

RUSSIA

P.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, Feb. 4, 1943. 9

Two hundred and fifty thousand more of Hitler's troops are in a Red Army trap. The sensation of the evening is that the Soviets have established a beachhead on the shore of the Black Sea, north of Novorossisk. That news comes from Berlin; ~~it was~~ announced by the official German news agency. ^{It} Novorossisk is ^{the} ~~x~~ city captured by the Germans with so much triumph less than a year ago, the city commanding the entrance to the Sea of Azov. Once the Russians are firm in Novorossisk, they will be in excellent position to storm Kerch and get command of the Straits of Kerch. The German news agency said the Soviet army, sailing up the Black Sea, made three attempts to establish a beachhead. Two of them failed, but the other succeeded.

This, combined with the news from Moscow, puts the garrisons of Rostov and Novotchersk and all the Germans in the Caucasus, in the most perilous position.

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Rostov is now threatened from the northeast, from the southeast and from the south. The Red generals are advancing in a pincers movement. One arm of it is already threatening Bataisk, only ten miles to the south of Rostov. Heavy Russian artillery is almost within range of the big city. According to a report of the British Broadcasting Company from Moscow, the Nazis already are trying to cross the Straits of Kerch into the Crimea. Russian spokesmen are talking triumphantly of a German Dunkirk on the shores of the Sea of Azov.

Meanwhile, in the Ukraine the Red armies, ~~are~~ attacking on a hundred and eighty mile front, ~~They~~ have broken through at three places and are coming closer and closer to the vital points of Kursk and Kharkov. ~~They~~ ~~are~~ Within thirty miles of Kursk.

A special communique from Moscow reports that five thousand Germans have been killed and thirteen

thousand captured since January Thirtieth, in the battle that developed west of Voronezh. The Nazi army west of Voronezh has ^{also} been encircled and ~~xxxxxxx~~ cut into several groups.

At the same time, something is going on further north. Moscow says nothing about it but Berlin does. The Nazis admit fierce fighting around Lake Ladoga near Leningrad. They report that the Russians are throwing fresh reserves into ^the battle.

Also The Russians have captured three more German Generals.

STIMSON

Secretary of War Stimson one week ago prophesied that the Germans were about to evacuate the Caucasus. His prediction is borne out today by a story that comes out of Germany by way of Stockholm. The Nazis today are claiming that they had planned to retreat from the Caucasus weeks ago. They took their time about it, destroying railways and highways as they went. Stockholm reports relate that the Nazi plan now is to try to hold the eastern shore of the Sea of Azov, the area between the Straits of Kerch and Rostov.

Secretary Stimson attributes the German retreat from the Caucasus to the falling off of their air strength. He told his press conference today that possibly we have over-estimated their capacity to build planes. Furthermore, he suggests they may be suffering from a severe shortage of aviation gasoline. On the other hand, there is a chance that the Germans may be

gathering their air power for a surprise attack somewhere else. In any event, he said, the recent military movements by the Allies have helped the Russians by forcing the Germans to send their planes to North Africa and also home for protection against bombings.

RAID

Another big American raid on ^{Hitler land.} ~~German soil~~. A formation of Uncle Sam's heavy bombers, ~~flown by American crews,~~ flew over northwestern Germany. The communique does not say what towns were bombed. But this was a follow ^{up on} ~~on~~ of the smashing raid ~~that~~ the Royal Air Force made last night on Hamburg where the Nazis have their biggest yards for building submarines. Sixteen British planes failed to return. And that of itself is an indication that it was big league ~~business.~~

A Berlin broadcast claimed that seven four-motored American bombers ~~x~~ were shot down.

^{A later} ~~An earlier~~ report from London announces that the fires that were started by the Royal Air Force raid on Hamburg could be seen sixty miles away.

But here is a communique from our own side, from the commander of the United States Eighth Air Force. Uncle Sam's Flying Fortresses not only rained American

0 bombs on targets in northwestern Germany. They also
shot down a number of German fliers that tried to
intercept them. Five of our own Flying Fortresses failed^{ing}
to return.

AFRICA

American forces in Africa have bagged their first Italian general. Both of our Allies, the British and the Russians, have been capturing theirs ~~by the bushel~~ ^{— in bunches} ~~sometimes.~~ ^{And now we have one. But} ~~basket, so it was high time we got ours.~~ ^{we don't} We do not know his name, yet, ~~but~~ ^{he} was among the prisoners taken in the Battle of Sened.

