

AFRICA

L.I. - Sinoco. Friday, Feb. 26, 1943.

In North Africa, the Germans, after having abandoned Kasserine Pass yesterday, are still on the retreat. Today, American forces struck at the flank of the ~~retreating~~ ^{withdrawing} North Afrika Korps. They smashed ~~everywhere~~ at ^{the} place called Sbiba, which is twenty-eight miles northwest of Kasserine. In the area of Sbiba, an Allied thrust surged forward for from ten to fifteen miles, penetrating German flank positions.

~~And~~ it looks as if Rommel would pull back from Kasserine all the way to the important position called Gafsa. Between Kasserine and Gafsa, the ground is flat - ^{with} a small possibility ^{far} of a defensive stand.

United Press Correspondent Phil Alt, who is with the Americans at the front, states that our reoccupation of Kasserine Pass cannot be classed as an outright American victory, because the Germans

chose to retreat without fighting. However, they were battered quite a bit before they decided to

abandon the pass. *W* One interpretation of the German move is that Rommel has pulled back his forces in the area facing the Americans, in order to get set for the British Eighth Army, which is battering away at the south.

AIR RAIDS

American bombers did a big blasting job in Nazi Germany today - flying fortresses smashing heavily at the great naval base at Wilhelmshaven, ² ~~the~~ Number One center for the construction of U-boats. ¹ Tons of high explosives were dropped on the war harbor and the U-boat building plants. It was the third ~~American air raid on Germany. Our flying fortresses have hit frequently at the Nazis in France, but this blow was struck at Naziland itself.~~

~~Probably it was the biggest of the three American attacks on Germany thus far.~~ A communique from American headquarters in England tells of violent enemy resistance. There was bombing in the broad light of day, the kind that must face a maximum of resistance. The fortresses flew through storms of anti-aircraft fire and swarms of German fighter planes winging to the attack. Seven fortresses were

lost. We are not told how many Nazi planes they shot down - the figure will be given out tomorrow.

While American air forces were striking at the port of Wilhelmshaven, British bombers were raiding various other points in northwestern Germany. Last night, the R.A.F. dumped five hundred tons of bombs on Nuremburg, that storied place which has been a favorite sight for Nazi demonstrations.

RUSSIA

Moscow reports that German resistance has stiffened all along the southern Russian front. The Red Army is continuing its unrelenting attacks, with the Nazis fighting back stubbornly. The focus of Soviet pressure is against Orel - the northernmost strong point of the southern front. It is, in fact, the only one of the great fortified southern positions that the Germans have been able to hold. The others have fallen, Kursk, Kharkov, Rostov.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Apparently, the weather on the Orel front is still favorable for the Soviet offensive. The Moscow story speaks of- blinding blizzards alternating with brilliant sunshine. Which sounds like a dramatic weather contrast - one hour the white ~~xxxxxx~~ swirling of the snowstorm and the next hour the sky is clear and the sunshine is blinding. But the ground in front of Orel apparently is frozen and firm,

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traversable by motorized equipment.

Further south - it's another story. In the Donets basin, of such critical importance, the snow is melting and the rich black earth of the Steppes is turning into deep mud. There the Red Army advance is handicapped by the ~~mire~~^{morass}, with tanks churning deep into the mire, ~~and are~~ bogged down. Still, the Russians are able to continue their advance and announced the capture of a whole string of villages.

Today one Russian story tells about Hitler - a story procured from a German staff officer. He tells how the Nazi Fuehrer is surrounded by a dense swarm of the German equivalent of "yes men." Nobody ~~xxxxxxx~~ dares to tell Hitler what he doesn't ~~xxx~~ want to believe. ^{TP @} ~~The~~ United Press correspondent in Russia quotes the Nazi staff officer as saying: "Hitler will listen ~~to~~ ^{to} only, what is pleasant. An officer who sends

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in, a report takes care to leave out everything that might be unpleasant to the Fuehrer."

So apparently Hitler is living in a dream world, but I suppose a dream world is a lot more *enjoyable* ~~pleasant~~ than the Nazi realities in Russia.

GANDHI

The world wide repercussions to Gandhi and his fast continue. This is the seventeenth day of the Mahatma's hunger strike, and ^{there} ~~ix~~ appears to be more chance than ever that he will pull through his twenty-one days of abstinence from food. An official medical bulletin ^{signed} ~~xxxx~~ by six doctors, gives ^{no} ~~up~~ the following from the sick bed ^{at Poona:} ~~at Puna:~~ "Gandhi's condition shows no appreciable change -- ^{he} ~~his~~ is cheerful," say the six doctors.

