives an illustration of what he says. Four days ago, he relates, there was talk of a counter-attack against the German tank forces from the south. He visited the units which were waiting for orders. The men were fit and eager, but no word of command came. The men themselves spoke of there being no control. That was the keynote of the criticism in the ranks. <sup>that</sup> There seemed to be no mind <sup>Allied</sup> guiding the <sup>to</sup> forces. Those are the words of a dispatch from the spot.

Other dispatches from Cairo today reported enemy airplanes over Cyprus. <sup>and</sup> That <sup>is</sup> only a hundred and twenty-five miles from Syria and two hundred and thirty miles from Egypt. ~~And~~ <sup>Further</sup> west Italian and Nazi planes began once more their ceaseless attacks on

Malta. That island fortress just south of Sicily is now more than ever isolated.

The Nazi high command claims today that twenty-eight thousand British prisoners were taken at Tobruk, with many still ~~unaccounted for~~ <sup>not counted</sup>. The British ~~declare~~ <sup>say</sup> that ~~is~~ <sup>it</sup> is absurd. ~~The British~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~latest~~ <sup>the</sup> from

Cairo adds that the British have established a new line on the Egyptian frontier. <sup>and</sup> The Middle Eastern command reports that Imperial tank forces have established contact with an enemy column twelve miles north of Fort Capuzzo on the frontier between Libya and Egypt. In other words, Rommel is not sitting

on his laurels but is preparing to sweep on as fast as he can <sup>^</sup> towards the Nile. At the latest report,

British fighter planes and American built bombers were raining their bombs on Rommel's advancing troops

<sup>onward rush</sup>  
trying to stop the ~~sweep~~ of the panzer columns. They also attacked ~~the~~ <sup>can</sup> Axis' convoy off the Libyan coast.

CHURCHILL

President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill never had such a dramatic background for their conferences as today. They had strong need to get together, with Rommel pushing on towards the Nile, enemy fliers over Cyprus, Nazis and Russians fighting

<sup>now</sup> in the ~~very~~ streets of Sevastopol, and the Japs two hundred miles nearer to America. the mainland of North All these grave

events have followed directly upon the heels of Churchill's arrival in Washington. ~~So directly that~~

~~There was~~ ~~there was even~~ talk in the capital today that the

British Prime Minister may have had a forewarning

which prompted him to his quick and sudden journey.

At any rate, it is agreed, <sup>that</sup> these conferences <sup>have come</sup> ~~began~~

at a most critical time,  
~~in the nick of time.~~

Churchill  
The President and ~~Prime Minister~~ were

~~closed~~ together all day. Secretary ~~Steve~~ Early told

newspapermen that Mr. Roosevelt had no appointments;

meanthing that Roosevelt and Churchill were not to be interrupted -- except to receive reports from technical experts.

Secretary Early hinted today that we might soon get a statement, from both the President and the Prime Minister. But this afternoon they had not yet reached the point where they are ready to take us into their confidence.

Mr. Churchill meanwhile was getting some criticism in England. The capture of Tobruk has the British public not only alarmed but excited and indignant. There were angry demands in Parliament for explanations, investigations, information. A Scottish member of Parliament asked a question in the House, a question which was also a demand. He wanted to know who was responsible for official statements which led the British to believe that their Royal Air Force held command of the air in North Africa, which turned out not to be the case. He also wanted to know how the enemy was

able ~~to~~ so swiftly to bring up troops, guns and transports to establish forward air bases right on the heels of ~~the~~ the retreating British forces. And he wants the Secretary of State for Air to institute an immediate inquiry of the facts and report the results to Parliament without delay.



RUSSIA

In Sevastopol, it appears to be only a matter of hours. The Nazis are fighting their way through the <sup>now</sup> great fortress <sup>city</sup> ~~town~~, yard by yard. Even discounting the German claims, it <sup>seems</sup> ~~sounds~~ as though only a miracle could <sup>keep the great</sup> ~~wrench that~~ Crimean base <sup>from falling</sup> ~~out of their clutches~~.

But, the Red defenders have not ~~been~~ <sup>not</sup> given in, ~~yet~~ by a long shot. Not only soldiers, marines and sailors, but civilians, men and women, are fighting from house to house, and that is acknowledged by the Germans themselves. The Nazi official broadcast admits that every building has had to be torn from the stubborn Russian defenders. ~~They are fighting in the northern bay district of the city.~~ <sup>TP</sup> The Nazis claim that they now have the last fort on the coast defending Sevastopol.

This is the sixteenth day of that unrelenting siege and even Moscow acknowledges that the situation

is ~~growing~~ graver ~~and graver~~. A dispatch ~~that came~~

by way of London reports that the Russians are fighting in trenches in the center of Sevastopol and that part

of the defenders have already evacuated by sea. *all of*

*which*  
~~That~~ seems to bear out what the Germans claim.

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From the front further north, reports are more hopeful. The Moscow high command claims that Marshal Timoshenko has taken the initiative after having repelled the attempt of the Germans to cross the Donets River. There is reason to believe that the Russian counter-attacks near Kharkov and Bryansk are attempts of Timoshenko to forestall the massing of German armies near Togonrov and Rostov at the top of the Sea of Azov.

LAVAL

An amazing thing was heard in France today.

It was the sound of the Chief of State imploring his countrymen to go to work for the Germans. Pierre Laval broadcasting to the French used these words:- "Workers of France, I appeal to you. Go to Germany and work for your conquerors or else they will not release any of the one million two hundred and fifty thousand French prisoners they hold."

