

IRAN

C.I. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Aug. 26, 1941.

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Time after time during this present war, I've had occasion to talk of the veil of censorship and events shrouded by concealment - to explain why there was little real news from an area. Today brings a climax of hidden war and battle - in hiding, you might say. All day there has been no news about Iran, the British-Soviet drives into the old land of Persia. There were early morning tidings, telling how the British had seized vital areas in the Iranian oil district, how they had landed troops on the coast and also from the air by parachute. How the Red army <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ pushing into Iran from the north, with troops of Cossacks advancing rapidly. Hard-riding Cossacks of the Steppes may seem obsolete in modern war, but they're plausible in a campaign in Iran - this in relation to the kind of equipment the Persian army has.

Such were the tidings this morning, and the later part of the day has brought little more. I telephoned to the United Press, and asked them - "Why the news blackout?" The reply was twofold - censorship and communications. The censors won't let you, and anyway it's hard to get news out of such remote places. ~~anyway.~~

So we're pretty much in the dark about what's happening - save that

both British forces and Red army units have pushed for an unknown distance into Iran.

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~~It~~ here's the latest - a slight rift in the cloud of concealment - A dispatch ~~not from Iran but~~ from London. ~~It~~ states that negotiations are under way in the Persian capital to settle the dispute and call off the invasion. What the British and Soviets want, of course, is that Iran expel a host of Nazi agents in the country. And Iran may yield.

WAR

The war news from Russia comes from the north and from the south. In the Leningrad area, the Nazis have made a further advance. They captured what they call a strategic place called Luga. That's about midway between Leningrad and the southern angle of the blitzkrieg attack, ~~meaning~~ <sup>at</sup> Novgorod. The town of Luga is on a river of the same name, and Berlin says the capture means the forcing of the river - an important line of Red army defense.

*Bad weather is slowing the Panzer attacks - Heavy rains.*  
The general German strategy is one of driving eastward,

cutting to the south of Leningrad, - seeking to isolate that city which the Soviets hail as the birthplace of Bolshevism. (The Red

army today admitted the capture of Novgorod, which Berlin announced some days ago. The Nazi forces are somewhere to the east of the

town, and are within thirty-five miles of the Leningrad-Moscow Railroad - a vital link of communication. <sup>TP</sup> Moscow tells of the

Peoples' Army fighting along with the regular Red units - meaning civilians who have rallied to the defense of Leningrad, the aroused Proletariat.)

Berlin reports much the same thing, describing it as a case

of untrained troops thrown into the storm of mechanical war.

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In the southern sector of the immense fighting front, Berlin announces the capture of Dniepropetrovsk. There has been an unofficial claim of this, but today's word is given in a communique issued by the Nazi high command. ~~The~~ <sup>and</sup> Bridgeheads ~~of~~ the city have fallen. Nothing is said about the famous dam - though the Germans had previously reported that the Red army had not been able to destroy it. Today's Berlin story, however, does tell of vast <sup>havoc</sup> ~~destruction~~ in that great industrial area. The following words are used:- "The bank of the Dnieper for kilometers was turned into a gigantic field of destruction. Immense clouds of smoke and steam drifted from the deserted factories." Such is the German description of the Stalin policy of the scorched earth - as applied to a mighty industrial development that was the pride of Stalin and his Five Year Plan.

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Elsewhere the Soviets report successes, rather ambiguous stories of counter-attacks on the central front. And Moscow tells of the recapture of a large and ancient city in White Russia that had been in Nazi hands for five days. The Red army took the place in ~~the~~ street-by-street fighting. But we aren't <sup>not</sup> ~~told~~ what the large and ancient city may be.

## JAPAN

In the Far Eastern crisis, there's word from Japan of a Tokyo cabinet meeting. The Japanese official news agency tells of what it calls -"Bitter debate." Angry argument at the meeting of the Mikado's ministers, and the subject was - foreign policy. The news agency uses these words:- "Free and frank views were exchanged." That is the Japanese Cabinet had a violent dispute about what to do in the face of the strong stand taken by the United States and Great Britain. Shall Japan undertake another push - at the risk of war? We are not told what the answer is, but there is plenty of opinion that the Far Eastern crisis is about to become more tense.