A Hindu will tell you that ^{the} medical bulletin is much less important than a report made by friends who visited Gandhi today. They ^{tells} us that the wizened little saint has formed a conviction, a conviction expressed in these words: "God intends him to live." The Mahatma now has come to believe that it is the plan of power Divine for him to survive through the duration of his fast. And I suppose that Gandhi's pious idea would be that if Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva command, he will obey.

As for ~~the~~ world wide repercussion, there was one in London today that certainly did ~~per~~ repercuss, if not -- cuss. It came from that venerable old time repercussionist -- George Bernard Shaw. G.B.S. came out with a blast against the imprisonment of Gandhi, and suggested that the Mahatma should be turned loose by the sovereign of the British Empire. Here are the Shavian words: "The King should release Gandhi unconditionally and apologize to him for the mental defectiveness of his cabinet." Those words about ~~the~~ Churchill ~~the~~ cabinet sound almost like cussing.

The repercussions here in America are strange indeed. At a conscientious objectionⁿ camp in New York State forty-five hunger strikes are beginning -- all as demonstrations of sympathy with Gandhi. Forty-five conscientious objectors are fasting -- "because," they say, "Gandhi represents a great spiritual principle." *But they don't name the principle, - which might not be without interest.* In a New Jersey camp there's one conscientious objector who has been going without food for seventeen

days -- same number ~~of days~~ as in the case of the
Mahatma. Corbett Bishop ^{who} refuses to serve in the
armed forces ~~of~~ on the grounds of conscience, began
his fast simultaneously with Gandhi -- and he's going
right along with the seventy-three year old esthetic
of India.

ILLNESS

Here are two reports from doctors. ~~IN~~

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P London, [^] Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who has been ill with pneumonia, continues to improve. Churchill has had no fever during the past twenty-four hours, and is well on his way to recovery from Pneumonia.

Washington -- President Roosevelt is better today. He has been suffering from what the dispatch describes as - "a slight intestinal upset." White House Secretary Hasset reports in these words: "The President is somewhat better today, but still has a little temperature - less than a degree. The White House physician states that his patient needs - rest and relaxation." And that, explains the Secretary, is what he is getting.

Such are the reports from the doctors in London and Washington - Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt both ill, but rapidly recovering.

LABOR

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~~The~~ Congressional Committee today put its okay on a bill to curb - absenteeism. There has been a lot of talk about time lost in armament production because of the way ~~that~~ workers stay away from their jobs - taking time off, maybe a day, maybe a couple of days. The bill that was approved today applies only to civilian workers employed by the Navy - three hundred and forty-seven thousand of them. But the plan is to extend similar legislation to all of the war industries - so stated Chairman Vinson of the House Naval Affairs Committee.

How do they intend to curb absenteeism? The bill approved today provides that employment records of workers be submitted to draft boards. If the records show that a man has been absent from his job too much, Selective Service might take him into the armed forces.

Draft men who are inexcusably absent.

Committee member Congressman Johnson of Texas stated that because of absenteeism during the month of December, twenty-three and a quarter million ~~xxx~~ man-hours were lost. He said that in the time lost, forty-two liberty ships could have been built, twenty destroyers, twenty-seven submarines. And he added that the man-hours lost from absenteeism during that one month was greater than the loss from strikes throughout the year - six and a half million hour^s greater.

Out on the Pacific coast, the loss of a lot of man-hours was avoided today with ^a~~the~~ pledge that there would not be another work stoppage at the Boeing

Aircraft factory at Seattle. ~~Yesterday, there was a~~

~~mass meeting of workers to protest against ^a~~the~~ delay~~

~~in settling demands for more wages, and the mass~~

~~meeting caused a three-hour shut down of the plant~~

~~that builds those giant bombers - the flying fortresses.~~

AGRICULTURE

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The Secretary of Agriculture today announced himself in favor of putting a stop to the drafting of farm labor. Secretary Wickard gave what was in effect an ^{endorsement} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ of a bill sponsored by Senator Bankhead of Alabama. However, Wickard warned against a policy of ^{granting} ~~adding~~ furloughs that would release from the Army a lot of men just because they happen to come from rural areas. Skilled farmers are what are needed, and you can live in a country district without knowing much about the crops.

Senator Green of Rhode Island gave a warning against policies of diverting army manpower to the planting and harvesting of crops. He ^{said} ~~says~~ that the farms have been depleted of workers not so much because of the draft, as because of armament industry. In other words, the trouble ^{is that} ~~is~~ ~~xxx~~ so many farm workers have gone to jobs in war plants.

