

L.T. SUNOCO , Thursday, June 17, 1943

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

Invasion is on. Invasion of Italy by a huge American-British Army, according to enemy reports.

It should be added quickly that the reports are somewhat under suspicion, because they come from Italian propaganda sources.

An Italian correspondent sent a dispatch to his newspaper in Rome -- from a base unnamed. That was the first news Italy got of the invasion. The Italian newspaperman reported a steady stream of landing-craft flowing from the African coast to Pantelleria, with the Axis powers conducting a heavy air counter-offensive against these landing barges. Axis aircraft are also reported to be attacking concentrations of naval units and convoys moving east through the Mediterranean from Gibraltar.

All this comes from the official Fascist news agency.

And then, Virginio Gayda, who is still ^{the} chief mouthpiece for Mussolini, apparently, announces that an army of more than a million, chosen from among the best troops of the British Empire and the United States, is moving on Italy -- from Africa.

Five thousand Allied airplanes, says Gayda, thousands of armored cars and tanks, He claims, further, that more than half the British war fleet is in the Mediterranean, also a large merchant marine fleet of American ships. The tone of Gayda's article reflects the utmost anxiety on the part of the Italians.

Other dispatches from Axis sources tonight add more of the same. The German Trans-Ocean News Agency tells of a large concentration of British warships at Gibraltar. Also Trans-Ocean claims further that a convoy of thirty Allied merchant ships left The Rock yesterday, with a number of giant warships guarding the Straits, such as the great battleship KING GEORGE THE FIFTH, the aircraft carrier FORMIDABLE, and twelve British destroyers.

Then comes a United Press dispatch from Spain, with Spanish confirmation of all this. Spanish sources tell of eleven more merchant ships arriving at Gibraltar today, eight of them American. Making a total of seventy-five merchant ships in Gibraltar Harbor. The Spaniards add that instead of one battleship and one aircraft carrier, there are one battleship and two aircraft carriers at Gibraltar.

We hear too that there is the utmost tension at the other end of the Mediterranean, with this increasing hourly since Britain closed the frontier between Syria and Turkey. An Army from the Belgian Congo had just arrived from those parts to reinforce the Allied army in the Middle East. It is rumored that the British Ninth and Tenth army, and also an enormous American force, is on the way to or through Syria.

The German Trans-Ocean News Agency reports an order by General Nuri Pasha, Premier of Iraq and an old friend of mine from T.E. Lawrence days. Nuri Pasha's

order was directed to the Iraqi army and talked about an hour of decision and active service approaching.

Again more rumors about the Axis satellite nations ready to throw up the sponge. The latest even includes Hungary and Bulgaria hitherto considered fairly staunch allies of the Nazis. There is a yarn to the effect that high army officers in Bulgaria are offering to depose King Boris and throw the Hitler alliance to the wolves.

All of which is exciting, but, not official. Though there is no official contradiction from our side.

Of course, there are more rumors from Stockholm. These tell of Italy, Hungary and Rumania withdrawing their armies from the Eastern Front where they have been helping the Nazis against the Reds. Stockholm says Hitler's confederates are backing out to protect their own frontiers. Well, maybe.

By the way, the stories about Allied naval strength in the Mediterranean, they are admitted by

Washington, and a communique from Allied headquarters in North Africa tells of the greatest naval concentration of the war, in those waters, now. But the communique refers only to patrol duty. However, naval officers admit that the big guns of those monster fleets may soon be in action, supporting a great air offensive against Italy.

The Southern wall of Hitler's European fortress, we are told, has been greatly weakened.

There are still enemy submarines operating in the Mediterranean; and they will continue to be a threat until Italy is conquered.

JULY FOURTH

Here is an idea for a really novel Independence Day celebration this year. The idea is to show the world the spectacle of an entire nation parading to honor the day on which their independence was declared. The idea comes from Dr. William Mather Lewis, President of Lafayette College.

Dr. Lewis has written to President Roosevelt, to the Governors of all the States, Mayors of Cities, and Elmer Davis, Director of the Office of War Information, suggesting that the entire nation parade - all of us march. No spectators.

