

P.T. - Sunoco. Monday, July 19, 1943.

RUSSIA

Good Evening Everybody! -

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But here is the other side of the picture.

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defense, and have slowed down the progress of the Russian army. But the Soviet tanks are pushing ahead in spite of them, and Timoshenko's forces appear to have started the week with fresh momentum. One hopeful sign is that the Soviets have a clear superiority in the air. They are bombing railroads, highways and airfields day and night. And they are slashing at all reinforcements that the Germans are sending to the front.

The Russians are also ~~tx~~ attacking in the Belgorod sector, south of Orel, and along the Donets and Mius Rivers.

London believes that the invasion of Sicily and the imminent attack on the mainland of Italy has forced the Nazi to withdraw large numbers of troops from the Russian front, and prepare for the defense of Europe. But there are still some two hundred and ^{Nazi} twenty-two divisions on the eastern front, according to Russian estimates.

ADD RUSSIA

The latest from Russia, just in, brings word that Timoshenko smashed into the German lines at Orel today for a distance of six and a quarter miles.

L.T. SUNOCO - MONDAY, JULY 19, 1943

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Though our soldiers and our Allies are fighting furiously in Sicily, this was a dull day for us at this end of the news ticker. They are about to take Catania. But it hasn't happened yet. ^{Tho} ~~But~~ the news may come in at any moment. Catania, and nearby Gerbini with its great chain of airfields.

Tonight the most dramatic news from the Mediterranean is that story about the bombing of Rome. For six months this has been in the offing. It has been obvious that if Italy continued to play ball with Hitler, Rome would be bombed sooner or later. The Allies have shown great consideration for the city on the Seven Hills. Meanwhile the Fascists and Nazis have taken full advantage of this. Evidently they thought Rome was immune because the Allies would not want to offend the Pope. Whereupon they made the city on the

Tiber a vital center for the movement of supplies and troops.

Well, today they got the surprise of their lives. A great force of R.A.F. and U.S. heavy and medium bombers dropped explosives and incendiary bombs on the huge railroad yards, on three sides of Rome, also on all the many airfields just beyond the Seven Hills.

The main target was the railway yard, where the troop and supply trains are made up.

No bombs whatsoever were dropped on any of the classic architecture with which Rome abounds. Both pilots and bombardiers were instructed to be particularly careful to avoid any damage to religious and cultural monuments.

The Allies also took pains to notify the people of Italy accordingly. Pilots dropped a rain of leaflets printed in Italian, addressed to the citizens of Rome, and notifying them that the Fascist government would surely fabricate a set of lies about the raid. "The Fascist Government," read one leaflet, "which

consistently conceals news about the war, will say that we are trying to destroy monuments which are the joy not only of Rome but of the civilized world."

Then the leaflets went on to charge that the Fascists and Germans might even drop bombs themselves on some of the points of classic interest in order to blame it on the Allies. The leaflets also pointed out that from the Allied point of view the wilful destruction of beautiful buildings would be a waste of effort, and, of munitions. That our real goals are military objectives all of which work entirely in the interests of the Germans. The pamphlet concluded by saying that it's the intention to limit all destruction to a minimum.

Here, at home, in Washington, Secretary of State Hull took particular pains to point this out. That American forces are not only ~~and~~ instructed, but are trained in the most rigid manner, trained how to avoid non-military targets. Actually -- and that all points in Rome that the Allies bombed were nowhere near the

Vatican. The closest was one of the switching yards, a mile and a half away from Vatican City.

But of course, the Axis propaganda agencies swung into action at once and did just what had been expected. The Italian official news agency put out false reports that bombs had fallen on several sacred buildings, also on University City,

and, on a cemetery. *If you've ever flown you'll know that the landscape looks like one cemetery after another.*

It was obvious that the government of the United

States was most sensitive as to the effect of this raid

on public opinion, especially political opinion. In

Washington, reporters ~~xxxxx~~ obtained the reaction of

several Senators on both sides of the political fence.

well,

Democrats and Republicans, Protestants and Roman

Catholics, made, in effect, the same reply. The gist

of it was - "too bad, but obviously a military necessity."