DEWEY

Here's an interesting slogan in the problem of agricultural labor - Chinatown to the rescue. This follows an appeal made last night by Governor Dewey of New York. He spoke about the threat of a food shortage because of a lack of workers on the farms, and issued an appeal for help. Today, a delegation of American-Chinese called on ~~the~~ ^{Dewey} Governor at Albany and pledged the services of more than three thousand Chinese workers, who have had farming experience. Some had it in China - where age-old methods of ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ agriculture are in vogue. Many are from New York's Chinatown, Mott Street and Pell Street of so many legends - Chinatown to the agricultural rescue!

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KILLERS

Last night in a Kentucky prison, a man spoke his last words. He said - be sure to give out the story he had told. Be sure to make public the statement he had written. He was one of three men who paid the supreme penalty for the murder of Marion Miley and her mother, - Marion Miley, the young woman golf star.

It was an evil headline of crime months ago, when daughter and mother were found shot to death at a fashionable country club, at Lexington, Kentucky - robbery and murder. Three men were arrested, tried and convicted.

One, Robert H. Anderson, was a night club owner - rather prominent in the local realm of entertainment. The police declare that he planned the robbery. The second man was Tom Penney, an ex-convict. The third was Raymond Baxter, the greenskeeper at the

country club - the employee who took care of the golf course.

It was Penney, the ex-convict, who urged last night that his statement be made public. He had spent his remaining hours on earth writing it, and today

his request was granted - his story released to the

news. ^{TP} He said he was - gambling his soul, ^{on telling} ~~He wanted~~

~~to tell~~ the truth. He wrote that, of the three doomed men, one took no part in the actual robbery and murder.

Anderson, who looked after the country club golf course,

was in the scheme, ^{as a scout, He informed} ~~He told~~ the other two that all

~~xxx~~ was clear for the robbery of the country club, and then drove off in his car - while they went in.

No miscarriage of justice was involved in this, because the greens-keeper was convicted as an accessory to the crime - not an actual participant.

Penney, the ex-convict, told how the actual

murder was committed. There was no one in the country club to stop their robbery, ^{only} ~~but~~ the two women - ~~only~~ Marion Miley, the golf player, and her mother. But Marion Miley was an athletic young woman - and that was the tragedy. She fought the robbers, and hit Penney on the jaw. At least - she thought ~~it~~ ^{she} ~~was dead~~ ^{it} must have been. He was hit on the jaw, knocked out - knocked flat.

"When I came to," he wrote, "I was on the floor - and came up shooting," ^{and the 2 women were killed.}

Before going to his death, he gambled his soul by telling the truth, and that was what he told.

SLACKS

Here's a bit of news concerning which I, myself, won't say a word -- I'll just limit myself to quotations, *because the* ~~the~~ subject is ^{so} ~~that~~ difficult. It concerns an uproar at Louisiana State University, where the Dean of Women issued an edict concerning the wearing of slacks. The Dean of Women decreed that pants were to be worn only by the ~~relatively skinny~~ ^{streamlined} girls -- not by the ~~fat~~ ^{overly} ~~ones~~ ^{curvaceous,} And she appointed a dormitory committee to pass on the question of slimness and plumpness. The committee ~~is~~ to decide which coeds shall be allowed to wear slacks -- and which shall not.

Today the girl editor of the college newspaper spoke in approval of the dean's order. She said: "If they could walk behind themselves in slacks, they'd go back to skirts."

The problem was promptly taken to Hollywood where sundry movie stars gave their opinions. "Slacks are an abomination," said Paulette Goddard. "Shorts are all right, but skirts are better. Women," she

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added, "just weren't built for wearing trousers."

Betty Grable asks: "Who's going to say when a girl is fat and when she is just pleasingly plump? Women dress for men," added Betty, "and it seems that they are the jury."

Alice Faye thought it should be left to the young lady herself. "If any girl decides that slacks deglamorize," observed Alice, "it won't be necessary to get a dean's order to make her put her slacks in moth balls."

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Dorothy Lamour gave an opinion based on armament production. She said: "Women in war work have proven

that skirts are a handicap." *Should they wear sarongs, Dorothy?* *armament angle, vs*

And Veronica Lake took the same ~~angle~~ *she* *the war production curve;*
~~having promised recently that her styles would set a~~

~~good example to women war workers~~ Said Vernnica today:

"Slacks are a badge of patriotism." *P* So those are the

quotations, and my slogan for the moment is -- no

comment. *And now Hugh, what comment?*