Patriotic floats, carrying returned soldiers, bands, children, every man, woman and child. One vast national parade to show the world that we are a unified nation -- and that we have just one common resolve -- to win this war.

It might take longer than two weeks to organize it, Dr. Lewis. How about getting the President to set aside a special day? Or would it be better to go right on working and not take any time out?

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Just step up production? Perhaps such a national parade would be one way to get us all on our toes. It certainly would put the nation on its feet!

JAPS - AIR

Another great air battle over Guadalcanal. We losing six planes, the Japs seventy-seven. One of the most spectacular air battles of the Pacific War. Up to now the greatest air fight over the Solomons was the one that took place about two months ago -- April Seventh. On that day the Japs sent over ninety-eight of their aircraft. Our fliers shot down thirty-nine, with a loss of seven American planes, and a man-power loss of only two American pilots.

As to the news of this latest and greatest melee in the air over the Solomons, we have no ~~at~~ details. Merely that our men shot down thirty-two Jap bombers and forty-five Jap Zeros.

RAID

For six nights in succession, the Royal Air Force has been keeping up the greatest continuing aerial attack on Germany of the whole war. Last night's contribution was a return visit to Cologne, the scene of that one thousand plane raid of last year. Ten minutes later, after last night's attack began, there were two terrific explosions. They rocked the entire city. The Nazi anti-aircraft did not begin to throw shells at the British ^{airmen} until the first bombs had already fallen. Due to clouds, the German flak was quite ineffective. When the R.A.F. left Cologne, the clouds reflected light from tremendous fires burning ~~down~~ below.

GERMANY

Hitler is moving his munitions factories in Germany ^{— moving them} to the east, where they will not be quite so accessible to Royal Air Force bombers and ^{our} ~~United States~~ Flying Fortresses. A story from London reports that seventy-five thousand Belgian ~~working~~ men have been conscripted by Hitler's Gestapo, and taken to the Ruhr. ~~district~~ There they are set to work dismantling what the R.A.F. has left of the great armament works. The machinery is loaded on flat cars and moved to eastern Germany.

We get some idea of the havoc wrought by the bombing raids in Germany from the report that some thirty or forty thousand German civilian refugees have been moved to Belgian cities. In fact Brussels, the capital of Belgium, is ~~not~~ so crowded that there is no living space, and seven people have to sleep in one bed.

GERMANY

In France, several French Catholic Archbishops have signed a joint pastoral letter protesting against the conscription of French workers for compulsory labor in Germany.

RUSSIA

The Nazi high command says nothing of any importance has been happening in Russia. ^{But} Moscow tells a different story. The Soviet spokesmen report that the Red Army has acquired a new big bridgehead on the river north of Orel. The Germans have thrown an unending series of counter-attacks in force against that bridgehead. In forty-eight hours they attacked fourteen times. Their ~~xxxxx~~ infantry and tank movements were covered by smoke screen. But they did not budge the Russians who, on the contrary, strengthened their hold of that position on the river. So says Moscow.

The Soviet spokesmen add that the Germans are evidently expecting an attack in force by the Russians in an attempt to outflank the German fortifications at Orel.

The Russian bridgehead is based on four villages which they recaptured last week after a long, desperate fight.

After they had failed to check the Russian
bridgehead fourteen times, the Germans let loose a
large fleet of bombers and escort planes. They also
moved fresh battalions of ground forces into the line.
Their bombers attacked in large groups, each ^{of} ~~one of them~~
anywhere from twenty to fifty planes. But the Russians
also have been sending ^{large air} ~~great~~ reinforcements ~~of aircraft~~
to the ^{TR} ~~the~~ Orel front. ^{we hear,} The Germans [^] no longer have the air
superiority that they enjoyed in the first two years
of the Russian war.

