

P.L. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Sept. 21, 1943.

Today British Prime Minister Winston Churchill gave the London House of Commons his keenly awaited report on the progress of the war. In a ~~XXXXX~~ sense, ~~this~~ a companion piece to President Roosevelt's message to Congress last Friday. The President's review was lengthy, and Churchill's today was still longer. It was so long that in the middle of it, the House of Commons took a recess for luncheon. Churchill had been expected to divulge to Parliament some pertinent facts concerning questions about which there has been a good deal of controversy; - and, he did.

For example, some people have been criticizing the fact that the invasion of Italy was not launched sooner. Why didn't <sup>we have</sup> ~~we have~~ those amphibious blows immediately after the downfall of Mussolini? ~~and take prompt advantage of the overthrow of Fascism?~~ Why did the Allied Command hold off the invasion while the Badoglio government hesitated - and while the Germans had the time to rush forces and ~~mix~~ seize control in so much of Italy?

Churchill's reply is that the timing of the seaborne blows had nothing whatever to do with political events in Italy.

"The time of our main attack on Italy", said he, "was fixed without the slightest reference to the attitude of the Italian government. And the actual provisional date of operation was settled long before any negotiations had taken place, and even before the fall of Mussolini".

To this the Prime Minister added that the Allies offered to land a United States airborne division in Rome, this to occur when the surrender of Italy was announced. But this plan was found to be unworkable, because the Nazis were in possession of the Roman airfields.

There has been complaint about the recapture of Mussolini. Why wasn't the one-time Duce delivered promptly to the Allies, instead of being held by the Italians - and rescued by German parachute troops? Churchill <sup>(answered)</sup> ~~answered~~ that by explaining that to have delivered Mussolini to the Allies before the proclamation of the surrender would have been foolish - because this would have tipped off the Germans to the fact that Badoglio was ~~negotiating~~ negotiating a capitulation.

"We had every reason to believe", said Churchill, "that

Mussolini was being kept under strong guard in a secure place. The Carabinieri guards had orders to shoot Mussolini if there was any attempt ~~in~~ at rescue, but they failed in their duty". He did not add why they failed in their duty, but we can surmise that when the German parachute troops swarmed down, the police guards lost their nerve and refrained from killing their prisoner.

There has been a good deal of debate about our political dealings in Italy - the fact that we are doing business with the government of the King and Marshal Badoglio. That government, of course, has ordered the Italians to fight the Germans, and Churchill declared today that the Italians were obeying the order about as well as they could. He referred to the fact that they have driven the Germans out of Sardinia, where Americans have landed to support them. And Italian troops are collaborating with the Allies in Corsica.

"It is necessary", contended the Prime Minister, "that all surviving forces of Italy's national life be rallied together around their government, and that the King and Marshal ~~Bad~~ Badoglio

should be supported by whatever liberal and left wing elements are capable of making head against the Nazi quisling gang".

What about the future government of Italy? Churchill gave democratic assurance on that point. Referring to the allied support of the Victor Emanuel-Badoglio regime, he stated: "This ~~is, of course, without the slightest prejudice to the untrammelled right of the Italian nation to make what arrangement it chooses for future government on democratic lines, when peace and ~~tranquillity~~ tranquility are restored".~~

What about a second front? In Moscow, the Russians refuse to regard the invasion of Italy as that other battlefront which they so urgently demand, and Churchill today agreed with the Soviet viewpoint - in which connection he divulged in a bit of deft ~~arithmetical~~ arithmetic. He said he considered the Battle of Italy, not a second front, but a third front. But there is a second front - though at present it's only potential. Clearly., he meant that this potential second front exists in England, facing Nazi-controlled France, and he intimated that it might become a real thing at any time - reality meaning the launching of an invasion across the Channel.



All of which gives us a nimble bit of figuring -  
with the third front coming before the second front. After one  
comes three, and then two, -- <sup>! that indeed</sup> ~~which~~ sounds like higher mathematics.

Churchill referred to the forthcoming meeting between  
the Foreign Secretaries of the United States, Great Britain  
and Soviet Russia, and added a promise of that other conference,  
the big one - which is talked about so much. He put it in these  
words: "I have confidence ~~in~~ and hope of a subsequent ~~in~~ meeting,  
before the end of the year, between the President of the United  
States, Marshal Stalin and myself.

Churchill made one peculiarly interesting reference  
to the subject of secret weapons - the mystery of which is always  
tantalizing. "Speeches of German leaders from Hitler down",  
he said, "contain mysterious references to new methods and new  
weapons. It is natural", he admitted, "for the enemy to spread  
such rumors - but ~~there~~ there is probably more in it than that.  
For instance, <sup>the</sup> Prime Minister went on, "we have experienced  
a new type of aerial bomb. This bomb, which may be described  
as a sort of rocket assisted glider", said he, "is released from

considerable height - and is apparently guided toward its target by the parent aircraft". In other words, a plane high up releases the rocket-glider and then steers it to hit a ship on the ocean far below - the steering accomplished undoubtedly by wireless".

