

BOMBER

L.I. - Sunoco. Friday, April 24, 1942.


Tonight we have a little more news about the American bomber that landed in Eastern Siberia -- but only a little more. The Soviet^s tell us how many men were in the crew of the war plane that took part in the bombing of Tokyo. Five -- the bomber had a crew of five men. That enables us to determine that it was ~~possibly~~ ^{probably} a medium bomber. It could be, for example, a North American B-25 -- the type that participated in the spectacular American bombing raids launched from Australia against the Japs in the Philippines. A crew of five certainly does not suggest a flying fortress. That type of aerial giant is normally manned by a larger number.

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Today's dispatch from Soviet Russia adds that the five American aviators are uninjured and are all in good health~~y~~ and spirits. They were forced down ^{by} ~~on~~ mechanical trouble last Saturday, but the announcement was not made until last night -- I picked the flash from the wire just in time to get it on the air. The Soviets

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kept the event a secret -- possibly in collaboration with the secrecy that our own government is maintaining concerning the bombing of Japan. Today's dispatch states that the United States Consul at Vladivostok was promptly notified -- immediately after the landing.

President Roosevelt stated today that he had been informed officially of the plane landing in



Siberia. and at the White House news conference he too was asked about the internment business -- the internment of the bomber, for example, as well as the crew.

"Will that plane become a Lend-Lease plane now?", he was asked.

The President laughed that one off -- making no comment on the implied supposition that the bomber interned by the Soviet^s might be used against the Nazis ~~on the front~~ in Europe.

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At the new^s conference that ~~that familiar~~ question ^{again} came up: - From what bases did the American bombers take off and to what bases did they return? The war plane forced down in Eastern Siberia provides a clew -- but a clew to what? ~~The plane forced down in~~ Eastern Siberia might easily suggest -- Alaska. If it were enroute ~~xxx~~ between Japan and our Alaskan air bases, it might ^{have been} ~~well be~~ near some point on the Siberian coast -- when the bomber developed mechanical trouble. Or maybe the war planes were based on carriers to the

north of Japan -- not so far from points on the Siberian coast. Or possibly the plane might be based almost ~~HERE~~ anyplace, ~~--- and might have developed mechanical trouble over Japan~~ and found Russian territory the nearest place to fly to in an emergency. ^{IF} The President today considered the clue afforded by the forced landing, and gave his former answer -- Shangri^la. And so we will have to be satisfied by reasoning that the clue might also apply to the mythical Utopia -- Shangri^la in a non-existent part of an imaginary ^Tibet.

RUSSIA

Soviet Russia reports two successes - one, a break-through in the northern front, the Leningrad area. There, Red Army units crashed into German lines for a depth of one to two miles. The other Soviet success is described as in the Crimea, where the Soviet units captured a dominating series of hills called - the Golden Range.

BRITAIN

The British Air Force today continued the day by day work of bombing the Nazis. In daylight, squadrons of R.A.F. planes flew across the Channel for bombing attacks. Last night they struck far into Germany, concentrating on the great Baltic port of Rostok, which is the key supply base for the Hitler armies in Russia. Rostok was devastated with explosions and fires. The city as seen from the sky was turned into a glare of flames - "lit up from end to end," says an R.A.F. dispatch.

The round^{d-}-the-clock raids are a thundering accompaniment to British discussion of that liveliest topic of the day - invasion. London today noted with great interest the ^{statement} ~~call~~ made by Lord Beaverbrook last night, ~~when~~ ^{here in} On this side of the ocean, New York, the British Lend-Lease Coordinator ~~called~~ in ringing tones ^{called} for an invasion of the Nazi-controlled continent.

"Strike out to help Russia," he cried. "Strike out violently. Strike even recklessly."

London ties this declaration in with word from Washington that President Roosevelt has put his okay on conversations between our Chief of State, General Marshall, and the heads of the British Government, ~~and~~ ^{It} is supposed that these conversations may have concerned plans for a possible British-American invasion.

NAZI PURGE

The British report what may be significant news about Nazi Germany - a X Hitler purge of the leaders of the German armament industry. The story is that the Nazi Fuehrer ordered his production chiefs to step up the manufacture of armament to the tune of eighty per cent. (And this they failed to do. At the end of March, they were informed that their production figures were not nearly high enough. And still they failed to satisfy. So now the production chiefs are being removed and punished.)

