

AFRICA

L.T. - Sunoco. Wed., March 24, 1943

The latest dispatch from North Africa, received late this afternoon, states that the British Eighth Army ^{have thrown} ~~has hurled~~ back ^{waves} ~~waves~~ of German counter-attacks at the

Mareth Line. The word from Allied headquarters pictures

a fierce battle, with Rommel hurling his strength recklessly - "in an effort," says the bulletin, "to repair a dangerous breach in his main positions."

This of course applies to the British success about which we heard last night - the Eighth Army thrusting a wedge deep into the Mareth Line positions, threatening an imminent break-through.

Tonight's late word would seem to picture Rommel as trying vainly to eliminate the British wedge. But this hardly squares with a statement by Prime Minister Winston Churchill to the London House of Commons this morning, when he declared outright that heavy German counter-attacks had regained most of the

ground the British had won, and had wiped out ~~the~~ the greater part of the wedge.

Apropos of this seeming contradiction, we have a note from the United Press, reminding us that dispatches from North Africa may not be up to the minute - ~~xxxxxxx~~ with battles moving at such high speed and communications overburdened. The U.P. states that up to early tonight, it has received from North Africa no confirmation of Churchill's announcement this morning, that Rommel's counterattacks had pushed the British back and virtually repaired the break-through.

47 TP Churchill stated specifically that his information was later than the news in the London papers this morning, and it may be that the communiques from North Africa had not yet caught up with ^{him,} ~~them~~ at nightfall.

TP Altogether, the best version would seem to be that Rommel's counterattacks did succeed in pushing back

the thrust into the Mareth Line, and that heavy fighting lies ahead before that zone of fortifications is cracked - as indeed Churchill predicted this morning. All of which modifies those expectations of last night, which pictured the imminent possibility of trapping Rommel ^{or} ~~and~~ sending him on the run.

The Eighth Army drive into the Mareth Line was one of three military moves discussed last night. One of the other two was the British swing around the southern end of the Mareth Line - getting in from behind. The latest dispatch that we have from North Africa states that their ~~flanking~~ flanking force is being counter-attacked, but is standing its ground - within twenty-five miles of the all-important port of Gabes. Having whirled around through the desert for the most menacing sort of encircling move, the strong speedy forces retain their ^{threatening} ~~menacing~~ position.

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And the same thing holds true for Element
Number Three, ^{of} ~~as~~ the situation ~~was~~ pictured last night -
Number Three being the American drive toward the coast
from captured Maknassy, the push threatening to cut
the whole Nazi area in two and flank Rommel's North
Afrika Korps from the north. Heavy German counter-
attacks have been hurled at the Americans.- United States
forces that have thrust forward farthest ^{are} being assailed
by tanks and dive bombers. But the spearhead that
lunged forward has held fast against the enemy effort
to break it and hurl it back.

FRENCH

~~Affairs inside conquered France give new intimation~~
~~that a British-American invasion ^{may} will come soon.~~ Today
the Algiers radio flashed a message to the French
patriots who are holding out in the mountains of Savoy.
"Keep up your courage, keep up your hopes," flashed the
message from Algiers. "The time is coming when we shall
chase the Boche from the sacred soil of France."

~~From Switzerland we hear that the patriots,
in their mountain positions, are still standing fast,
although ⁴ blockaded by the Nazis [^] they are running
short of food. The Swiss report that some have
surrendered in the past twenty-four hours, but the main
body of the French insurgents is still holding
positions amid the snowy mountains.~~

~~With Algiers sending them encouragement, Nazi
dominated Vichy responded with a radio pronouncement
of its own, stating that the United Nations have started~~

At the Overseas Press Club today, M. Ferrand-Lorrient, who has just escaped from France, told us that all politics has now disappeared in France, and that the hatred of the French people for the Boche was almost beyond belief, it is so intense.

AIR WAR

In London today, Major General Ira ~~E~~ Eaker of the American Air Force told of winning ^a~~the~~ battle - not exactly ^a~~the~~ clash with the enemy in the sky, but the conflict between different systems of bombings. The British going ⁱⁿ for massive night air raids, while the Americans, relying on the Flying Fortress type of operation, prefer daylight high altitude precision bombings. And today General Eaker said: "The battle for daylight bombing has been won."

He cited the big American raid last week against the Nazi submarine works at Vegesack, the success of which he rated in these words:- "It can be historically counted as the conclusion of an experiment whether high level precision bombing is practicable."

So the American way has won out - that is, so far as the Americans are concerned. The British will

go on in their own way - and the two methods, the day bombing and night bombing, will be coordinated for a twenty-four hour schedule. We ~~will~~^{to} bomb by day and they'll bomb by night - around the clock.