So, Churchill <sup>does</sup> gives some heed to the Nazi boasts about secret weapons, to which he adds ~~an~~ the assurance that allied technology is on the alert and is studying all possibilities.

## ITALY

Here is a telling phrase flashed today by United Press correspondent Reynolds Packard, who is with the Fifth Army in ~~Italy~~ Italy. He says: "The Salerno <sup>(beachhead)</sup> ~~beachhead~~ has become a springboard".

The Allied Forces are pushing up toward Naples, with the Germans retreating toward that vastly important harbor. They are fighting stubborn rear guard actions, and are resorting to their usual tactics of ~~demolition~~ demolition - blowing up roads and bridges. Dispatches from the front indicate that the mountain country south of Naples is the toughest we have yet encountered - tougher than Tunisia, tougher than Sicily. It is described as a terrain cut up into sharp ridges for defense, ~~and are~~ held by German Rear Guard parties - which often resist to the last man. And even when there is no such bitter resistance, the demolitions make the going tough. <sup>R</sup> General Mark Clark's Fifth Army today captured the town of Eboli, which was German headquarters ~~here~~ during last week's battle for Salerno. <sup>R</sup> On the right flank of the Fifth Army is General Montgomery's Eighth Army, which came up to swiftly from the South. At least, we suppose that <sup>is</sup> where the

Eighth Army is, though there is nothing in today's dispatches to confirm it. Military opinion, however, inclines to the belief that the Eighth Army has pushed into a position to strike a powerful and most effective blow against the Germans in the vicinity of Naples - an out-flanking maneuver that would threaten the enemy with encirclement. And some officers at allied invasion head-quarters stated they wouldn't be surprised if the Germans abandoned Naples - because of the threat <sup>to</sup><sub>1</sub> their flank.

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Meanwhile, the capture of islands goes on. Earlier we heard about the seizure of Sardinia and Corsica, and today the word is - the Dodecanese. Those famous isles of Greece are just off the coast of Turkish Asia minor, and have been possessions of Italy. The largest and most important, Rhodes, is said to be heavily garrisoned by the Germans. But, we have taken important islands flanking Rhodes, the islands ~~near~~ of Cos, Leros and Samos. ~~They were~~ Seized by British Naval forces without any resistance apparently. The three islands were garrisoned by Italians, who said: "Come on in". The Dodecanese



Archipelago occupies a most strategic position, at the entrance of the Aegean Sea. The islands that we seized have good air bases, and we will be able to use them to great effect in dominating German-controlled islands from the air.

## RUSSIA

The Red Army today captured an important highway junction only seventy-five miles northeast of Kiev, capital of the Ukraine. And there are reports that the Nazis are evacuating Kiev. Moscow states that the Russians have now recovered nearly one-half of the territory that the Germans captured in those long range drives which took them to Stalingrad.

MACARTHUR

Here is a statement issued by General MacArthur today, a statement which is ~~sixty-two~~ said to have the most important meanings. Our South Pacific Commander declared, "island hopping victory, the latest in Nineteen forty-nine, is not ~~by~~ my idea of how to win the Pacific war".

This is an answer - a reply to reports in the United States and Great Britain, reports implying that General MacArthur's part in the war is to be ~~be~~ reduced and made ~~smaller~~ smaller, until his command assumes a mere secondary role. To this the General now states: "It makes little difference whether I or others wield the weapon". Meaning - the weapon that will defeat Japan.

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The comment from Allied headquarters <sup>in</sup> ~~is~~ the South Pacific is that General MacArthur may have received information leading him to believe that he is to play a subordinate role to the British Vice-Admiral Lord <sup>L</sup> ~~L~~ Louis Mountbatten, who was recently appointed supreme allied commander for southeastern Asia.

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MRS. ROOSEVELT

Today at a South Pacific base, the wife of the President of the United States pinned <sup>a row of</sup> a decoration<sup>s</sup> on the tunic of a Navy Lieutenant. The <sup>it included</sup> decoration<sup>s</sup> ~~was~~ the Navy Cross, and the Purple Heart with Gold Star. The Lieutenant was Hugh Barr Miller of Tuscaloosa, Alabama - a one-time foot ball star, who played quarterback in a Rose Bowl game a few years ago. What had the Lieutenant done to win ~~in~~ his decoration? ~~That was disclosed~~ by Admiral Halsey, Commander of the American Fleet of the Southwest Pacific, <sup>tells us.</sup> The Admiral, standing beside the First Lady, read the citation - a citation that outlined one of the great stories of the war.