In Washington, it is announced that the United States will send a military mission to China. That was decided today in a conference between President Roosevelt and the Chinese Ambassador. An American military mission will go to Chungking, to discuss with Chiang Kai-shek problems of more American aid to China.

We are told that a reigning theme of talk in Britain is - when will the United States get into the war? Today some candid statements on that subject were made by Lord Beaverbrook, the powerful press lord and Administrator of Supply in the Churchill Cabinet. Lord Beaverbrook spoke right out. "I am not going to be hypocritical," he told a news conference, and added, "I am one of those who would like to see the United States take a higher part in the war." But he warned Britain that the issue was entirely up to the Americans. Beaverbrook put it in these words:- "I would like to see the United States in the war," he repeated, "but that is a question which the United States people must decide for themselves."

The British Minister of Supply has recently returned to England after his headline visit to Washington - flying the ocean both ways. And only here for a few days. Here he had conferences ~~with~~ urging more lend-lease material -- more aid to Britain. Today he told the British people that he was satisfied with American production. To which he added, "But Britain can use everything she can get from the United States. We will never be satisfied with the

amount of material," he declared, "because we need every possible thing we can get."

He spoke of aid to the Soviets, and said that Britain was sending effective help to the Red Army. To which Britain's Number Two man added the following rather odd phraseology: "Aid to Russia," said he, "is not something we want to play up - but it is there." Which would seem to indicate that he considers aid to the Soviets in the nature of an unpleasant necessity.

The latest in the news is a charge issued by President Roosevelt. It's just off the wire -- the President stating that there's a campaign of falsehoods and misrepresentations to sabotage the policy of aiding the enemies of Hitlerism. The president denied two stories that, he said, have been making the rounds. He singled them out to be controverted. One is a report that British officials in Washington ran up hotel bills of thirty-two thousand dollars for food, drink and telephone calls and charged them to the Lend-Lease Fund. The president said he was certain that no such bills were charged up.

The second story that he denied was that American Steel, center of the lend-lease program, has been used by the British for manufacturing export merchandise. That they've been making articles of Lend-Lease steel and selling them to Argentina. The President said the British had used steel to fill some Argentine contracts, but added that this had been corrected. The steel involved could not be considered American steel, he added.

## GASOLINE

There's to be a Senate investigation of the gasoline shortage in the Eastern states. This was decreed today by the Senate Commerce Committee, which took a short cut to prompt action. The Senate as a whole will be called upon to vote for an investigation, in which case a Committee will be appointed for the quiz. Pending that Senate decision, however, the sub-committee will start investigating on its own - without waiting for action by the Senate as a whole.

Today they appointed a sub-committee to begin the quiz. Its members are :- ~~Malone~~ Senators Maloney of Connecticut, Radcliffe of Maryland, O'Daniel of Texas, Burton of Ohio, and Barber<sup>our</sup> of New Jersey. This Committee will turn the job over to a regular Senate Committee whenever such may be appointed. But meanwhile, the sub-committee will begin hearings on Thursday - in an effort to get the full facts concerning that much debated and much confused oil shortage in the eastern states.

The investigation will be all the more interesting, because of charges that are being made in Congress - claims that there is no real shortage, that it's all a trumped up affair. Today non-interventionist Senators launched an attack, with one of them

describing the petroleum crisis in these words - "just an attempt to bolster the war spirit."

Price Administrator Leon Henderson today stated that the government is going to take action to keep down the price of gasoline in the critical area. He said something would be done in forty-eight hours. Henderson states that gasoline prices have been boosted without warrant, - by some station operators. Producing companies, he said, have agreed not to raise prices, and have kept their words, said Price Administrator Henderson.

## TEACHERS

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The American Federation of Teachers put a ban today on all Totalitarians - including the Communists. There has been a lively fight at a Detroit convention of the educators - the usual line-up of those who want to put the kibosh on the Reds, and those who don't want to go any further than taking a slap at the Nazis and Fascists. The question at issue today was a clause in the constitution of the American Federation of Teachers. That clause prohibits what it describes in these words, "discrimination against individual members because of racial, religious faith or political activities or belief." There was a question of amending that clause. The anti-Communists won out. A majority of the convention voted to deny membership to ~~all~~ applicants which are described as follows:- "subject to totalitarian control, such as Communist, Nazi or Fascist." So the Reds were included in the ban.

