

L.J. - Sunoco

Friday, Oct. 22, 1943

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am back home in Philadelphia tonight. I call it home because this is the home of my sponsor. This is Philadelphia where the sun shines; -- if you know what I mean. I am broadcasting from a big military banquet, attended by some of the men who ~~are~~ General Eisenhower recently said, have so far done the best job of all in this present war. This is Navy night at the Fifty-~~First~~ Annual Convention of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ the ball room of the Bellevue-Stratford.

^{TP} Presiding is Surgeon General Ross T. McIntire, of the Navy.

Surgeon General McIntyre is also the Doctor to the President

of the United States. More about that later, because the

President's health is in the news tonight. ^{TP} ~~and~~ ^{the} special representative

of the Navy at this dinner -- of course the room is full of Navy

medical officers --- is Admiral Leahy, our veteran Admiral, who

is special advisor to the President, ~~these days~~.

But, why am I here giving my broadcast from this Convention of Military Surgeons? Well, the Doctors in charge invited me, and, I came for a number of reasons of which the following are two:- First, my father was an Army Surgeon both with the British and Americans ^{armies} in the last War, and ^{he} is still a Colonel in the U. S. Medical Corps Reserve. So naturally I ^{would} come. But there is an even more important reason:- We have been told by General Eisenhower, and by many others, that the Doctors have been doing miraculous things in this war. So I jumped at the opportunity of coming to their convention so I could talk to them, tell you a little about them, and pay tribute to them in my broadcast.

The Association of Military Surgeons has a membership of approximately ten thousand Doctors. Of that number nearly three thousand are registered here at this convention, and I understand that a large proportion of these are Doctors who have recently returned from the various battle fronts:- Naval Doctors from Guadalcanal; Navy Doctors who have taken part in all those terrific sea battles that have been fought in the Pacific -- Midway, Coral Sea, Savo, and so on. Air Force and Army ^{Surgeons} from New

Guinea, the Aleutian Islands, and North Africa. They are here

with rows of decorations on their chests. [¶] But first, let's see what

has been going on in the world today, ^{and where} ~~and particularly in some~~

~~they have been doing most of the shooting~~
~~of the parts of the world where you Military Surgeons have been~~

~~serving.~~ ~~while~~ destroying lives while
these Military Surgeons ~~meeting~~ in
Philadelphia, have discussed ways
of saving lives.

RUSSIA

The latest from Moscow tells ^{how the} that Soviet forces have driven halfway across the big bend of the river Dnieper, and are lunging down behind huge German forces that are massed within the bend.

In other words, ^{that} the Russians have the enormous ^{Dnieper} trap half closed. If they should succeed in thrusting southward for the remaining half of the distance or even for a considerable part of it—the

Germans will be involved in one of the greatest of military disasters. Not only will their huge forces in the bend of the Dnieper be cut off, but also their ^{armies in the Crimea,} ~~garrisons in the peninsula of the Crimea.~~

Some estimate the total to be as high as a million men, but a more reasonable calculation places the figure at about seven hundred and fifty thousand—of which about ninety thousand are in the ^{TP and} Crimea. That's the basis for the Soviet statement that the Germans now face a calamity that might even exceed ^{the German} ~~that of~~ ~~Stalingrad~~ disaster at Stalingrad.

2Russia--

The Nazi command itself seems to understand this perfectly, and is making desperate efforts to check the drive that is closing the trap. The Germans are throwing in great forces of reserves, and the Russians declare that the ^{key} German defense posts are resisting to the last man..-

ITALY

In Italy, the Fifth army is pushing along the foothills of rugged mountains called - the Mateserange (Mah-tay-zay) ^{the Mah-tay-zay Range; and} - and

the British Eighth army likewise has reached these mountains .

But the two Allied forces ^{tonight} are on opposite sides ^{of the range,} chains of peaks run lengthwise down the Italian peninsular - separating

West from East, and the position of the Allied forces right

now is ^{one} in which they are likely to find themselves time and

again in their drive northward: ~~They are~~ on opposite sides of

a steep and rugged mountain range; ^{so} and their strategy ^{will be to} ~~is to~~

push their way through the highlands and effect a junction of forces.

