

RUSSIA

P.J. - Sunoco. Wed., Jan. 13, 1943.

Russian news comes from three points today.

In fact, the high spot of the drama has shifted from the Caucasus, north to the center of that two thousand mile line. The Soviet advance guard is thrusting toward Smolensk, the big city west of Moscow. In military terms, this means the anchor point of the German line in the center. The Moscow communique declares that this Red army attack started from Velikie Luki, that much disputed railroad center. The Germans vow they still have it, and the Russians long since claim to have captured it. Tonight's news of the ^{Russian} advance on Smolensk appears to be somewhat of a corroboration of the Velikie Luki claim.

Then, again, there was a fierce Russian attack in the Leningrad area. This news does not come from Moscow, but from Berlin. Savage Russian offensives between Lake Ilmen and Lake Ladoga - so reads the Nazi

communiqué. As usual, the Nazis claim to have repulsed the attacks. However, even Dr. Goebbels's Propaganda Ministry admitted today that the forces of Hitler and his vassals have suffered what they call "unavoidable reverses" on the Russian front. This was explained to Hitler's people on the grounds that the Russians attacked in force when the German first lines were thin.

A Stockholm newspaper reports that the Red Army ^{is} ~~is~~ attacking in the Caucasus, at Stalingrad, and on the Don River front, number as many as one million men, with several thousand tanks. And apparently, says the Swedish paper, the Russians have not even yet reached the peak of their striking power. In digesting that, we have to remember that American correspondents who have been in Moscow warned us that not all of the news that comes ^{through} ~~from~~ Stockholm is reliable. In fact, it ^{is} one of the most fertile rumor mills in Europe.

In describing the Red advance on Smolensk, the Soviet official news agency reports that they have captured a place called Sloboda, twenty-five miles north of Smolensk.

Turning our attention to the south, we learn that the Red Army at Stalingrad, fighting inside the ruins of the city, has begun another quick offensive in an attempt to clear the Nazis out. The Russians attacked with bayonet in the western outskirts of Stalingrad and captured several streets from the Germans. Every street, every courtyard, every building, has become a battleground.

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The Soviet forces are also continuing to advance in the north Caucasus with cavalry, tanks and infantry. So says Moscow.


AFRICA

The biggest news from Africa today is the story of air battle. Two air battles, in fact. In the last twenty-four hours, Allied bombers and fighters destroyed thirty-six Axis planes, thirty-six against the loss of only one American fighter. The American, French and British also damaged ten other Axis planes.

Further west, American warplanes flew along the trails ^{of} ~~of Field Marshal~~ Rommel's Africa Korps ^{and its} ~~as it was~~ retreating ~~ing~~ across the desert. They caught up with it at Castel Benito, ten miles to the south of Tripoli. — Castel Benito! More glorification of Messerschmitts. The Flying Fortresses first bombed the airdrome, destroyed a row of buildings and bagged five Axis aircraft on the ground. A heavy force of German Messerschmitts then flew to the attack. Our Flying Fortresses fought a running fight for seventy-five miles and bagged fourteen Messerschmitts without losing a single American plane. That brought their total bag up

to nineteen German planes destroyed.

A communique from Allied headquarters in North Africa sums it up that altogether fifty-one Axis planes have been either destroyed or damaged in twenty-four hours. Five of them ~~were~~ bagged by planes attached to the British Eighth Army in attacks on Tripoli, Crete, Sicily, and Lampedusa ^{a small} ~~That is an~~ Italian island midway between Malta and Tunisia.

At the luncheon of the Overseas Press Club today we heard some interesting information on the North African campaign from Virgil Pinkley ^{European head} of the United Press. ^{Pinkley spoke of} ~~He said~~ the slowness of the advance, ~~was~~ ^{and how it was due largely} ~~due not only~~ to weather conditions, and to the Axis control of the sea between Tunisia and Sicily. ^{But} ~~It~~ is also caused, in ~~large~~ part, by the existence of a very considerable Fifth Column behind the Allied lines in North Africa. 

~~Under that same head~~ There is dramatic information

on this
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in tonight's NEW YORK EVENING POST by Special

Correspondent Burnet Hershey who has just returned to the United States. He describes the Axis organization in Morocco and Tunisia as the most dangerous Fifth Column remaining anywhere. It was established there by Hitler as far back as Nineteen Thirty-Four, as a preliminary to annexation of France's colonial empire.

