

L.I. - Moscow. Tuesday, Dec. 29, 1942.

News

Good ~~news~~ ^{news} ~~to~~ everybody: Big news from Russia tonight. In fact

~~it is~~ the most important and most exciting since the armies of

Stalin began their big offensive ^{on} November fifteenth. The reds

have taken: ^{Kotel} ~~Kotelnikovski~~, ^{That's} the key railroad center southwest of

^{And} Stalingrad. This is the greatest and most concerted triumph ^{the}

~~Russians~~ ~~that they~~ have achieved in these last six weeks. ~~It is~~ ^a blow

of incalculable damage to the Nazi's. ^{TP} This news flashed over

the wire just as a story was coming from London that ~~the~~

British military observers believe ^d the russians had bitten off

more than they could chew. The Red army had started an envelopment

plan which if successful, would cut off nearly one third of

Adolph Hitler's entire army. Such a plan seemed, to the British

military sharks, ^{That is} to be far too ambitious. [^] They doubted the

russians could drive through to Rostov. In fact the London story

intimated that if ^e ~~this~~ envelopment plan failed, it might be too

bad for the russians.

^{TP} But tonight's late bulletin from Moscow puts a different color

on the entire story. With kotelnikovski in their hands, the russians

have those twenty two encircled divisions commanded by Field

Marshal Feodor Von Bock in a more perilous position than ever.

Up to a late hour, we had virtually no details of the fall of Kotelnikovski. In fact, it was the briefest bulletin that the soviet high command had ever given out. It mostly stated ^{simply} that Kotelnikovski had fallen with its railway station and that the red army had grabbed big amounts of booty. What is more, the reds now command the railroad from Stalingrad to the caucasus, two hundred miles long. ^{TP} Owing to the lack of details, we do not know whether the garrison of ^{Kotel} ~~Te~~ ~~nikovski~~ surrendered or whether the nazis took it on the run, ^g giving up their invaluable prize without a struggle. ^{TP} In a campaign of such a fluid front, it would not be impossible for an entire garrison to escape through a narrow lane of ~~the~~ attacking troops. ^{TP} In view of tonight's news the red armies are threatening not only Rostov and the twenty-two Von Bock divisions at Stalingrad, but also all the german forces in the Caucasus. What a merry clean up that would be! To accomplish this brilliant success the Red army had driven south down the voronezh railroad to a point less than eighty miles away from Rostov. ^T That made another pinchers movement against the city at the mouth of the Don.

^{TP} Some two weeks ago, six german divisions tried a counter offensive

48
south west of Stalingrad. Their object ^{we} was to relieve the
twenty-two Nazi divisions which are trapped between the Volga
and the Don. but apparently that relief army was fully routed
and put out of action. ^{and} It was their defeat that opened the way
for the Russians to march along the railroad line south of
^{where the} Kotelnikovski. ~~The~~ Russians now have several german forces
encircled.

~~R~~ Berlin admits that the axis forces on the russian front are
engaged in heavy defensive fighting. However, they claim that
the russian attacks have failed and that one enemy group was annihilated
after having been surrounded for several days. The Germans also
boast that they are holding on to every position they have gained
in the central caucasus and that all soviet attempts to drive them
out have failed. That is the German story.

~~(pick up pieces stugged add Russia which was filed. Kill only
the Russian story that came by telephone)~~

~~Note to Mr Thomas. We telephoned petroleum story and new guinea.~~

~~You have a full broadcast. Russia is last story. Mary .~~

Add Russia;

The twenty-two surrounded ^{German} divisions under Field Marshal Von Bock are putting up the stiffest kind of resistance. Though they are shut off from communication and reinforcement by land, they are receiving supplies by transport ~~air~~planes. ^{Which} ~~Of course~~ ~~these~~ ^{and} are large [^] comparatively slow craft compared to pursuit planes and even bombers, and are quiet ^{to} ~~is~~ unwieldy. So the German casualties are heavy, with those reinforcing transport planes. ~~Never-the-less~~ a certain number of them ^{do} ~~get~~ through; and Field Marshall Von Bock's encircled army gives no signs of letting up or getting ready to give in. ^{Although} ~~however~~ the Russians are steadily widening the gap between Von Bock and the main german armies to the west.

Tunisian.