American troops have captured some more towns, including an important point called Alife (Ah-lee-fay') . And at this

place an exciting thing promptly developed. The Germans, after being driven out of the town, hid themselves among the hills and organized a counter-attack. They expected to find the Americans

in life off guard, busy consolidating their positions. But the American command was expecting some such thing, and was ready for the counterattack. They met the Nazi assault head-on and repelled it with heavy German losses.

The German air force has put in an appearance -after being mostly invisible for days. When American bombers flew to the attack today, Nazi fighters came out in strength. It did them mighty little good, for they were shot up badly and lost sixteen planes. Our side lost one.

The ~~main~~ targets for Allied bombing were bridges largely; air power striking at German communication lines. For example, high explosive from the air hit a key railway bridge near the old city of Orvieto, one of the famous hill towns of Italy.

The Germans, on their part, tried some bombing and staged their first raid against Naples since the Allied capture of that city. Just what damage they may have accomplished is not revealed, but we hear that the Neapolitans rather belittled the assault-they had become so used to the tremendous air raids that the Allied sky forces used to launch against Naples.

And air action spreads increasingly across the Adriatic, with Allied aviation blows against the Germans in Yugoslavia. One incident was a dramatic affair, with the Germans handed a stunning surprise.

Along the Dalmatian coast Hitler troops were fighting against an attack by Yugoslav partisans and Stuka dive-bombers assailed the patriot guerrillas.

The Stukas were whirling down in their usual dive bomber maneuver, when suddenly something hit-American warplanes flying to the aid of the Yugoslav partisans. The stukas were taken completely off guard, and the next thing you know a squadron of P-Forty warhawks was above them, the American fighters diving to the attack. The stukas were shot down.

And American airpower intervened at another place to help the Yugoslav guerrillas- at the Port of Spalato. Partisan bands are fighting to seize that important point from the Nazis, and today warhawks bombed and strafed the Germans in the harbor -giving them a taste of hot lead and sinking ships.

~~Mussolini~~
Badoglio.

~~Badoglio Plot~~

The Nazi story about a Royal Italian plot to kidnap Hitler is a melodramatic production indeed. The ~~ha~~ Berlin radio is blaring it forth, and says the tale is based on documents seized in Italy by the German High Command . Here is the way it goes :

During the time shortly before the overthrow of Mussolini, King Victor Emmanuel and Marshall Badoglio planned a scheme to get Hitler into their hands. They tried to persuade the Nazi Fuehrer to come to Italy, where they intended to seize him- and turn Hitler and Mussolini over to the Allies. Not a bad idea; and it seems a pity that the King and Badoglio didn't succeed, if the German story be true. Handing over both the Fuehrer and the Duce to the United Nations at one fell swoop would have been quite an exploit.

The Germans, going into details, relate the following:—

: Badoglio, " they say requested the Italian Military attache at Berlin to call on the Fuehrer ~~and~~ at his headquarters and

Badoglio - 2.

ask him , in the name of the King, to come to Italy to discuss with the King and ^{the} Badoglio government measures necessary to intensify resistance against the common enemy.

" ~~The invitation was refused coolly,~~" continued the German account, ~~which explains that the Nazis were suspicious.~~
^{Well the Nazis}
~~For one thing, they~~ noted that the King of Italy was giving so many repeated assurances that his Royal House would stand faithful to its pledges to Germany. The protestations of ~~loyalty~~ ^{by} were so insistent that the Germans had their misgivings. Moreover, the Nazis discovered secret moves by the Italian Navy- moves that did not look just right to them. ~~And lastly,~~ ~~there was increasing sabotage against German communications~~ ~~in Italy.~~ That was ^{so} why the invitation asking Hitler to come to Italy, was turned down. " It came, " says the German story, " at a time when the handing over of the Duce was decided and sealed."

Such is the Nazi story of the melodramatic plot- which did not succeed so far as Hitler was concerned, and succeeded

INDIA

Grim and tragic news comes from India-about the famine there. For weeks there has been mass starvation in Bengal, which province has known the horror of famine so many times, for generations. An official count shows that eighty-five hundred people have perished ^{recently} in the city of Calcutta alone -- since August First; and, conditions are ^{said to be still} worse in the Hinterland of Bengal.