Following that battle, British groups captured a strategic mountain six miles to the south of Bourada. They struck into the highlands of Dyebel Mansour and took ^{a promontory} ~~the mountain~~, known as hill Number Six Forty-eight. In the meantime, ^{U.S.} ~~the United States~~ troops, a hundred and twenty miles to the south, are digging in at Sened, which they took yesterday.

^{And,} The British Eighth Army is massing for an attack on the remnants of Rommel's Africa Korps in eastern Tunisia.

Which ~~that~~ is all we know about ~~the~~ ground movements
And we hear that
in Africa. The air fighting continues to grow hotter
and hotter.

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, FEB. 4, 1943.

~~GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:~~

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We are still in the dark tonight about what is going on in the Solomons. The Navy Department *still does not* ~~resolutely refuses to~~ call it a battle. *In fact* Tonight's Navy communique sheds no light on the darkness. It uses these words: "Details concerning recurrent engagements between United States air and surface forces and those of the enemy will not be announced so long as that information may jeopardize the safety of our forces in the area of operations."

All we can gather is that the Japanese are making a desperate attempt to land reinforcements *— the Isle of Death,* and supplies on Guadalcanal. How strong a force is engaged, we do not know. But one item in tonight's

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communique reports that an American plane, for two days in succession, shot up enemy barges about four miles to the southeast of Cape Esperance on ~~Guadalcanal~~ ^{Guadalcanal,} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~. So obviously the enemy was trying to land on the island. ~~Guadalcanal~~ During the night between February 1st and February Second, Japanese planes in groups of from one to four, bombed ~~our~~ ^{American} positions on Guadalcanal. But on the following day, American ground forces on the island continued advancing to the west and occupied positions on the heights west of the Boneji River. Considerable enemy equipment was captured and a number of Japanese killed. On the following night, Japanese planes again bombed our positions on Guadalcanal.

The Navy spokesman ^{today} warned news writers against any attempt to build up the idea that any major action was being fought on the ground.

Thus, our Naval High Command declines to

indicate either how big an affair is going on or how widespread. But evidently a showdown battle is *on brewing or in the offing* -

The Japanese broadcast a report that a huge American fleet was ~~xxxx~~ engaged in the battle, a fleet of ten battleships, ten aircraft carriers and twenty heavy cruisers. ~~That broadcast was heard in Free China and relayed from Chungking,~~ *and* That statement was followed by a strange sentence. The Japs announced ^{*ing*} that their own fleet in the Solomons was numerically inferior to ours. On top of that, Tokyo repeated the claim made earlier in the week, *of having sunk American warships,* the claim branded by our own Navy Department yesterday ^{*1*} as grossly exaggerated.

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The assumption from that ^{*se*} Japanese broadcast is that Tokyo is preparing its people to learn of heavy ^{*Japanese*} ~~Japanese~~ losses. By building up a picture of

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great American naval strength, the Japs can make their
own losses more forgiveable. ^{All of which at} ~~At~~ the same time, ~~it~~ is
indirect conflict with the continued Japanese claim
that the Mikado's fleets are now far stronger than
the combined squadrons of the United States and
Great Britain.

VANDERGRIFT

President Roosevelt during the last year ^{has}
pinned medals on more than one ^{stout} ~~brave and distinguished~~
fighter, ^{but I doubt if any were did a} ~~But none more brave, more effective or more~~
[^] ~~distinguished~~ ^{better son} than the man he decorated today. ~~It was~~

Major General Alexander A. Vandegrift of the Marine
^{Vandegrift of the Solomons,}
Corps. [^] As he fastened the Congressional Medal of Honor

on the General's tunic, the President spoke of his
tenacity, courage and resourcefulness against a strong,
determined and experienced enemy. It was for his

brilliant record on Guadalcanal, from August Seventh to
^{of the Solomons}

December Ninth, that Vandegrift received that high
[^] ~~decoration~~ ^{honor - the highest we have,} The citation said further: "This dangerous

but vital mission, accomplished at the constant risk
of his life, resulted in securing a valuable base for
further operations of our forces against the enemy."

Mrs. Vandegrift was present, also Major Alexander

^{- also}
A. Vandegrift, Jr., [^] of the Marine ^S Corps, the son of the

General. And, Admiral King, Commander of the Fleet, was there; and Lieutenant-General Holcomb, Commandant of the entire Marine Corps.

