

C.I. - Sunoco. Wed, Oct. 13, 1943.

There is ^{more} fierce fighting in New Guinea, where a battle
is ~~is~~ raging on a ten mile front in the foothills of the Finisterre
Mountains, ^{with} The Japs ~~are~~ making a desperate attempt to hold an
allied advance which threatens to cut off an enemy force in the
Huon Peninsula. They have dug in along a mountain line, where
Australian jungle troops are attacking ~~in~~ under the greatest
difficulties, but with an unrelenting persistence.

ITALY

Today's Italian declaration of war against Nazi Germany produces one of the most curious twists in the history of war and statecraft. The Allies grant to Italy the status of a co-belligerent in the war. This means that the formerly Fascist nation now stands on the same footing as the other countries lined up in the war against Nazi Germany. At the same time, it is specifically stated that the Armistice with Italy remains in force, without any change - that Armistice of surrender, unconditional surrender. And this leaves Italy still in the position of a surrendered enemy, with whom the Allies are technically still at war. ^{It} An Armistice is only a truce, with peace to be made later on.

λ So you see the paradox.

λ Italy is at the same time technically at war with the Allied nations, and, both technically and actually at war with Nazi Germany. Or put it this way - Italy is now an enemy lined up on our side. All of which leaves us a bit daddled; but, it's part of the astonishing fact - that in the middle of the war, Italy has changed sides. And that is quite an ~~amazing~~ accomplishment - changing over from the ~~ix~~ losing side to the winning side, right in the middle of the battle.

Today's Declaration of War was of course no surprise.

We rather suspected it to come sooner - since the Badoglio regime was conducting actual war against the Nazis as far as it could. We hear that the plan had been for Badoglio to declare war when Rome was captured, and when his legal government was reestablished in the Italian capital. However, it was felt that a formal Declaration of War right now would inspire the Italian people to increase their activities against the Nazis, and thereby hasten the capture of Rome.

Badoglio, in his declaration, uses savage language in describing what he calls "German arrogance and ferocity". The Declaration of War speaks of Nazi outrages ~~and~~ on various places, and then continues with these words: "But where the ferocity of the enemy surpassed every limit of human imagination was at Naples. The heroic population of that city, which for weeks suffered every form of torment, strongly cooperated with Anglo-American troops in putting the hated Germans to flight". And then the declaration sounds its keynote: "There will be no peace in Italy as ~~long~~ long as a single German remains on our soil".

Badoglio gives political reassurances to the Italian people. He states that, in behalf of Democratic government, the government headed by himself and King Victor Emanuel will be broadened to include representatives of every political party. He declares that the present regime is temporary, and that when the war is over the Italian people will choose their own form of government. The phraseology used in the declaration would seem to constitute a Victor Emanuel-Badoglio guarantee that the Italian people will be permitted to choose even a Republic - if they so desire.

~~In a practical military way, today's declaration of war would not seem to count for much. Badoglio has only a fraction of the Italian Army under his command, the rest having been disarmed by the Germans, and the fraction remaining would seem to have no great morale for fighting. Anyway, whatever aid Badoglio could give the Allies was already being given. ^{Moreover} ~~However,~~ the formal declaration of war against Nazi Germany and the placing of Italy in the Allied ranks as a co-belligerent may hearten the Italian ~~people~~ people and stiffen their resistance against the Nazis.~~

This the more so, because of a specific clause in a statement issued by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet Premier Stalin. In accepting Italy into the Allied ranks, they made it clear that the kind of peace that the Allies will grant to the Italian nation will depend upon the kind of contribution that Italy makes to the Allied cause in the war. The harder the Italians fight the Germans, the better their country will fare when the terms of peace are laid down.

INVASION

Allied progress in Italy today was principally along the central and eastern fronts.

Over toward the Adriatic, General Montgomery's Eighth Army has scored an advance of ten miles. There German resistance is described as sporadic and spotty, with the Nazis fighting fiercely at some points and pulling out at others. Apparently they are concentrating their defensive strength over ^{near} the west coast - along the line of the Volturno.