The London story states that the manager of the great Junkers Aircraft Works at Dessau has been arrested and tossed into a concentration camp. He is said to have declared officially that the Hitler production figures were impossible, and is quoted in the following words, "It is not possible to maintain the

present level of production because the entire plant

at Dessau is worn out and almost useless," said he, ~~and~~

Whereupon he

^ was tossed into a concentration camp.

FRANCE

News from France states that Hitler has ordered the merciless repression of anti-Nazi terrorism in the occupied ^{part} ~~sections~~ of the country -- and has trusted the merciless repression to a Prince. ~~xxx~~ A new Nazi Police Chief ^{is} said to have been appointed for Occupied France -- Prince Josias of Waldeck Pymont; ~~He is~~ described as an old line Nazi, who will carry out the Hitler command -- ^{be} ~~by~~ merciless.

This news is accompanied by further accounts ^{of anti-} ~~demanding~~ Nazi terrorism -- including some bomb explosions.

BURMA

From Burma comes the alarming news of a swift seventy-five mile advance by the Japs. They are ~~xxx~~ driving hard in eastern Burma, and threaten to outflank the whole Allied defense line. The key town of danger is a place called Taunggyi, ^a center of highways and railroads. That town is the hub of a communications network that commands the entire central section of Burma. ^{TR} The Japs now are assaulting the place against desperate Chinese resistance, and if they should capture it, they will threaten the British-Chinese forces with rapid moves of encirclement. The new seventy-five mile advance has put the enemy within a hundred miles of Mandalay.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt today expressed his opinion in the lag of the merchant shipbuilding program -- the construction of freighters being behind schedule. He said he thought it was chiefly because of a shortage of steel plates.

Yesterday, Chairman Land of the Maritime Commission mentioned labor slowdowns and loafing as a cause, ^{Admiral Land} ~~for a lag in the building of cargo ships.~~ He also referred to the shortage of steel. The President today placed his emphasis on the shortage. He said he didn't believe that there was any very great element of slow-down to account for the fact that the ship program is behind schedule. He said a lack of steel was the principal factor, and added that the steel shortage extends all over the country and has been in existence for a long time. And you can't make bread

without flour -- that was the presidential figure of speech.

What about the war production program in general? The President said that the mammoth schedule, launched in January, is working out extremely well -- considering the fact that the program was called fantastic when he first announced it.

WAR EXPENDITURES

Here's news about the prospects of war expenditures for Nineteen Forty-Three -- going up. Previously, the Administration estimated that during the Nineteen Forty-Three fiscal year, fifty-six billion dollars would be spent for war. Today that figure was raised to seventy billion.

There are thirty-five million families in the country. Divide that figure into seventy billion, and the answer is -- two thousand. Meaning -- the war expenditures for Nineteen Forty-Three will average two thousand dollars for each family in the United States.

Yes, war is expensive. But, as the President pointed out, it is more expensive to lose than to win.

GAS

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We have some more information about the amounts of gasoline to be allowed to non-essential civilian motorists. Rationing for the eastern states and the Pacific northwest, as we know, starts May fifteenth - with the issuing of formal rationing ^{cards.} ~~cars.~~ And during the time before that date, 'May First to May Fifteenth, supplies for civilian motorists will be cut to sixty per cent below normal. ~~Right now, the sales have been cut thirty-three and a third per cent.~~

But what about rations after May Fifteenth? Washington opinion puts the figure at about twenty-five gallons per month for non-essential users. That is - under rationing, each car driver would be allowed about five and eight-tenths gallons a week.

It is emphasized again that the shortage is one of transportation and not of war supplies. In fact,

there's a large over-supply of gasoline in the southwest - to compare with the acute shortages on the east coast and the Pacific northwest. The over-supply along the Gulf coast, in fact, presents a grave problem.

One official today posed ^{the} a question as follows:-

"Whether to burn the over-supply of gasoline or put it back into the ground." *They must be running short of storage space for it.*

RUBBER

Here's the auto tire prospect for next month -
as announced by Price Administrator Leon Henderson today.

During May, fewer new tires will be available to the
automobile user than during April, *— when there were none for most of us.* But, on the other
hand, there will be more recapped tires next month.

~~The~~ Civilian automobilists will be allowed more old
tires fixed up - retreaded, recapped.