And so it was that Major General Vandegrift became the first Marine to receive both the Navy Cross and the Congressional Medal in this war.

BROWN

The President has a new naval aide. During the last year that office was held by Captain John L. McCrea.

^{But} He goes into active service ^{now - in} ~~to take~~ command of one of the biggest and most powerful ships in Uncle Sam's Navy.

~~And now~~ Succeeding him as naval aide to ~~the~~ ^{the President comes} ~~President Roosevelt,~~ ^{is} Rear Admiral Wilson Brown, who almost a year ago won a smashing naval victory in the Pacific. Brown was in command of a task force last

March and fought several engagements against the Japanese in the waters around New Guinea, ^{in which} ~~he caused~~ the enemy ^{lost} ~~to lose~~ more than twenty-five ships, ~~a good~~ ~~score for any naval officer.~~ So Admiral

Brown has already played a prominent role in this vast global war.

STEEL

The Senate Committee investigating the war effort, reported today that a shortage of steel came very close to tripping up our war production program. The Committee used these words: "The aviation gasoline program, the synthetic rubber program, , the shipping program, the aircraft program, all have suffered from lack of steel." And it continued: "Our fuel oil and gasoline shortage, our farm machinery shortages, our railroad problems, our housing defects, could be relieved if sufficient steel were available."

The Committee, headed by Senator Truman of Missouri, said further that the blame should be divided: First of all, the armed forces under-estimated the amount of steel they would need. Secondly, ^{he said} the big steel companies wanted to prevent any expansion that might react unfavorably after the war. Third was the delay of the War Production Board in converting industry

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to a war basis.

In this connection, a newspaper in British Columbia publishes a story that the United States Government is building a huge pipeline at the top of the world, from the McKenzie River Valley in the Arctic Circle to the Yukon. That story sounds curious because there has been great difficulty in obtaining enough steel to build pipelines within the United States.

TAXES

A formidable recruit has been added to the people *who are backing*
~~in favor of~~ the pay-as-you-go income tax plan of

Beardsley Ruml of New York. Speaker Sam Rayburn of the House today expressed himself in favor of it. *And, he* ~~He~~ added

that he thought the plan ought to be considered in the

House quite soon. However, ~~the~~ opponents of the *Ruml* ~~idea~~

Plan are standing pat. ~~They include~~ *ing* ~~of course,~~ the Treasury

~~Dept. and~~ *Dept. and* ~~people, also~~ Congressman Doughton of North Carolina,

Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. *It himself* Ruml appeared

before the Committee today and faced severe questions

from Chairman Doughton. The Congressman said: "You

would not forgive me a debt that I incurred if I were

in business." And he added: "It would break every

business."

Ruml replied that in Nineteen Thirty-Four,

a competitor of Macy's in New York cancelled all

accounts, receiveable, asked its customers to pick up

its receipted bills, and went on a cash basis. "Thereafter,"
added Ruml, "business and profits went ahead."

Ruml ^{also that} said [^] the compromise plan proposed by the Treasury was a violation of the principle he was trying to suggest, ^{that is} [^] the principle of taxation according to ability to pay. His plan, he told the Congressman, is as simple as daylight saving. The idea ^{being} ^{is} to turn our tax ~~xxx~~ ^{to} clocks ahead one year. The taxpayer ~~would~~ [^] keep right on paying.

We hear from Washington that Congressmen are being deluged with letters and telegrams from taxpayers favoring the Ruml plan.

SAFETY

War casualties are not only shocking but dramatic.

~~They occur in spectacular fashion to make us realize how~~

~~dreadful war is.~~ But in our first year of war we lost

more people at home than we did on all our battlefronts.

The National Safety Council reports that on the home

front, ninety-three thousand people were killed and

nine million, three hundred thousand ~~people~~ injured. *And*

That sounds colossal. But, at that, we were eight per

cent more careful in Nineteen Forty-Two than we were in

the preceding year. The Safety Council figures that the

time and material lost through accidents could have

built twenty-two thousand heavy bombers.

It is not new but always ironical, that the

most dangerous place, the place where most accidents

occur, is the home. Consider how those ninety-three

thousand deaths of Nineteen FortyTwo were split up:

twenty thousand, eight hundred people perished as a

result of motor accidents; eighteen thousand, five hundred were occupational casualties. But the people who died through accidents at home reached the astonishing total of thirty thousand, five hundred.

Hugh, let's all be careful,