Hitler has decreed, he told them in so many words, that henceforth the French prisoners of war in Germany are only to be liberated in proportion to the number of French workers who take up work there. He told them also that this was largely because the Nazis were infuriated by the recent escape of General Henri Giraud from <sup>a</sup> the German prison <sup>a tress.</sup> ~~forces~~ However, observers were pointing out that for almost two years before the escape of Giraud, the Nazis had been going

back on their promise to release French prisoners.

Laval virtually admitted what a lot of reports have been telling us, that the needs of the eastern front have compelled Hitler to withdraw men from his factories and put them into the front lines. "Germany," said Laval, "is fighting a gigantic combat to build a new Europe. In order to throw her blood and youth into battle she needs men for her factories and fields," so said the chief of the French government.

When we hear these words coming from the mouth of a Frenchman, we appear to be in some weird nightmare.

NORWAY FOLLOW LAVAL

Today there is concrete evidence that the threatened Allied invasion of Europe has put a strain on the German army. Some of this information comes by way of the Premier of Norway, who was in Ottawa today. He told newspapermen in Canada that the Nazi occupation forces in Norway had been weakened in order to ~~strengthen~~ strengthen the eastern front. But now they have been reinforced and heavy fortifications have been built on the Norwegian coast.

*That*  
~~This~~ is corroborated by a dispatch from Stockholm. This reports that the Nazi occupation authorities in Norway have started holding realistic invasion exercises on the Norwegian coast.

*which*  
All of ~~this~~ of course weakens the ~~R~~ Russian front.

## SHELLING

There was excitement this morning over the reports that a Jap submarine had been shelling the coast of Oregon. It turns out that there was no need for excitement. Some kind of unidentified craft did drop a few shells on the shore, nine to be precise.

They landed on sandy beaches, far away from anything. By that, I mean not only were there no people nearby but no houses, no buildings, nothing but empty wasteland.

Word comes from the West later that they were aimed at Fort Stevens near the defenses of the mouth of the Columbia River. The aim, however, was bad.

OFFICERS

Any man in the Navy and Coast Guard now can become an officer. There was a general impression that it has always been possible for a man to rise from the ranks to a commission. But that was only true in a limited sense. According to the law, only twelve men a year were promoted from the ranks to <sup>be be</sup> ~~the position~~ <sup>of</sup> officers and gentlemen. When the war broke out, there were only seventy-five rankers among Uncle Sam's Navy and Coast Guard officers. So said Congressman Vinson of Georgia, Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee of the House, and he ought to know.

*5p*  
<sup>Therefore</sup> ~~So~~ it is news today that the bars are down. The House today completed dealing with a new bill that makes it possible for enlisted men to be commissioned as they are needed, after they have passed the examinations.

## PILOTS

Uncle Sam wants thousands ~~of~~ more flying pilots,  
~~pilots, pilots and more pilots,~~ <sup>and</sup> Still another channel  
is now open whereby men who want to fly can join the  
service. This applies particularly to those who are  
unable to meet the stringent qualifications of combat  
pilots. The Civil Aeronautics Administration today  
announces that it is beginning something new. On  
July First, it will start training thousands of men  
for the Army Air Force Reserve Corps. It is open to  
any man between the ages of eighteen and thirty-six.  
~~Perhaps it should be repeated that~~ This is particularly  
for those who cannot meet the standards required of a  
combat pilot.

To become a candidate in this Corps, one  
does ~~not~~ need either flying experience or even a  
high school education. The Civil Aeronautics Authority  
has ~~no fewer than six hundred~~ training centers for this



Application should be made to the local representative of the Civil Aeronautics Authority or by letter or telegram to Charles Stanton, Acting Administrator of the C.A.A., Washington, D.C. Uncle Sam needs a hundred thousand more of these pilots.

## GASOLINE

Government big-wigs in Washington are having headaches over the problem of gasoline for vacations. Congressmen from the New England states wrote an eloquent letter to Leon Henderson begging him to have a heart. They suggest that people who make bonafide reservations for vacations in the Eastern states should obtain a supplemental gas ration book. These would be enough to enable families to get from home to the place where they want to spend their vacation and back again. They pointed out to the O.P.A. that if people can't get to their farms and summer homes in New England they will have to sell them. O.P.A. officials announce that they are considering the appeal.

And the Western senators are still solidly opposed to nationwide gasoline rationing.

One word of hope on the gas business was uttered today by Director Joseph Eastman of the

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Office of Defense Transportation. The petroleum shortage in the eastern states has become so acute that the government is considering running convoys of tankers under naval protection. Eastman said he doubted whether it was possible to eliminate the deficiency in the eastern territory in this tank service along the coast until ~~xxxx~~ transportation was brought in under such protection. However, he added that he felt that was a question to be decided by Petroleum Coordinator Harold Ickes.

~~Eastman tells us that no fewer than one hundred and twenty thousand railroad tank cars are being used for petroleum and its by-products. Of these, fifty thousand are bringing something like nine hundred thousand barrels a day into the eastern states. That is four hundred thousand barrels a day less than is needed.~~

ADD GASOLINE

Incidentally, permanent gasoline rationing in the Eastern states has been postponed for another week. It was to have begun July Fifteenth. But by today's decision, it will not begin until July Twenty-Second. <sup>this</sup> ~~That~~ means that the registration dates have been put off from the first week of July to July Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh.

Presumably, that <sup>also</sup> means ~~that ~~xxxxx~~ more~~

<sup>car</sup> drivers will have to make their present gas rationing books last until the Twenty-second of July.