

RUSSIA

P.Y. - Sunoco. Thursday, Oct. 8/42.

6
The apparent miracle seems to have happened at Stalingrad - the Nazi war machine has definitely failed in its battle ~~for~~ for the city. This is virtually conceded in surprising word from Berlin itself.

This afternoon the German radio indicated that the Nazis have given up hope of capturing the rest of Stalingrad by storm. They are in possession of part of the city, and day after day have been making incessant assaults to take the remained² of it - vain assaults. The bitter Soviet defense has not been broken - and cannot be broken; ^{this} the Germans virtually concede.

Now they say - it isn't ~~NECESSARY~~ NECESSARY. The Berlin radio puts it in these words:- "It is no longer ~~no~~ necessary that the rest of the city be captured by storm of infantry and ~~ENGINEERS~~ engineers". To explain which, the following claim is made:- "The Germans have reached their strategic objectives," says the Berlin radio.

47
So what next? What will the Nazis try to do? This

afternoon's broadcast stated:- "It will be sufficient to destroy the rest of the city systematically by heavy ~~bombardment~~ bombardment and the heaviest artillery has already been brought to the front". In other words, what they cannot capture, they will try to destroy.

The obvious interpretation^f of all this is, that the losses in the attack on Stalingrad have been so heavy that the German Army cannot take them any longer. So they are going to stop the slaughter, and content themselves with artillery bombardment.

Moreover, winter is coming on, and they'll have to move fast if they hope to occupy the rest of the Caucasus and get to the Caspian ^{Sea.} ~~Sea.~~ For this they'll need the troops they have at Stalingrad.

In London, British military ~~expert~~ experts believe that, having failed at Stalingrad, Hitler may be preparing to draw back his badly battered forces., with winter coming, they might have a sorry time in the Stalingrad area. So perhaps they might retire to winter quarters on the Don River.

18

If this prognostication should turn out to be correct, the War drama of Stalingrad would be a good deal like that of Moscow last year. There, when the bitter blast of winter came, the Nazi war machine was compelled to withdraw from the city that seemed on the verge of capture. And it would be ~~striking~~ striking indeed if this experience were to be repeated this year in the case of the great industrial center on the Volga. Two such failures might be more than the Nazi war system could take.

In any case, the immensely dramatic thing is true - that the Nazi war machine has been unable to capture the great industrial city ~~of~~ on the Volga. The Germans, themselves, admitting it. And only last Wednesday Hitler boasted, Stalingrad will be taken - you can depend on that, *he said*.

INDIA

Today in India prominent leaders, both Hindu and Mohammedan, appealed for American intervention. They want the United States to try for an agreement between the British and Gandhi's nationalists.

A powerful group of Indian moderates has cabled to both President Roosevelt and Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek, asking them to step ~~inward~~ in and work for a settlement.

And the Mohammedan Premier of Bengal today stated:-

"I am convin^eed that if America would take the lead and intervene between the British government and the Indian people, a solution would be the easiest thing possible".

50
This Mohammedan Premier named one particular American, who he thought should act as the United States representative in negotiating for an agreement in India. Which American? Why Wendell Willkie. The Moslem leader calls Willkie - "the obvious man". He proposes that the one time ~~Rep~~ Republican Candidate should go to India as America's representative -- Willkie to act as go-between and try to bring the British and Gandhi together.

This, of course, follows Willkie's statement in China - that the United States should work for the independence of all Asiatic nations, and that the time of colonial empires is past.

The proposal for American intervention, which is advanced in India -- is rejected in London. Today L.S. Amery, ~~an~~ Secretary of State for India and Burma, stated that Great Britain will not accept the intermediation of any third party in India. Suggestions that the United States should step in are ~~dismissed~~ dismissed. The ^dUnder Secretary of State for India told the House of Commons that the British Government will not negotiate with Gandhi and the All-India Congress -- ^{"or" said he} ~~not~~ allow others to do so", ~~said he~~.

