

L.J. - Sunoco. Fri., Sept. 11, 1942

RUSSIA

The desperation of the Soviet position at Stalingrad is reflected by both German and Russian accounts. The Nazis claim to have driven to the River Volga, south of the city -- and they had previously announced their arrival at the Volga north of Stalingrad. The city lies with its back to that great stream, so the picture is one of a semi-circle drawn around the mighty industrial center -- called the Pittsburgh of Russia.

On the Soviet side, ^{we sense} ~~the intimation of~~ the desperation ^{from} ~~seen~~ in a statement printed in the Soviet army paper newspaper, "Red Star," ^{which declares} ~~this asserts~~ that at Stalingrad the Russians have blown up every bridge across the ^{Volga} ~~Volga~~ and destroyed every boat -- so they ^{and they are now} cannot retreat, making it a fight to the death. ^{TP} It is recalled that Stalin himself did the same thing during the Civil War between the Reds and the whites, when he commanded the defense of the city now named after him -- and destroyed the bridges and the boats.

Of course, that sort of strategy has been known in the past. Cortez in the conquest of Mexico, burned his ships. So that his soldiers could not be tempted to sail away -- and could

only go forward. Something of that sort ~~is~~ I think is attributed to Caesar. And, of course, there is the old phrase -- about burning your bridges behind you, so that you can't draw back.

This sort ~~of~~ of thing at Stalingrad ~~is~~ certainly sounds in keeping ^{with} ~~with~~ the desperate defense that the Russians have made their own in this war. Yet, without bridges or boats at Stalingrad -- how can they get supplies and munitions into the beleaguered city?

47
The latest Moscow report, describing the size of the Nazi forces attacking Stalingrad, uses the adjective "tremendous." Five hundred thousand Germans are said to be storming incessantly, hammering away day and night -- and the Red Army troops are compelled to draw back, slowly, doggedly.

The fight for the city is likened to the defense of Sevastopol earlier in the year, when the Nazi enemy had to throw in such powerful forces and take so much time to capture the fortress. However, it ~~is~~ is pointed out that Stalingrad has ~~not~~ such natural defenses as Sevastopol, ~~has~~ ^{is}. The latter place is surrounded by mountainous country, rough and difficult terrain.

While around Stalingrad there are nothing but the flat steppes,
the level plain along the Volga.

~~(In Duesseldorf bombing, emphasize a hundred thousand
incendiary bombs and tremendous fires.)~~

Today's word from London indicates that last night's R.A.F. bombing blow against Nazi Germany was one of the greatest ~~ever~~. British commentators say the sky fleet was not far from the thousand plane size. It hit Duesseldorf, the great German industrial center, ~~and this was~~ ^{the} fiftieth time ~~that~~ Duesseldorf has been blasted. The air ministry reports thirty-one bombers - missing. The size of the loss would indicate the magnitude of the attack.

Last night we had the word "air-mada" suggested.

And, while I was passing this along, the term would seem

to have been amply justified - ^a thousand ~~xx~~ plane attack ^{on} ~~being~~

~~xx~~ ~~launched~~. a great German industrial city. A hundred thousand incendiary bombs dropped on D uesseldorf in this raid - with the entire city now ablaze.

WILLKIE

Wendell Willkie arrived at Jerusalem today, and there he will confer with British, Arab and Jewish leaders. Last night at Beirut, he talked things over with General De Gaulle, Chief of the fighting French. He also conferred with the Premier of Syria and the president of Lebanon.

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The Willkie tour *seems to be* ~~is~~ getting an impressive reception in the Near East. Local Arab ~~papers~~ papers carried the news about him at the top of their front pages today, the number one position usually accorded to the war, Russian battles and R.A.F. raids. One Arab editorial hails Willkie in these words:

An apostle of Democracy in whom the Arab world can put its ~~firm~~ faith."

MADAGASCAR

In Madagascar, the British, it is clear, are moving on a large scale to seize the entire great island. A communique from the British commanding General reports - "widespread landings on the west coast". Imperial forces there have captured Majunga, the second largest city of Madagascar.

And the British are pushing down the east coast, advancing southward from the Diego Suarez Naval Base, which they seized some time ago. The Vichy French forces are putting up some resistance, but not a great deal. And the full occupation of Madagascar would seem to be just a matter of time - and not such a long time.

50

The capture of a small but strategic island off the Madagascar coast is announced. The island has the curious ~~ja~~ name of Nosy-be. It looks odd in type, and you can visualize the spelling by reversing the name and say - be nosy. The place might serve as a submarine base, and we don't want to see the Japs ~~not~~ poking ~~in~~ around there. The British have taken Nosy-Be, so the Japs won't be ^{too} noseey.