STIMSON

Secretary of War Stimson appeared to be in a sanguine mood today. He told his press conference that the Allies have gone ahead of the Germans in knowledge of how to use air power, and he added that they have proved it. They also have out-done the enemy in the quality of their planes and their pilots. This was proved, said Stimson, in the conquest of those four Italian islands between Sicily and Africa, an almost bloodless conquest on our part. When we occupied them we bagged eleven thousand, a hundred and thirty-five Axis prisoners of war on Pantelleria, and between four and five thousand on Lampadusa. Only some forty airmen died, and we lost only a few planes.

The Secretary described the bombardment of Pantelleria as probably one of the heaviest concentrations of air power in the history of warfare. Our high command did not expect to get those islands

without some hand to hand battling. It had planned to land troops. Ship to shore movements had actually begun at Pantelleria when the garrison, starved and waterless, raised the white flag because it could no longer stand that terrific pounding from the air.

The Secretary of War then made the inevitable comparison ^{of} ~~that~~ the attempt by the Germans and Italians ~~to~~ to take Malta. The Axis countries had overwhelming superiority in the air, and they kept pounding at the British island for three years. But they were unable to take it, To be sure, the defenses of Malta probably were stronger than those of Pantelleria. At the same time, it is a fact that the German and Italian assaults on Malta were sporadic and erratic. On the other hand, ours on Pantelleria were heavy, and our bombardiers hit their military targets with ~~mathematical~~ mathematical precision.

PREDICTIONS

The capture of those four little Italian islands following on the victory in Tunisia, appears to have let loose a good deal of wishful thinking.

In London, British economists were prophesying that Italy will quickly collapse if the British and Americans ^{do, or are now making} ~~make~~ that all-out attack that we have been awaiting so eagerly. The entire industrial and economic structure that Mussolini has set up will disintegrate, say the experts.

They say Mussolini's government has made little or no preparation to gear the Italian people to meet the conditions that will follow an invasion. ^{That} If the Allies are able to separate the industrial districts of the north from the agricultural districts in the south, all Italy will be in chaos. So they say.

^{TP} Ever since Nineteen Forty, Italy has been living from hand to mouth, and has no large reserves of food or

raw materials.

On the other side of the globe, an Australian Cabinet Minister was making similar conjectures about Japan. The Foreign Minister of the Commonwealth said that when Germany is defeated, there is a fair chance that Japan may buckle soon after. This is contrary to what Madame Chiang, the wife of the Chinese Generalissimo, said to the Parliament of Canada yesterday ^{when} She pointed out that Japan is exploiting all the huge territories that she has seized in China and elsewhere and that the Japs have been accumulating resources to fight the Allies.

Madame Chiang followed up her speech to the Canadian Parliament by telling reporters today that China is the only place from which a second front can be effectively launched against Japan. She expressed her opinion, which we may assume to be that of the

Chinese high command, that if we try to beat the Japs island by island, it would take us fifty to a hundred years.

A story from Tokyo, overheard on the radio, reports that the Jap Premier, General Tojo, admitted to his Emperor that the war situation was serious.

However
~~and~~ the Jap Minister of Industry told the Tokyo

Parliament that their production and transportation of iron and other materials needed for the steel plants had been stepped up tremendously. In fact, it has improved so much that the Tokyo government no longer finds it necessary to reclaim waste metals.

SHOES

The ladies will soon be wearing wooden soles on their shoes. ^{But} ~~They will~~ not be sabots, such as ^{some} European peasants use. ^{It's a} ~~for working in the fields.~~ A new process has been perfected by a shoe manufacturer ^{a process} which gives the wooden soles at least some of the flexibility of leather, ^{with} ~~it has~~ knee-action effect, so ~~that~~ the ladies can use their feet, ^{just} in walking, as they have been accustomed. ~~to~~ And e-l-u-t-m.

WEMBLEY

Wembley as you probably know, is a town, a suburb of London.

Three slightly deaf men were motoring from the north to London in an old, noisy car, and hearing was difficult. As they were nearing the city, one asked: "Is this Wembley?"

"No," replied the second, "this is Thursday."

"So am I," put in the third. "Let's stop and have one."

Don, let's stop and have one - a cup of tea, what? And S-L-U-T-M.