This integration of British and American ways gives a blueprint for the full-time bombing of Nazi Germany. In the words of the familiar song - "Day and Nigh^t_^ - Night and Day." Music that Hitler will not enjoy.

RUSSIA

Moscow reports that Red Army forces are driving a wedge between the number one Nazi center at Smolensk and its principal defense bast^{ion}~~ion~~ Yartsevo. The Soviet sweep on the central front has resulted in the capture of eighty villages in ^{the last} forty-eight hours -- and has ^{got to} ~~taken them~~ within twelve and a half miles of Yartsevo. ^{The isolation} ~~and they are threatening to drive in between that place and Smolensk. The~~ ^{of which} ~~fall of Yartsevo~~ would rip apart the strongest sector of ^{the} ~~defense~~ ^{of} ~~which protects~~ the city on which the whole German line hinges -- Smolensk. The Nazis are fighting back bitterly -- holding out in fortified villages and launching strong counter attacks.

JAPANESE POLICY

From Washington we have ~~the~~ word about ~~some~~ Japanese tricks that might have ^{some} ~~some~~ influence on the war -- Jap tricks in China. The Far Eastern enemy is playing a subtle and cunning game in trying to wheedle the support of the millions of Chinese under their yoke.

We are told that last November Tojo ordered the Japanese military in China to go easy and make friends.

Then Tokyo surrendered its extra-territorial rights in China -- two days before the United States and Great Britain signed treaties that did the same thing. This Jap move was presented to the Chinese people as a sign of love and affection.

Next on the program -- Tokyo granted some added power to the puppet Nanking Government of Wang Ching-Wei -- China's number one traitor. Control over shipping along the lower Yangtze was restored to the Chinese with motions of ~~his~~ brotherly love.

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And Tojo thereupon paid a visit to Wang Ching-Wei. It was the first time that ~~the~~^a Tokyo Prime Minister had ever condescended to make such a trip. The idea was to give the puppet ruler a big lot of -- "face."

The Japs are permitting the Chinese to run their own business more and more -- and operate their own factories. Property confiscated from British and American owners in China is being turned over to the Chinese. The idea is to give the native people a vested interest in what the Japs call -- "their new order."

Tokyo propaganda tries to convey the impression that the war is over to all intents and purposes, and that the western powers have been driven out ignominiously and will never return. The Japs represent Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek as a mere rebel chieftain of little consequence.

This Washington information tells us that

the new and cunning Jap policy is producing some results. The Chinese in the enslaved areas have been showing more readiness to provide labor for Japanese war construction.

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And two prominent Chinese have joined the Wang Ching-Wei puppet government. One is W.W. Yen, former Chinese Minister to the United States and Ambassador to Russia. The other is Eugene Chen, who was with Chiang Kai-shek in the days of the Chinese Revolution. Both were seized when the Japs captured Hong Kong, and now have consented to take places in the make-believe regime at Nanking.

ORIENTAL CHRISTIANS

The Japs, in their manipulations throughout the countries they have conquered, are even monkeying around with the Christian religion. This is told today by the Office of War Information which cites the case of the Island of Celebes. A lot of missionary effort has been dedicated to the natives of that island in the Dutch East Indies, and among ~~xxxxxxx~~ the people of Celebes, ten Christian denominations are represented - with more than two thousand churches. These ~~denominations~~ denominations and churches the Japs plan to consolidate into one organization, which they call the Celebes Christian Group Federation.

All of which seems to be a bit impudent. The Japs are Buddhists and Shintoists, so what ~~ifxxxxxxx~~ have they got to do with Christianity? However, the Far Eastern enemy has plenty of cheek, and last fall Tokyo announced action concerning the small minority of

Christians in Japan. The Protestant denominations among these were to be unified by order of Hirohito, the Sun of Heaven. The purpose of the unification was described by the Japs as follows: "To drive out American and British concepts of Christianity."

The Rising Sun boys ~~xxxx~~ seem to be willing to assail Heaven as well as earth.

ARCHBISHOP

In London today, Archbishop Spellman of New York had luncheon with Prime Minister Winston Churchill - which will increase conjectures about the meaning of the European tour of the New York prelate, who conferred with Pope Pius the Twelfth in Rome, and then visited American troops in North Africa.

~~Rumors had been that the Archbishop has been on a mission in connection with the war, and such supposition will be supported by his conference with the British Prime Minister today.~~

Next week ^{the} Archbishop ^{will cross the} Spellman will go to

^{Irish sea} ~~Ireland to~~, visit Joseph Cardinal Macrory, ~~Catholic~~

Primate of Ireland. Meanwhile, the head of the New York Archdiocese has been conferring with Dr. Dan Poling, ~~Paster~~ of the Temple Baptist Church ^{eh} in

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Philadelphia and President of the International Society of the Christian Endeavor. The subject of their talks

was the aims and problems of the Catholic and
Protestant Chaplains in the United States Army and Navy.