Amery revealed that in the ~~six~~ disturbances following the arrest of Gandhi and the other Congress leaders, eight hundred and forty-six persons were killed and two thousand, twenty-four were wounded. The casualties included sixty government employees killed, and ~~af~~ a few members of the Royal Air Force lost their lives.

This London statement was followed by a flash from

India, telling of a violent outbreak at a village ~~near~~

in the south

near-

^ Bangalore. The Police had to fire on a rioting mob, and

three persons were killed.

*Bangalore is where
a great American airplane
assembly plant is located.*

SOUTH AMERICA

52

Today Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles took a sharp fling at Argentina and Chile because of their refusal to break with the Axis powers. He said that they are permitting other American republics to be - "stabbed in the back", in the Sumner Welles phrase. He ^e ^{that} explained enemy agents are operating freely within the borders of Argentina and Chile, whose territory is being used as a base for hostile activities against their neighbors.

RUBBER

In Washington today the statement was made that we can get almost as much rubber as we need from South America. This from Major Wendell Dove of the Army Medical Corps, who has just returned from a two months' survey of South American rubber. He claims that they have got enough rubber trees growing down there to provide us with not only our military, but also our civilian needs.

But Major Dove went on to say that the contracts we have for South American rubber must be changed. They are too tied up with restrictions pertaining to price and quality. He added that if the existing contracts are not renegotiated, we probably won't get a pound of rubber from South America within the next two or three years.

NAVY BILL

Some interesting things developed in today's Congressional proceedings on the subject of a big money bill for the Navy. More than fifteen billion dollars is asked, and a huge proportion of this is to be invested in fourteen thousand, six hundred and eleven naval airplanes.

The House Appropriations Committee heard testimony from Under-Secretary of the Navy Forrestal, who told some things about the negotiation of contracts. Or rather, renegotiation. In a number of instances, the Navy has found that the prices in contracts granted were too high, and so has renegotiated what contracts -- to trim the prices. Under Secretary Forrestal stated that between three and four hundred million dollars have been saved in that way.

The Appropriations Committee okayed the fifteen billion dollar bill, and it thereupon went to the floor of the House -- where the debate was begun by

Committee Chairman Congressman Cannon of Missouri who spoke out against criticisms that have been made of the warplanes we are building -- statements that they are inferior to foreign planes. Our skycraft of war are superior to any that our fliers have to meet in combat, said he -- and to back it up the Congressman read a letter from General Marshall, Army Chief of Staff.

In this General Marshall discusses the new Zero fighter of the Japs. He said the Zero possesses what he called "excellent flying characteristic" But the Zero in combat has demonstrated -- technical inferiority.

General Marshall sent an observer to the southwest Pacific area to investigate reports that our pilots out there are dissatisfied with the planes they get. The observer reported that he was unable to find a single pilot who would have traded his own ship for a Jap Zero. The

The Zeros, it is admitted, are more maneuverable - because they are lighter armed and armored. But no American pilot wanted to have his own plane stripped of protection and fire power to increase its maneuverability.

And Congressman Cannon quoted General Marshall as saying that unfavorable gossip about our planes has a bad effect on the moral^{ly} of young pilots.

Eddie Rickenbacker has a striking article on aviation, American pilots, American planes, and the production of aircraft. It appears in the October issue of the Rockefeller Center Magazine. ~~For instance~~ World War Ace Eddie Rickenbacker says:- "Some of the self-styled home-made aviation experts are making much ado about American pilots flying Spitfires in England; saying this is proof that our ~~fix~~ fighter planes are inferior to the British". To which Eddie Rickenbacker makes the reply:- "Don't you believe it, Mr. Hitler".

The title of his article is "An Open Letter To The Unholy Three", Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo. ~~(He goes on to give two reasons why our boys fly Spitfires in England. One,~~

55

FORTRESS

The durability in battle of the American Flying Fortress is becoming a legend, and here is another item to add to the record of staunchness and strenght.