Off the shores of North Africa, the germans ^{have} lost
the use of four supply ships. ^{4 ships} They were trying to reinforce
the Axis divisions in Tunisia. ^{and} As they were approaching their
goal, they were ^{tagged} ~~hit~~ by British submarines. ^{It happened on that run} ~~on the line~~ between

Tunisia and Sicily. The British subs sank two of the axis vessels
immediately, forced another on to the beach, and probably sank

^{TP} a fourth. The germans and Italians are having a harder time with
their reinforcement job every day. The allies ^{are and} ~~have~~ ^{been} ~~inflicted~~ ^{ing}

furious damage on every port that the axis still holds in Africa;

^{making it more and} ~~and it is becoming~~ ^{For Hitler} more difficult ^{to} use them. ~~The recent~~

^{TP} Indications today ^{are} that something is about to pop in the mediterranean. ^{can}

^a As ~~one~~ previous occasions the news comes from La Linea in Spain.

Observers on the Spanish scene saw much activity at Gibraltar both
on the surface of the sea and in the air. ^{So they are convinced} ~~The indications are~~ that

the allies are preparing another blow. The dispatch from La Linea
was ~~quite~~ ^{too} specific ^{It} mentioned by name three british aircraft

carriers, two british battleships, three cruisers, two destroyers,

many submarines, one french destroyer, thirty french and british

merchant craft; plus a large british transport. All these were

seen by the Spanish, ^{seen} anchored at Gibraltar.

News about the land operations in Tunisia tonight is not so hopeful.

You may recall that yesterday our men took a fortified hill position away from the germans on Christmas eve, a hill six miles northeast of menjez-el-bab. Yesterday we gave it back to them.

That much is reported in an ~~army~~ ^{army} communique which does not explain

why. ^{TR} ~~Aside~~ ^{in Tunisia today} from that, the chief principal activity [^] was in the air,

plus a good deal of artillery firing. ^{to} ~~According~~ [^] the army communique

the allies have had the best of it up to now. ^{TR And} ~~By~~ [^] way of consolation

for the loss of that hill, the allies now have all the french

territories in Africa on their side. French somaliland the last

African land to hold out for Vichy, has come over to the fighting

french. The Cross of Lorraine was hoisted over djibouti, capital

of somaliland and terminal of the railroad ^{that runs into the mountains} [^] to the capital of ethiopia, ^{to addis Ababa. And}

this brings to a climax negotiations that have been going on for

^{prior to which there had been} several days, ~~then there was~~ [^] little if any fighting between the one-

time Vichy troops in french somaliland and the allies.

DeGaulle.

The report is true that General Charles De Gaulle, leader of the fighting french, is coming to Washington. The news came from President Roosevelt who said he expected to confer with De Gaulle very soon. It appears that this has actually been under discussion for some time. Mr Roosevelt told newspapermen that De Gaulle's visit had already been postponed twice. This morning, the President ^{held} ~~said~~ a conference with two french^{men} representing General Giraud, the new high/commissioner for French North Africa. They discussed the question of supplies. The President told the ^{two} frenchmen ^{that} it was largely a question of shipping. But he said there was also a complication in the difficulty of meeting the peculiar design of some French equipment. For instance, the calibre of the French rifle is entirely different from that of the British and American. Mr Roosevelt added that of course there is always the possibility of ^{completely} re-arming the French troops.

~~Note: Kill Russian story as given over telephone and substitute following~~

Today's report from New Guinea describes Lieutenant James J. Crawford of Taylorville, Illinois as one of the luckiest pilots in that theatre of war. Last Saturday at the controls of a heavy bomber he destroyed an eight thousand ton Japanese freighter in St. George's Channel at Rabaul in New Britain. *Which* ~~That~~ was better luck than many pilots considerably senior to him have had. And on top of that he led another attack on Rabaul yesterday. ^{TR} In Crawford's own words, they arrived ^{over} ~~in~~ the Rabaul area before dawn and hung around for a long time before daylight. "Finally", said Crawford "we made a run across the harbor at a medium altitude. ^{Which} ~~That~~ is where Smitty the bombardier took over for the bomb-run. We hit that Jap cruiser the first time." Crawford adds, "and I unloaded our whole batch then," he said, ^{Then} "we dived away into the clouds because both ships and shore batteries were sending up plenty of stuff hot and heavy." ^{TR} Smitty, the bombardier, is officially

53
—

known as Staff Sergeant Yerger Smith of Atlanta,

He telling about it he
Georgia. ~~He~~ says, "The skipper gave me the

prettiest 40 seconds of steady run you ever saw." *And he*

~~He~~ adds, "I spotted a cluster of ships including

the cruiser. I tagged three bombs for the big

baby and scattered the others around the rest

of the ship.^s All three landed amid-ship on the

cruiser. We saw smoke squirting out, and a few

seconds later she was apparently burning and

buckling in the middle".