CIVILIAN ECONOMY

Today in Washington a warning was given - a warning that the war may be lost on the home front, if too much for war production is taken out of civilian economy. This was stated jointly by Senator Maloney of Connecticut, and Joseph L. Weiner of the Office of Civilian Supply. They declared that production for civilian use is as essential for victory as the production of armament. And the Civilian Economy official agreed with a thing stated by Senator Ball of Minnesota, who said: "The Army and Navy are running roughsho^d~~t~~ over civilian economy." The argument was made that, the way things are going, the shortages for the population of this country will become increasingly severe - so severe that health, morale and war production itself may be endangered.

COAL

There won't be any immediate coal strike. The union and the mine operators today ^{signed their agreement} ~~agreed~~ to extend negotiations for thirty days. This ~~is~~ in accordance with President Roosevelt's request that there shall be no strike - as was threatened for March Thirty-First.

The unions headed by John L. Lewis are demanding a considerable raise of pay. The contract now in force expires March Thirty-First, and a walkout seemed to be in the offing - with a consequent closing down of the mines. This, however, has been averted - with today's agreement to talk it over for thirty days more.

LABOR

A bit of labor drama was played today before a Senate Committee that is inquiring into questions of labor and the war program. Testimony was given in behalf of both union factions - the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O.

A.F. of L. President Green gave his views, and C.I.O.

President Philip Murray presented his own.

And the ghost of John L. Lewis hovered over the scene.

~~Philip Murray was first and there were no dramatics~~

~~while he ~~xxx~~ talked, though he did say some downright~~

Murray was first and

~~things. He~~ told the Committee, the Truman group, that

the war was being mismanaged grossly by the government.

He charged there was a lack of coordination, and

proclaimed the need of a general war mobilization board.

He specifically endorsed the Tolan-Pepper-Kilgore Bill

to centralize war authority. ~~C.I.O. Philip~~ Murray

assailed that other bill, the Austin-Wadsworth measure

to draft labor and assign people to war jobs. He also

called for wage increases to meet the rising cost of

living - wage increases above those permitted by the War Labor Board.

Then, as the next witness, appeared the President of the rival labor organization - the A.F. of L. And President ~~Green~~[†] Green promptly charged that the war program was endangered by the activities of the C.I.O. The point being - raiding. The C.I.O. raiding the A.F. of L., moving in on A.F. of L. unions to get membership away.

~~A.F. of L. President Green cited events at the ~~XXXX~~ Kaiser Shipyards on the West Coast, as a prime example of the union raiding. There the A.F. of L. has a closed shop, with the C.I.O. jamming its way in - said Green. He charged that these raiding practices were supported by the War Labor Board, which he accused of playing the C.I.O. game.~~

The witness added that he had proposed to the C.I.O. that both labor factions agree to stop the

business of raiding for the duration of the war, ~~neither~~
~~one to make passes at plants where the other is in~~
Which
~~control. This~~ drew a prompt retort from the previous
witness - C.I.O. President ~~Phillip~~ Murray. *Said he!*

"If Mr. Green did not beat his breast so much
and would go around to see his neighbors once in a ~~mx~~
while, ~~he said Murray,~~ "we might get this dispute
settled soon."

Whereupon ~~A.F. of L. William~~ Green responded
by offering to sit down with Murray right at the table in
the presence of the Committee and sign an agreement to
outlaw union raiding.

"You don't have the authority to do it Bill,
and you know it," responded Murray. "Your Executive
Council wouldn't let you."

So they didn't sit down right there at the
Committee table and make the agreement, *but they did* ~~but~~ promised to
have some conferences to stop unions from raiding each
other.

CAT

Out in Colorado, the San Luis Central Railroad has appointed a new - "traveling solicitor and superintendent of motive power." That's an important sounding name for an official - so who is he? A cat - an ordinary tom cat that says "meow."

The manpower shortage would seem to be pretty bad out there, when they resort to cat power for ^a railroad ~~a~~

^{8/2} official. However, it's like this: - The feline mouse-trapper is a pet of ^a ~~the~~ train crew, and always rides in the locomotive cab with the engineer and firemen.

And this it seems is tangled up with some technicalities about ~~unessential travel~~ animals ^{and} ~~being mixed up in~~ unessential travel, ^{To} ~~as well as human passengers. To~~

cover the case of the pet in the engineer cab, they've

made the old ^{tom} ~~time~~ cat a railroad official - "Traveling

Solicitor and Superintendents of Motive Power." Meow!