Even Republican Senator Nye of North Dakota said the

United Nations had given Italy every possible warning,

which had been ignored. Several Congressmen pointed

out that the Fascist government had been given every

opportunity to declare Rome an open city.

The American bombers that took part in this

raid included Flying Fortresses from North Africa and

big four-engined Liberators from the Middle East.

LEAD . 67

A dispatch from Bern, ~~the~~ capital of Switzerland, ^{tells of} ~~reports that there were~~ panicky scenes in Rome.

The dwellers on the Seven Hills had been lulled into the delusion that the city was immune, though it had not been declared, in a military sense, an open city.

Some of the heaviest bombs fell on Portonaccio, a big railway junction ~~only~~ ^{Rome's famous} eighteen miles from ~~the~~ central station.

ROME

The crew of an airplane could hardly have a more difficult task than bombing Rome without hitting a monument of at least some importance. If you're afoot in the streets of the Eternal City, you cannot walk anywhere without coming face to face with some object of beauty or great memory, or both.

For one thing, the center of Christianity has more than three hundred churches, not ^{even} counting the famous and immortal buildings ~~as~~ St. Peters and the Sistine Chapel. On every side history hits you in the eye, either the history of the Roman Empire, or the history of modern Europe, or the history of Christendom, of which Rome is the cradle and the immortal symbol.

On one side you may see the Castle of Sant' Angelo, once the magnificent Tomb of Hadrian. On another side you are confronted with the Villa

Medici and the Lateran Palace, the Villa Albani, the
Villa Borghese. Here you see the ruins of the ~~Colosseum~~
Colosseum, the great Flavian amphitheater. There,
the Baths of Agrippa, the Triumphal Arch of
Septimus Severus. *And of course you forever*
wander among the remains of the
great aqueducts, triumphs of early engineering that
brought water to the people of Rome. Elsewhere you
stand gazing at the Palaces of the great Roman nobles
of the Renaissance, the Colonna, the Doria, the
Barberini. Among the churches is that of St. John
and St. Pauls without the Walls;
the Lateran, the first of them all, and the Santa
Maria Maggiore, only one, but the largest of eighty
churches in ^{Italy,} ~~Rome~~ dedicated to the Virgin Mary with
its Nave dating from the Fifth Century.

Imagine having to bomb such a place without
hitting anything of interest! *I wouldn't
want that bombing assignment.*

SICILY FOLLOW LEAD

The most important news from Sicily ^{tells of} ~~is that~~
the Seventh ^{U.S.} Army ~~of the United States~~ ^{ing} captured a place
called Caltanissetta. ^{And -} It was a capture of considerable
moment, since Caltanissetta is one of the points that
had to be taken before Montgomery and his Eighth Army
^{could} ~~may~~ break down the resistance of Catania.

Meanwhile, the Canadians on the central front
advanced from Caltagirone, turned northwest, smashed
through the opposing Italian lines, and stormed the
town of Piazza Armerina. Then they joined up with the
Americans at Caltanissetta. The last we heard of them,
a combined column of ^{U.S.} ~~United States~~ and Canadian units
was pushing on towards Enna, an important Axis base
only ten miles away. *They are battling the Germans
for it now.*

By the capture of Caltanissetta, the Americans
are well on the way to cutting
~~have cut~~ off the entire western part of Sicily.

Caltanissetta was almost the main center of

SICILY FOLLOW LEAD - 2

communications between the Axis east and west. Once we have Enna, the only line from East to West in Axis hands will be the road along the North Sicilian coast.

The Axis high commands continue to make light of ~~what~~ all the Allied successes on the island ^{of Sicily.} The population of neither Germany nor Italy has been told that we have a good third of all Sicily in our hands. The Berlin and Rome radios are still singing the same song, that ~~what~~ all ~~the~~ Allied attacks in Sicily have been repulsed.

A dispatch from Allied headquarters in North Africa reports that the Italian forces in Sicily are cracking up. They are surrendering by units, and large ones at that. One considerable force of Italians was about to surrender to the Seventh Army of the United States on the western flank. With them was a German officer who tried to prevent the surrender. The Italians turned on him and shot him.