~~Liberator bombers were also bombing Japanese
air bases at Finsch-Hafen in ^{Dutch} New Guinea and on~~

~~the ^{of} Island ^{TP} Timor. General MacArthur's headquarters'~~

~~*tells how*
report that the American and Australian ground~~

~~forces have deepened their wedge in the Japanese~~

~~beachhead at Buna.~~

Manpower.

A year from now, sixty-five million, four hundred thousand of us will be engaged either on the battle front or in war factories. That is the latest guess by Paul V McNutt, Chief of the War Manpower division. ^{Which} ~~This~~ is a jump of two million, two hundred thousand over his last previous estimate.

^{doesn't it?} Sounds formidable, ^{But} actually it is not such a terrific jump ^{over things as they are now,} ~~from existing conditions as it sounds.~~ McNutt tells us that ^{right} ~~as of~~ today fifty-nine million ^{of us} ~~persons~~ are either in the armed forces, essential industries, agriculture, non-essential industries, and the professions and sciences. In

war industries alone, seventeen million, five hundred thousand people are employed; ^{which} ~~that~~ is an increase of ten million, six hundred thousand over a year ago. but before the next year is over, war

industry will need one million, eight hundred thousand more than it has now. ^{TR} Besides that, four million, six hundred thousand will have to be found for the farms and the armed forces. (All this

does not mean that labor is going to be drafted just yet. Reporters asked Mc Nutt how soon he was going to ask congress for a national service act, and he replied : "When it is needed". then

they asked him, "Is it not needed now?" and he replied : "No, definitely no!"

55
TOUHY

Right in the midst of war time we have a crime thriller in the news, reminding us of the days when murderous kidnapping mobs were straining the resources of the country's law. Yes, and it seems a bit ironic that it should be in the thick of this war for survival that the law finally caught up with the most vicious and dangerous mob the country ever had. For that's how they were described by F. B. I Chief J. Edgar Hoover.

The Touhy mob has been rubbed out, the worst mob of them all since the elimination of the once terrifying Karpis crowd. And the victory for the law is quite conclusive. J. Edgar Hoover gives the complete list. Some were killed and the others captured.

It was a first class thriller that the F. B. I. Chief unfolded today. As he put it -- "The zero hour was appointed for five o'clock this morning.

The F. B. I. men had found out the hideout of Roger Touhy, sometimes described as Roger-the-Terrible, and Basil Banghart, his chief confederate, known to the rat world as "Basil the Owl."

F. B. I. agents had the building surrounded and had rented an apartment on the floor opposite the one occupied by Touhy. The government men had taken care that no innocent neighbors should be injured. The folks living on the second floor of the apartment were moved to the third floor and placed near a sky light. Families on the first floor of the building next door were also moved so that they might not be injured by the high powered rifles whose bullets even penetrate thick walls.

The G-men had machine guns, high powered rifles, and tear gas and this is the way the climax came: -- At exactly five o'clock, the whole building was lighted with search lights. And then the next thing, the criminals heard a voice from a loud speaker telling them their goose

was cooked, and ordering them to come out of their apartment, and come out walking backwards, hands up, --- one at a time. And, the voice ordered Basil-the-Owl to come first.

So it was a scientifically organized and well ordered affair. Well, Touhy and Banghart deliberated ten minutes. Then Basil-the-Owl acting as spokesman announced their surrender. And following the instructions of the F. B. I. voice, he backed out, his hands in the air. Two others followed him, Roger-the-Terrible Touhy and Edward Darlak, a life time convict who had escaped from Joliet prison in Illinois.

In the roaring days of prohibition Basil-the-Owl had been machine-gunner for the Touhy mob. The other men arrested were wanted by the F. B. I. only for draft evasion. But Banghart, Basil-the-Owl, was a fugitive from federal justice, having been convicted of a hundred thousand dollar mail robbery

58
at Charlotte, North Carolina, with thirty-six years of his prison term still to run.

The mob were a weird sight under those searchlights at five o'clock this morning. Roger-the-Terrible, normally a fellow with curly black hair, had his locks dyed peroxide blonde.

Although the F. B. I. wanted most of the prisoners taken this morning for draft evasion, the state of Illinois wanted a couple of others for breaking out of Joliet prison. And they were in the group captured.

58 1/2
Although the leaders of the mob gave in without a fight, a couple of the underlings did try to shoot it out. These two were named Eugene Lanthorne and St. Clair McInerney, a pair also known by the engaging titles of Baby Doll and the Saint. The Saint was a safe blower and robber.

Trying to shoot it out with the F. B. I. men, these two saved the executioner a job, for they were killed.

59
And that's that. Exit the Touhy mob. *And S-l-u-t-m.*