SOLOMONS

In the Solomon Islands, the Japs have lost a total of a hundred and twenty-three planes. That's the total for the fighting ^{that} has been going on since our attack against the island on August Seventh. Of the ^{se} hundred and twenty-three enemy sky craft, some eighty-six were ^{the Japs were} downed while [^] trying to attack the air base that we seized at Guadalcanal Island. Thirty-six were destroyed in the first forty-eight hours - when we were beginning the recapture of the islands in the Solomons.

RUBBER

President Roosevelt today named Monday as a day for action concerning rubber. He said that on Monday he will put into effect nearly all of the recommendations made by the Bernard Baruch rubber committee.

This, however, will not include nationwide gasoline rationing -- the President explaining that it ^{will} ~~would~~ take time to set up a rationing system. He added, by the way, that he does not like the term -- "gasoline rationing." He said the recommendation of the Baruch Committee was for -- "mileage rationing." This is a broader term, which will include a number of various regulations -- the restriction of the sale of gasoline being only one.

The President told of another method of mileage restriction--- which will not be used. It has been suggested that the authorities could check ~~mileage~~ mileage by speedometers -- read the speedometer of a car every so often. The President said that notion had been turned down, because too many people in the country know how to turn back their speedometers.

To which the echo responds, that no patriotic motorist would try any speedometer tricks, ^{would he,} and that all motorists ^{are} ~~were~~ perfectly



patriots, we hope — and
~~patriotic, and they~~ would never dream of helping Hitler by

driving an extra mile or two, even if they had to get out and

walk. *And* Make the girl friend walk, too.

On Monday, the rubber administrator will be appointed --
in accordance with the Baruch committee recommendation of one-
man control. Who is the new rubber Czar to be? The President
warned the news men not to indulge in any guess on that subject --
warning them that they probably would be wrong. ~~And who would~~
~~want to see a newspaper writer or a radio news commentator make~~
~~a mistake? They never do, you know. So I won't try to make~~
~~any guesses about who the rubber administrator will be, I won't~~
~~even whisper the surmise that he will be Joe Doakes of Pedunk.~~

52
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also,
Maybe on Monday, the thirty-five mile an hour speed limit
will be put into effect -- the limit proposed by the Baruch committee

I suppose *this will be* ~~they'll~~ enforce *this* by local police regulation, ~~traffic~~
or we ~~cops being what they are, or they~~ might try an idea of which

the President himself gave a hint today.

He told the White House news conference how he himself
compelled twenty-two motorists to ~~stick~~ *stick* to the thirty-five mile

an hour limit. This ~~was~~ happened recently when he was driving from Washington to his home at Hyde Park. New York.

It appears that when the President is driving along a highway, no car going in the same direction is allowed to pass the Presidential auto - (they can't go speeding ~~by~~ to ~~not~~ get ahead, Secret service men and state troopers see to that.)

So on the trip to Hyde Park, the President just kept his car down to thirty-five miles an hour, and nobody behind him could go any faster, ~~he said that~~ ^{And he said he had} twenty-two other drivers were piled up behind him -- a whole line of them. ^{And I'll bet} ~~And some, I'd imagine, some of them were --~~ were speed maniacs. ~~Just itching to go buzzing along at about eighty, but what could they do? I'll bet a couple of them growled: "Up to this minute I used to be a Democrat."~~

But ^{there's a} anyway, ~~it is a great~~ Presidential idea for keeping us ~~boys~~ down to thirty-five miles an hour, and ~~maybe the theory could be applied nationwide.~~ ^{And} In other words, if we had enough Presidents on enough roads ^{our nationwide} ~~of this country, the whole~~ problem of wartime speed restriction would be solved.

DRAFT

President Roosevelt today was asked whether he thought it would be necessary to draft eighteen and nineteen year old youths into the Army before the first of the year. He responded -- no, he did not think the eighteen and ~~xx~~ nineteen year olds would be called into Service during the remainder of Nineteen forty two.

KAISER

War Production aviation advisors have ^{just} recommended that Henry J. Kaiser, the west coast shipbuilder, be premitted to build some planes -- several sample cargo planes.

54
Kaiser, in partnership with millionaire flyer Howard Hughes, is planning to build a super giant of the air, a flying boat with seven engines and two hulls, the like of which has never been seen before. Production Chief Nelson is said to believe that anything so novel should be put through exhaustive experiment. He wants to see it proved that the monsters, when completed, will be as good as they look on blueprints.

BONDS

~~(This is an urgent request from the Treasury Department. It does not so much concern our story of last night as newspaper stories.)~~

Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau states today that he was misquoted in what he had to say yesterday about compulsory savings. The impression was conveyed that he considered the program of voluntary buying to be a failure. This, he says, is untrue -- and an injustice to the loyal workers in the bond selling campaign. Voluntary bond ~~selling~~ buying is not a failure, and it will continue to be a mainstay of our war finance. What Secretary Morgenthau indicates is -- ~~is~~ that our war spending program has increased so greatly, that voluntary bond buying must be supplemented by compulsory saving.