Lieutenant Miller was an officer aboard the Destroyer Strong, which was sunk in action. The ship was being abandoned, and two sailors were caught in a tangle of rope. It looked as if they would be carried ~~in~~ down by the destroyer when it plunged. Miller's Lieutenant ~~Strong's~~ first deed of heroism was to get them free, which saved their lives.

He was aboard the Strong when it sank, and was left swimming in a situation of desperate peril. Depth charges were

were exploding. They crashed not far from him with monster blasts. The Lieutenant was injured, but he saw two wounded sailors - and went to aid them. ~~He~~ helped them onto a raft.

Another raft was nearby, and he, the Senior officer, took command of the two. They were out of luck, were not picked up, and went drifting. Lieutenant Miller, as an officer who knew navigation, directed whatever ~~navigation~~ navigating the two rafts could do. They were on the sea for four days, and then finally he steered them to the shore of an island.

It was Arundel Island, and Japs were nearby. The castaways came ashore not far from a Japanese position.

Whereupon, the Lieutenant directed his men on a journey through the jungles ~~in~~ to avoid capture. He himself was in a bad way - because of his injuries in the sinking of the destroyer Strong. Finally he could no longer keep up with them. So he ordered his men to take all the remaining equipment and leave him behind.

And there he was - all alone in the <sup>Arundel</sup> jungle infested by Japs. He lived on coconuts and water, and soon was injured all over again - when a Japanese plane spotted the American on the

*This time the*  
ground, and machine-gunned him. ~~The~~ Lieutenant was hit by  
bullets.

A patrol of five enemy soldiers was sent to ~~him~~ hunt  
him down, and now he was a pursued fugitive in the jungle.

He found a dead Jap, and from the body took two hand-grenades.

With these he ambushed the patrol that was chasing him - and wiped  
out all five of the Japs. From their bodies he procured more  
hand-grenades, and on three successive nights ~~assailed~~ assailed  
enemy machine gun positions - blasting them with explosives.

*In fact he* was on the island for thirty-nine days until finally  
rescued by an allied plane. Upon rejoining the American forces,  
Lieutenant Miller gave valuable information ~~which~~ *-- which* he had obtained  
during his prolonged stay on Arundel island, attacking the Japs  
and scouting their positions.

That was the story related today - when Mrs. Franklin  
D. Roosevelt pinned ~~the~~ *not one* decoration *but three* on Lieutenant Miller, and

Admiral Halsey read the extraordinary citation, *out there in*  
*the South West Pacific.*

~~SECRET~~  
*Marshall*

In the controversy about drafting pre-Pearl Harbor fathers, Senator Truman of Missouri told a congressional committee today that the Army is not making the best and fullest use of its man power -- ~~is~~ "wasting men" said the Senator. And he demanded that the drafting of married men with pre-Pearl Harbor children should be delayed until the Army uses its ~~man~~ man power more effectively.

This follows the testimony given by the heads of the Army and Navy, Chief of Staff General Marshall and Admiral King, -- they taking the opposite view. General Marshall and Admiral King testified that if the drafting of fathers were delayed, it would impair plans for new military offensives against the ~~enemy~~.

*More about*

General Marshall ~~gives this view at a time when rumor~~  
suggests that he may be shifted from his post as Chief of

Staff and named as United Nations Commander-in-Chief in Europe.

There is a lot of gossip about this with much argument that

General Marshall should not be taken out of his present job.

The contention is that ~~perhaps~~ he has been doing such remarkably



*Marshall* - 2

effective work as Chief ~~staff~~ of Staff that he should be retained.

For example, ~~Senator Lister Hill of Alabama is quoted as saying:~~

~~"I think the place for General Marshall is right where he is.~~

~~He should be made Generalissime of all the fronts". And~~ Senator

Reynolds of North Carolina, Chairman of the military affairs

*says! -*  
Committee, ~~puts the same thought in these words:~~ "Any

transfer of General Marshall would be the worst thing that  
could happen".

~~Note: This praise of Marshall is requested by~~

*And here's later word,*  
~~Max Leister:~~

*that Gen. Marshall will  
be put in supreme command  
of all British and American  
forces!*

## POST WAR

The House of Representatives today passed the Fulbright Resolution by an enormous majority - three-hundred, and sixty to twenty-nine. This resolution puts the lower house on record as favoring a post-war policy whereby the United States would do its share in a worldwide arrangement to maintain the peace.

The resolution now goes to the Senate, but it is believed that the upper house will insist on drafting its own declaration of international policy - the Senate being proud and touchy about its prerogative as the body that ratified the treaties.

## BULLETIN

A late dispatch, just in, states that the Germans are burning Naples, devastating the city, apparently in preparation for abandoning it.

And now, let's hear from Hugh.