## SOLDIERS

Tonight there's a search for six soldiers who today escaped from an army hospital, at Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania. ~~It's the second case of soldiers breaking loose and running away in that general vicinity.~~ Army authorities are still investigating that episode of last Friday, when seven soldiers escaped from a guardhouse at Camp Dix, New Jersey. They sawed their way out, and later on one was killed by a member of the military police. He came upon three of the ~~xx~~ military escapers. One tried to run away, and the military policeman shot and killed him. It turns out now that the M.P. was a patrolman of Lansdowne, Pennsylvania - on a vacation, doing a voluntary bit in the military police.

In today's escape three of the six soldiers were being held after the military police had picked them up. They were A.W.O.L., and had been sent to the hospital to be treated for what is called "sore toes and bruises." Another was a patient with an abdominal ailment. The two others were being held for observation - the hospital at Indiantown Gap handles <sup>h</sup>psycopathic cases. The sixth got out of a detention ward, and made off in an automobile. One of them had a car at the cantonment. They escaped in this, apparently, and were last seen heading into the Blue Mountains of eastern Pennsylvania.

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## HORSE

Today at Newark, Anthony Malizia enlisted in the army - but on one condition. "Don't put me in the cavalry", he told Recruiting Sargeant James Donovan.

"Why not?" asked the Sarge.

"Well you see", replied Tony, "I don't like horses."

"That's funny," remarked Sargeant Donovan, "What your trade?"

"To which Tony replied - "I'm a jockey."

The Sargeant gasped, and Tony went on to explain. He has been a jockey riding thoroughbreds for prominent owners. Turfman Samuel Riddle, Motion Picture Magnate Louis B. Mayer, and Radio Crooner Bing Crosby. Tony has been riding and winning races for them -- particularly at Agua Caliente, the big track in Mexico. That's pretty good going for a jockey. But, Tony went on to say that recently he acquired an acute dislike for horses. The sight of a thoroughbred or even a common nag gave him a pain in the neck. As a jockey he was like the musician who hated music. That's why he was joining the army -- but not the cavalry. No, Sargeant - please - not the cavalry. In Newark, Sargeant Donovan said Okay. He signed Toney for duty in Puerto Rico with the field artillery.

## BASEBALL

I want to say that I don't know of any finer city than St. Louis, noble metropolis of Missouri. I've been there frequently, and have learned to admire St. Louis, but Oh you Dodgers! I try to be fair about the news and not take sides, but what can you do about a ball team which the Brooklyn fans call affectionately - Our Bums. I feel rather like a Brooklynite, and so consider myself privileged to say - that I hope Our Bums win the pennant.

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Today was a day of days in Brooklyn. The sale of tickets opened at ten A.M., and there were thousands waiting. Some had stood all night. That may appear to be an extreme show of devotion by the Flatbush Faithful. But they stood in line in the same fashion yesterday - in the rain. It was the wettest kind of day, but the Brooklyn fan is a hardy individual. And he stood in a long line getting wetter and wetter - refusing to give up hope that the weather would clear and the game would be played. That continued until a veritable cloudburst washed out the game for keeps and nearly drowned the Flatbush Faithful.

This morning the sun was shining brightly, so you can

8/2  
 imagine how they swarmed - jamming the park, tens of thousands turned away. And was their fidelity rewarded! in that first game! when Our Bums went out and slaughtered the Cards, eight to three! Nothing much to say about it except that it was Brooklyn all the way, the Dodgers rampant - our victorious Bums!

Today's double-header ended with a burst of drama - drama on the part of the weather. Something odd and spectacular is always happening to Our Bums. For the last half an hour I've been watching a black storm sweeping over New York, with lightning and thunder and swift approach of drenching rain. And now the rain has come pouring down. The storm came over during the last innings of the double-header, a tempest black with promise,

wet with promise, for the Flatbush Faithful.

59  
 3 to!  
 59 1/4  
 And now our Faithful Hugh  
 with a ward for the Faithful!  
 The deluge stopped the game in the 9th with the Cards ahead 9 to 1.