The only really strong and well organized

resistance is on the east coast. That is where the Germans predominate, although there ^{were} ~~are~~ only sixty thousand of them to begin with. [The most desperate fighting is now going on around Catania, where most of the Nazi force is concentrated.]

Military observers believe the Germans are withdrawing from Enna, and that ^{that} is why they are putting up such a desperate stand before Gerbini.

Some people believe that Gerbini, with its great airfields, is already in Allied hands. The N.B.C. in New York overheard a station in ^{England} ~~Germany~~ broadcasting to the British that some of the Gerbini airfields have already been captured. ^{And it's} ~~is~~ a fact that the Eighth Army is fighting the Germans in the suburbs of Catania, ^{with} ~~and~~ the center of the town is being bombarded by Montgomery's artillery.

An interesting story comes from Cairo,

where the

~~the~~ Egyptian radio claims that the advance guard of Montgomery's army is only sixty miles from Messina.

If ~~that is~~ true, Montgomery has sent a considerable column of the forces under his command around Catania, passing it by. ^{But} Before it can reach Messina, it will have to smash through a considerable massing of German and Italian forces at the foot of Mount Etna.

AIR OFFENSIVE FOLLOW SICILY

There was a spectacular ~~dogfight~~ ^{battle} in the air north of Sicily today. A force of American Lightnings was flying toward the mainland, looking for the enemy, and found him. What they found was a huge flight of big German transport planes, fifteen of them. The Lightnings joined battle immediately. Before that ~~angry~~ ^{uproar} was over, they had shot down everyone of those great Junkers airliners.

It was an important coup, because the Junkers were filled with German soldiers on their way to reinforce the Nazi army in Sicily. This was the first big affair of the kind since Easter Sunday. On that day, our interceptors caught a still bigger fleet of enemy transports off Cape Bon in ~~in~~ Africa, and destroyed fifty of them.

Equally important is the interpretation that military observers put on this engagement. They ~~are~~

AIR OFFENSIVE FOLLOW SICILY - 2

say it means that the Axis has become short of surface transportation and is obliged to take to the air to rush human reinforcements as well as vital supplies to the Axis armies in Sicily.

ECONOMICS

The Government of the United States is now making progress in coordinating the foreign economic policy of the country. This was announced today as an aftermath of the dramatic action of President Roosevelt last week when he abolished the Board of Economic Warfare and also abolished the job ~~of that~~ Vice-President Wallace had as its head.)

War Mobilization Director Byrnes made the announcement today. ^{TP Byrnes} ~~He~~ held a meeting with Leo Crowley, Director of the new Office of Economic Warfare. People from the State Department, Lend-Lease, Foreign Relief, and the Office of Inter-American Affairs and the Budget Bureau, were also present. In his new job, Leo Crowley will now have the duty of purchasing and procuring strategical materials for foreign countries.

FOOD

There were several rumblings on the food front today. In New York, a state senator declared that the shortage of meat in that state would amount to six hundred million pounds this year, and he declared that the black market situation in the Empire State is becoming worse and worse.

The state senator who said this is Thomas C. Desmond, Chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee on Nutrition. He blamed the black market, ^{or} conflicting federal agencies, unwise regulations, and other causes.

Q.P.A. FOLLOW FOOD

8
Restaurant keepers in five eastern states have been ordered to reduce their prices for ~~food and~~ ^{food and} ~~drinks~~ ^{- reduce them} to what they were in the first week of April.

The order came from the O.P.A., and it applies to all eating and drinking establishments in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and the District of Columbia. Thus it will affect something like two hundred and fifty thousand keepers of restaurants, bars and similar places. The order goes into effect next week.

1/2
The O.P.A. also froze the price of cabbage and lettuce; ~~That becomes~~ effective tomorrow. Twenty-five per cent from the price of cabbage; fifty per cent from lettuce.

STRIKE

There was a peculiar strike out in the wide open spaces of Idaho today. You might call it a hunger strike, since the men ^{quit work —} ~~struck~~ because they were hungry.

They are members of a logging crew. They laid down their axes and said they would cut no more until they got

all the beefsteak they need to give them enough

calories to chop ^{down} ~~the~~ trees. ~~down.~~ And

now Hugh.