JITTERBUGS

In speaking of anything ~~connected with the war we should~~,
preserve a proper dignity of language. ^{So} ~~The lingo of jitterbugs for~~
~~example would hardly be appropriate.~~ Tonight, however, there is one
bit of news that can only be stated in these words: "Zoot suits,
reat pleats and stuff cuffs are out."

In case that needs translation, let me explain -- as an
enthusiastic jitterbug -- that when us boys dance the lindy hop, we
do it in clothes that might seem peculiar to you old-fashioned folks.
We wear long baggy coats and big baggy pants -- and that's a zoot
suit. The pants have large pleats at the top -- and those are reat
pleats. They have full cuffs -- and those are stuff cuffs.

~~Between ourselves, this rug cutting lingo sounds peculiar.~~
~~With zoot suit, reat pleat and stuff cuff, jitter bugs would seem~~
~~to have a weakness for assonant alliteration -- assonant, if not~~
~~assinine.~~

Well,
Today the War Production Board abolished the zoot suit.
They take too much cloth, ~~of which there is a wartime shortage.~~
~~Jitterbug bags of wool had already been banned, and now all other~~
~~materials are included.~~ ^{So} Zoot suits go zoot for the duration.

SOLDIER

At Long Beach, California, the oldest enlisted man in the Army reported back for duty today -- after a furlough. He came marching into camp with his upright military bearing and a brisk step. Sergeant John Westervelt is seventy-three, and considers himself a number one patriarch among the troops ^{of} Uncle Sam.

The sarge, at seventy-three, ^{was returning from} ~~came back after~~ his honeymoon. He has ^{just} been married, and ^{was} given a honeymoon furlough.

Some of the boys expected the sarge to come in on crutches. But he marched in like an old campaigner. Nothing like military training, they say.

BASEBALL

There is deep gloom in Flatbush tonight. The
Dodgers were beaten today ~~in~~ -- shut out. Actually they
were licked by a big guy named Mort Cooper. ^{TF} With some
assistant^{ce}~~s~~ from his St. Louis team mates, Cooper pitched
an invincible game. The Dodgers never had a chance. Wyatt
was pretty good, but not good enough. The score -- ^{three to}~~two to~~
nothing. So now Brooklyn leads St. Louis by only one game
and the two teams play ~~again~~ again tomorrow.

LIFER

Today ^{the} in New York court of general sessions, an eloquent appeal was made for a prisoner -- a plea not by a lawyer but by a ~~Catholic~~ priest. He spoke in behalf of Ormond Westgate, a long time fugitive from an Illinois penitentiary who for eighteen years has lived an upright life. A respected citizen, with ~~fi~~ wife and child.

Long ago Westgate was convicted of robbery in Illinois -- his second offense. He was sentenced to a possible life term in prison. He served eight years, and then escaped -- that was in Nineteen twenty-four.

He had studied electrical work in jail, and this he now applied, and became an electrician. Sometimes things were hard, and he was tempted to steal again -- but held back. Then he married, and today ~~xx~~ he said: "After I met Louise, all thoughts of committing ~~crime~~ left me absolutely."

He did not tell his wife of his prison past -- not at first. It was not until their baby was born, eight years ago, that he revealed to her that he was a fugitive convict. She advised him to go back to Illinois and try to clear himself, but he couldn't bring himself

to take the chance. "If I had been alone, " he said, "It would have made no difference. But I could ^{not} leave my wife and kid."

Westgate's long hidden secret came to light when he applied for a job at an armament plant, ^{to support his sick wife.} There, according to routine, his fingerprints were taken. These were checked and his identity was revealed -- the escaped prisoner. He was arrested and ^{hustled to} ~~put into~~ the Tombs. Illinois began extradition proceedings, and the case came up in court, Today.

In behalf of the fifty year old ~~man~~ fugitive appeared the Reverend E. Harold Smith -- the Westgate's pastor, who had married them. In a moving plea to the court, ^{the Reverend} ~~Father~~ Smith testified to the excellent character of Mr. and Mrs. Westgate -- good citizens and devout church-goers. He implored the court to release the prisoner from the Tombs, and declared that he himself would be responsible for Westgate -- until further proceedings on Tuesday.

The Court acceded, said -- yes, and the fugitive, who ^{today} for eighteen years has lived an upright life, [^] went home to his family; .

ADD LIFER

Here is the latest. Governor Green of Illinois has just stated that he will probably not press for the extradition of Westgate. "The facts of the case have not been presented to me officially," said the Governor, "But, off-hand, I would not ask that the man be returned."

29
And now Hugh what's the weekend word from you?