That front along the River was further threatened today by a new thrust aimed at outflanking its eastern end. The right wing of General Clark's Fifth Army today swept on for a gain of fifteen miles, capturing a place called Riccia (Reecha). The Germans put up a hard fight, but the Fifth Army would not be stopped. It continued the march on its right wing, which may turn out to be the decisive maneuver in the battle of the Volturno - the drive menacing the rear of the German position.

Along the Volturno itself, our troops have apparently established a bridgehead on the south side of the river. The

~~Volturno is still badly swollen by rains, and poor visibility~~

RUSSIA

Late news from Soviet Russia pictures Red Army advances in widely ~~xxx~~ separated areas. At Kiev, which has been in the news every day, German defenses were broken south of the city today, and a four mile advance toward the stronghold was registered by the Russians. At another section along the River Dnieper, Soviet troops have smashed through the last fortress the Germans hold on the East Bank. At Gomel, in White Russia, Nazi defenses were pierced on both sides of the city. And far to the south, the Soviets have fought their way into Melitopol, an important harbor north of the Crimea.

And, there is Moscow-news on the diplomatic side - this in the form of a statement printed in the newspaper Pravda, official organ of the central committee of the Communist Party. Pravda voices opinion at the very center of the Soviet Regime, and today made comment on the forthcoming conference of the American, British and Soviet foreign Ministers in Moscow. The Conference will be, first and foremost, for the establishment of a second front - that's the gist of the Pravda editorial.

The Soviet newspaper vigorously denounces any notion that the conference of Foreign Ministers will ~~not~~ consider the question of Post-War frontiers of Russia. "Everybody should know", states Pravda, "that the Soviet borders cannot be a subject of discussion any more than, for instance, the borders of the United States or the status of California". And that of course applies to the Baltic States and the half of Poland that Russia acquired in that ^{famous} ~~secret~~ deal between Hitler and Stalin.

CHURCHILL

In the British House of Commons today, Prime Minister Winston Churchill uttered a veiled criticism. He criticized somebody, but he couldn't have meant us - we hope.

Talking about a British political angle, Churchill said: "As soon as the war is ended, the soldiers will leave off fighting and the politicians will begin. Perhaps it's rather a pity," *he said. And then he went on: -* "But at any rate, it isn't as bad as what goes ~~in~~ on in some countries, which I shouldn't venture to name, where soldiers are fighting abroad and politicians are fighting at home with equal vigor and ferocity".

Some folk promptly surmised that the Prime Minister meant us, the good old U. S. A. - when he talked about politicians fighting with "vigor and ferocity". But, of course, he couldn't have meant us. Because who would dream of either the administration or the Republicans playing politics in wartime? *Surely it couldn't be us! Surely - but let's go on to the next item.*

FOREIGN RELATIONS

U.S.
Anyhow a Senate sub-committee dealing with post-war foreign relations today ~~has~~ recommended bold action in the matter of committing the United States to international collaboration after the war. The resolution recommended by the sub-committee is in general ~~XXXXX~~ terms, but employs language a good deal stronger than the Fulbright Resolution, adopted by the House of Representatives. It calls for the United States to take part in a world organization to prevent war, and makes its recommendation in the following words: "That the United States, acting through its constitutional processes, join with the free and ~~XXXXX~~ sovereign nations in the establishment and maintenance of international ~~XXXXX~~ authority, with power to prevent aggression and to ~~XXXXX~~ preserve the peace of the world". And the phrase "power to prevent aggression" implies the use of force.

Chairman Senator Connally* of Texas, ~~states~~ ~~that the~~ ~~resolution will be presented to the full committee on Foreign Relations next week, and will arrive on the floor of the Senate~~ ~~two weeks later for debate and a vote.~~ ~~And Connally predicted~~ ~~that~~

predicts it will
that it would be adopted, though there are signs that there may be a fight for a resolution more specific.

LABOR

Today the Resolutions Committee of the American Federation of Labor rejected the terms presented by John L. Lewis - terms under which the United Mine Workers would rejoin the A. F. of L. The terms are not satisfactory, reported the Resolutions Committee at the Annual Convention of the Federation. However, ~~the Committee stated that the way was still open for the John L. Lewis miners' union to re-enter the A. F. of L. at an early date, and recommend that negotiations continue.~~

ADD LABOR

Here's the latest: The A. F. of L. conference has just voted to authorize further negotiations with John L. Lewis, The Federation executive council is instructed to keep on trying for an agreement to bring back the mine workers.