London gives us the story of a formation of Fortresses that in mass combat were assailed by the pride of the German Air Force. Thirteen of the enemy planes were shot down, but not a Fortress was lost -- although they were shot up plenty. Take for example the one commanded by Lieutenant Charles J. Payne of Waycross, Georgia.

When he landed back in England, he counted sixteen cannon shell holes in his plane. Sixteen explosive shells had ripped into it. And there were three hundred other holes from machine gun bullets and fragments of anti aircraft shells. Two of the motors were knocked out, and some of the men were wounded. Yet the Fortress, though hit so hard, came back and landed safely.

MEDAL

President Roosevelt today awarded the first Distinguished Service Medal to be given to a Merchant Marine man during this war. So let us have a look and see what this hero of the cargo ships did.

The citation tells how Edwin F. Cheney, Jr. of Yeadon, Pennsylvania, was a sailor aboard a torpedoed tanker, the oil ship flamed like a volcano and spready burning oil over the surface of the water. Sailor Cheney got a life raft clear, and then saved the lives of six of his shipmates. In doing so, he dived under the burning oil. He swam under water beneath the sheets of flame on the surface. And that would seem to be in fearful fantasy -- ducking down under an inferno.

We all know there have been countless deeds of heroism among men of the Merchant Marine. In a sense they are the chaps who have been in the front line of this war. And I for one would like to see them all in uniform and receiving all the medals and honors they deserve.

GOLD

~~Among the casualties of war is that yellow glittering treasure which men have always thought so ~~xxx~~ precious - gold.~~

Today, the War Production Board ordered an end to gold^d mining.

The mines are forbidden to take out any new ore after October Fifteenth, and they are to stop all operations within sixty days.

This order affects between two hundred and three hundred mines.

A few exceptions are named - such as mines that, in addition to gold, produce other and^{now} more useful metals - copper, lead and zinc.

The reason for the shutdown is - labor. Man power is to be made available for digging out minerals more ~~xxx~~ necessary to the ~~xx~~ war program. Between three and four thousand highly skilled workers will be transferred to other kinds of mining.

57
Well, men have struggled and fought and suffered and died to get at the treasures of gold beneath the earth. but modern war frowns on the yellow metal ~~xx~~ as something useless. So the gold miners of the West, such historic places as ^{Victor and} Cripple Creek, in Colorado, and ~~Leadville~~, will be deserted for the duration, ghost towns till after the War.

SINGER

Four years ago we had an operatic guest on one of our nightly broadcasts -- the renowned soprano, Madam Frances Alda. And she told us an anecdote out of her book "Men, Women and Tenors" that caused a legion of young singers to write to Madam Alda, asking for advice, and asking for auditions.

So she held a group audition, and a throng of young men and women appeared -- some seventy. Among them was a small dark-haired miss weighing hardly more than a hundred pounds and appearing much too young to be thinking of opera. She looked the least impressive of them all. Yet when the singing was over, it was she who was asked to remain behind -- Madam Alda picking her as the one to teach.

So it was that Lillian Raymondi of Akron, Ohio got her singing education. And now the announcement is made -- that she has been engaged by the Metropolitan Opera.

DOGHOUSE

In Pittsburgh today an end was made to - the doghouse protective Association. That union of dejected husbands is no more. It was organized last spring. A band of husbands seeking refuge from the storm and strife at home. They founded a haven where they would be free from what they called "marital discord and tongue lashings".

8/12
Today - a judge in court revoked the charter of the Doghouse Protective Association. Why? On what ground? The charge was - violation of the liquor laws. The bartender of the Doghouse was accused of selling liquor without a license. So apparently the union of henpecked husbands was having a high old time. Instead of taking tongue lashings, they ~~are~~ were wetting their whistles, and, tonight they are in the doghouse more than ever.

9
And s-l-u-t-o-morrow.