The rubber situation was the subject of a sharp
attack delivered in the Senate today. Senator Herring
of Iowa said he thought the public was being - "kidded."
People are not being given the right information about
rubber. The Senator predicted that before civilian
tires wear out, synthetic products will be ready to
replace them. *TP* And the Senator, who is head of ~~the~~ a
sub-committee investigating rubber, indicated that he
thought the military requirements were much too high.
He expressed the opinion that the armed forces are

demanding too much rubber. Their present requirements are between six hundred thousand and seven hundred thousand tons a year. And the Senator doesn't think our military establishment needs that much. ^H He pointed to Nazi Germany and said, "The highest estimates that we have heard of German military consumption is two hundred thousand tons a year." *And they,* ~~The Senator added that he thought the figure was more likely to be a hundred and fifty thousand tons a year for the Nazi armies which,~~ he pointed out, are using the most modern mechanized equipment [^] in Russia and Libbya. From which the Senator drew the following conclusion, in his own words, "I don't see how our army and navy get those figures of six hundred to seven hundred thousand tons a year."

SINKING

Survivors of a ship sinking landed at Norfolk today, and talked about - "the mad Russian". His name is Waldemar Semenov, a member of the crew who appeared to be quite sane until the submarine attack began.

~~It was during that exciting and terrifying hour, that he acquired the name of - "the mad Russian."~~

The vessel was shelled by a Nazi U-boat off our Atlantic coast. A rain of explosives hit the craft, and the ship was set ablaze. ~~There was nerve-wracking anxiety.~~ ~~The more so because,~~ the captain ~~xxxxx~~ was severely wounded ^{and} could not give orders. This caused confusion - a near panic, as the crew took to their lifeboats. And here's what Waldemar Semenov ~~did to~~ ^{did to} earn the name of - "The Mad Russian." With the shells blasting the ship, he was completely calm. He went below decks to his cabin, and put on his best suit of clothes - and ~~xxxxx~~ brushed his teeth. He took several loaves of bread out of the pantry, and also procured a book to read in the lifeboat. Finally, he ~~borrowed~~ ^{borrowed} two

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dollars from another member of the crew - just in case. He was so sane about it all, they thought he was crazy.

Later on, the Mad Russian was responsible for getting one of the lifeboats safely through an ordeal of three days adrift at sea. *Mad - as a fox.*

PILOTS

Uncle Sam is issuing a call for pilot instructors - experienced fliers to teach the air students in training. If you're between twenty-one and forty-two, if you hold a certificate of a pilot, and if you have had a hundred and forty hours of ~~xxxx~~ solo flying - your country is appealing to you. ~~The flying training command of the Army Air Force is out to enlist two thousand new instructors to do elementary and secondary teaching in the training schools.~~

~~So here's what you experienced pilots are to do.~~ ^{So} Phone or write to the local ~~xx~~ representative of the Civil Aeronautics, and ^{they} ~~he~~ will send you an application blank. This will enable you to state your flying experience and skill. Then the Civil Aeronautics Administration will give you a refresher course, some training to fit you for the job of instructor. It's a good job. You start at not less than two hundred dollars a month, and the average pay is three hundred ~~dollars.~~

BLACKBURN

Tonight the brain that made a champion is no longer thinking of jabs and hooks and other strategies of the prize ring. Jack Blackburn died today - the old-time negro fighter who trained and taught Joe Louis, and brought him along to the heavyweight championship of the world. He was known in his time as one of the

caggiest of negro fighters, and in his advancing years he transferred his knowledge of ring-craft to the

^{Brown} devastating Bomber. In the world of pugilism they say

that ~~xxxxxxx~~ the Joe Louis fighting style was shaped completely by Jack Blackburn. Gene Tunney always claimed that it was the ~~Y~~ Blackburn brain functioning in the body of the champion.

And old Jack himself made this concession.

"There are a lot of fighters a lot smarter than Louis,"

said he, "but sometimes a boy can be too smart.

Smartness and meanness don't mix very often," the negro

veteran explained. "You gotta be of the jungle style to be a great fighter."

Today they took the news to the champion -- on the rifle range. Private Joe Louis, in the Army, was out there with the other soldiers, blazing away at the target. When he was told that his trainer and teacher was no more, the stolid Brown Bomber muttered that it was the biggest shock of his life -- and he looked it.

SPURS

Here's a sad story about girls attending dances for soldiers. It happened at Fort Devens, Massachusetts. Patriotic young women have been going to the service club there, to help entertain the troops in camp. And a number of them have been injured -- injured around the ankles, their ankles lacerated. Not to mention what happened to their stockings -- with silk stockings so expensive and scarce. Now who did that to the girls' ankles? How did it happen?

Today, in the camp, a notice was posted: It reads as follows:- "Gentlemen of the cavalry will please remove spurs while dancing."

Get the idea, fellows, you spur the horse, not the girl.

And that surely should spur Hugh to a flight of eloquence.