Characteristic of India is one thing cited as proof of how dreadful the famine is. The news dispatches relate that Brahmin Ladies are coming to the public kitchens that administer famine relief, and eat the food there- Ladies of the Lordly Brahmin caste, ^{the "twice born", only one step below} among whom the taboos of food are so rigid. Hitherto, they would never have dreamed of violating even one food restriction of their caste. But now they eat at the public kitchen where every caste is served.

I lived in India many years ago. So I saw much of its ancient caste system. Why if the shadow of man of another caste fell on ~~the~~ Brahmin's food, he would throw it away. But now, over

the gods of Hinduism

MILITARY SURGEONS

Outside the room from which I am broadcasting tonight there is a tremendous banner across Broad Street, and it reads, as follows: "Philadelphia welcomes the Doctors of our fighting men". And, I am sure all America would like to join Philadelphia in paying tribute to these military surgeons who are ~~saving the lives~~ ~~of our fathers, brothers, husbands and sons,~~ ^{saving the lives} The Bellevue Stratford has been completely taken over by these Surgeons and on several floors they have corridor after corridor of exhibits. Commander Edward L. Bortz, of the Navy and Captain Ken McLaughlin of the Army, took me on a hurried tour, ~~which to a layman left me somewhat~~ ^{and as we walked along} ~~somewhat bewildered, by all that I saw. But Commander Bortz~~ ^{are of interest to all of us.} told me one or two things that ~~would like to pass along. He~~ ^{would like to pass along. He} said that ~~malaria had proven to be~~ ^{is} the number one health problem of the world so far as this war, ~~is concerned, and that great~~ ^{and that our medical} ~~men are trying to lick it.~~ ^{men are trying to lick it.} ~~strides are being made right now to conquer it.~~ He then told me ~~that~~ ^{one} that in World War ~~Number One~~ ^{one} fifteen percent of our men, who were wounded, died. But that in this war such great strides have been made in the realm of medicine and surgery that the figure has been brought down from fifteen percent to two-and-a-half percent. And, ~~they~~ ^{they} They even have hopes of getting it lower

than that, possibly to one percent. Which ~~xxxxx~~ means that the rehabilitation programs of the Navy Army, and Air Force are of importance so great that ^{it can't} ~~their importance cannot~~ be exaggerated.

As I went about the convention this afternoon I noticed quite a number of foreign uniforms, worn by military surgeons of all our Allies, and from other countries, too. This made me wonder how ~~are~~ medical people and those of our allies get along. I put a question about this to General David Grant Chief Flight Surgeon of the Army Air Force and he immediately waxed eloquent in telling me of the magnificent cooperation the British have given us. Just as an example ^{he} ~~he~~ said that Air Marshal Sir Harold E. Whittingham, ^{who is here in this room,} even when the British were short of pressure chambers, ^{test purposes,} for ~~xxxxxxxx~~ divided what they had with us, and even when they were short of beds ^{Sir Harold} divided their beds with our ~~Air Force~~ people. And that's just a sample.

General Grant recently returned from a visit to the various fronts and he told me of a soldier who flew back with him, part way, across Africa, in a big plane. When he asked the ^{wounded} American soldier how he had been injured this chap replied that he had gotten ~~ix~~ his injury falling off a giraffe. And that's what

had happened. In Central Africa, ^{he had climbed on} at a place called Maedougray,
a giraffe ^{and fell off} used to come into the camp and call on the boys at an
~~air force base, to get salt from them. When the giraffe put his~~
~~head down this boy had been hoisted up on his back. When the~~
~~giraffe lifted his tall head again off went the American soldier,~~
and broke his leg.

ROOSEVELT

Gentlemen of the medical profession, here's one that seems to be aimed at you. The President of the United States wants to know how to cure - a cold.

Today's White House news conference was cancelled, as were all other presidential appointments - because the President is slightly under the weather. All because of a cold, which White House Secretary Steve Early describes in these words: "A slight head cold, with a few aches." He added that the President was running no temperature, and that the cancellation of appointments was, in his words, "purely precautionary." So that's the way it is, Gentlemen. Your Commander-in-Chief has a cold.

And with a final salute to all our military surgeons, So Long Until Tomorrow.