RATS

A modern Pied Piper of Hamelin is going to start piping tomorrow afternoon, and he hopes that the rats of Albany, ~~the rats~~ ^{of Albany,} California, will respond - as the rodents did in legendary Hamelin, when they followed the Pied Piper out of town.

Albany, California, is having a plague of rats. ~~These~~ ~~have been~~ brought in by wartime shipping; ~~and~~ the waterfront is infested with a swarm of big black rodents. The city fathers have been trying to get rid of the pestilent visitation, but to no avail - and now Mayor W. R. George has made an appeal to what he calls "any person with ingenuity". That is, ingenuity enough to obliterate the plague of rats.

The modern Pied Piper is ~~an~~ the cornet player and maestro in a swing band - Red Nichols. He claims that he knows the secret of the original Pied Piper. He puts it this way: "Rats respond to high pitch sounds", he explains. "the original Pied Piper blew shrill notes".

And there may be something in that. At the University of California today, Dr. Franklin Henry, Professor of Psychology, was asked about the new Pied Piper theory. He responded: "We ~~know~~ know that a squeaking sound ~~will~~ will make a rat sit up

take notice. If this is continued, the rat becomes excited, and may go into convulsions".

Anyway, the attempt will be made tomorrow when Red Nichols will take his place in the middle of Albany, ^{California's} main street - and blow a shrill tone on his cornet. "I propose to hit a high note with overtones in the super-audible range", says he, "and hold it until those rats are out of the city". ~~Well, I hope it~~

~~works and that Albany, California, will witness the spectacle of the modern Pied Piper, tooting on a cornet, with a whole swarm of these bluish-black vermin following him down Main Street.~~

BEARD

The F. B. I. is investigating a man with a beard.

This much bewhiskered person was snapping photographs in a restricted military area at Altoona, Pennsylvania. He was most noticeable, because his beard extended below his belt line.

He was arrested, and the authorities searched his belongings.

Among these they found several prizes that he had won in whisker contests, competitions of beards. One prize was a hundred ~~XXXX~~ razor blades - not a blade used, of course.

HOMER CROY

I ran across a revelation today -- a surprise -- something about one of the best known men this country ever had. Will Rogers, the homespun philosopher. The disclosure is in a book just out, an autobiography by an old friend of ours, Homer Croy.

Homer himself, ^{is} the homespun kind, and his book is called - "Country Cured". In times past, Homer Croy wrote Will Rogers' motion pictures ^{plays} at Hollywood, and knew the cowboy humorist intimately. Well, ~~and~~ this is what he has to say about that homespun legend of Will Rogers.

"The public", writes Homer Croy, "loved him because he dressed in the most casual of ways, because he would go to dinner with the biggest, wearing a lounge suit - and because he would have nothing to do with a dinner suit - but," Homer Croy goes on, "that was the later Will. In his early days he was the snappiest dresser in Rogers County. He liked dashy clothes and exaggerated cuts and was quite the most swagger young man of his set. If there was an advanced style, it was sure to be on Will. It wasn't until later", says Homer, "that he found out what blue jeans would do for him.

"During those years", Homer Croy continues, "Will never dreamed of being considered an illiterate writer and philosopher ^{either.} It took more than twenty years to stumble onto that. ^{Until then} ^{his} spelling was almost perfect and he went in for most elaborate punctuation. He loved semicolons and high flown words", *says Homer.*

Then, in time, Will Rogers discovered the value of *Whereupon* hayseed English. "His spelling grew progressively worse," writes Homer Croy. "And he wrote "Ain't, a word unknown in his early writings. ^{And} ^{gone} forever were his high-stepping grammar days", *So* says Homer Croy in COUNTRY CURED.

And now Hugh, how about a bit of homespun philosophy from you? But don't try ~~to be~~ any Will Rogers or Homer Croy hayseed English, Hugh. Just be yourself.