Hershey goes on to explain it as a powerful, well organized and experienced army of Nazi and Fascist agents. Its roots are underground but often it does business openly in various disguises.

of the Overseas Press Club,
Burnet Hershey, said ~~that~~ *that* in a talk with General

~~Charles~~ DeGaulle in London ten days ago, DeGaulle

referred to ~~that~~ *the Nazi* organization in North Africa ~~very~~

~~aptly~~ as the "Trojan camel". Unless it ~~is~~ ruthlessly

cleaned out, said DeGaulle, it will be as deadly a

threat to the Allied rear lines as any German general could devise.

~~Burnet Hershey goes further that it takes its orders from Berlin.~~

It was recently increased by the arrival in Tunisia of the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, ^{of all people,} Hitler ^{during} sent him there to form a Free Arab force. Also, Rashid Ali El-Gailani, who tried to start a pro-Axis government in Baghdad, ^{is now reported to be} ~~is~~ in Spanish Morocco arousing the Arabs there against us.

When the Allied forces landed in North Africa, a number of people were arrested. But all those who have been able to identify themselves as Fighting Frenchmen have now been freed. So said Elmer Davis, Director of the Office of War Information. But, on the other hand, some two hundred more individuals have been thrown into jail, persons who are suspected of being

Axis agents.

Davis told newspapermen: "While all prisoners identified as associated with the forces of General DeGaulle have been freed, it has been difficult to make a clear identification in some cases. We have been told that not all of them were arrested because they were DeGaullists. Some of them were arrested for violating the rationing rules."

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The Nazi high command claimed ^{ed} that its U-boats ~~had~~ attacked a sixteen ship convoy bound for Gibraltar and sunk thirteen tankers. This, declared Davis, is untrue. The convoy was, indeed, attacked and suffered some damage. But the losses were not anywhere near as heavy as the Germans claimed.

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BEDAUX

You may recall that in Nineteen Thirty-Eight, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Windsor, with his Duchess, planned a visit to the United States. His object, so the publicity ran, was to study housing. Then it became known that his trip had been arranged by an engineer named Charles Bedaux, a friend of the Duke's. This aroused ~~the fury of~~ certain labor leaders, ~~because Bedaux had been~~ ^{who} stigmatized, ^{Bedaux} as the inventor of ~~a hurry up~~ ^{a speed up} labor system, ~~which~~ much in disfavor with labor unions. ^{anyhow} Owing to the storm of criticism, the tour was cancelled.

All this becomes news today because Charles Bedaux is under arrest in French North Africa. The news was made known by no less than Secretary of State Cordell Hull. The Secretary ^{apparently} did not know why, ~~or any~~ ~~details~~. It is not even definitely known whether it was the military or the French civil authorities who put Bedaux in the jug.

RAID

While our planes in the Mediterranean were shooting down Axis fliers, American Flying Fortresses carried out a big league raid on northern ~~XXXX~~ France. They bombed the ^{busy} ~~big~~ factory town of Lille, the fourth raid that Americans ^{have} ~~made there~~ on Lille. At the same time, American ^{Vega} Venturas bombed the Axis airfield at Abbeville. Bostons of the British Royal Air Force blasted an airdrome at St. Omer, escorted by Spitfire Fighters. Only three Flying Fortresses were reported missing.

The communique reports that at Lille, visibility was good, numerous bursts were seen on the targets and in the railway yards, and numerous encounters with enemy aircraft.

It is expected in England that the toll of enemy planes bagged over France will be considerable. The figures are not available yet as there were hundreds of planes taking part in the various raids and not all ^{have reported.}

BRITISH NAVY

The British Lion had cause to roar today, a roar of satisfaction. His Majesty's Navy today is far stronger than it was in Nineteen Thirty-Nine, in spite of its heavy losses. That ^{is} official. It was announced to the ~~important~~ ^{very top hat} Constitutional Club ^{of London by} ~~by~~ A.V. Alexander, Churchill's First Lord of the Admiralty.

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The First Lord revealed ~~he had~~ further cause for British pride. All that vast warship building program has been done with a hundred thousand less workers in the shipyards than they had in the first World War.

An important feature of British naval strength is that the King's Navy now has more aircraft carriers than it had when the war began. As for destroyers and mine sweepers, the First Lord said they had removed enough mines to have sunk every British merchantman.

SOLOMONS

More news from the Solomons, but nothing spectacular. Our men on Guadalcanal are plugging away at the job of mopping up. They have been engaged in what the Navy called "small scale offensive operations against ^{enemy} outposts." They ^{are} progressing satisfactorily, says the Navy, and several small Japanese positions have been isolated.

Meanwhile, a force of medium bombers with Airacobra and Lightning escorts paid another visit to the Japanese airfield at Munda on New Georgia Island. They met no Jap ~~air~~planes, but ~~the~~ enemy ~~Ack-Ack~~ batteries threw plenty of ^{steel} ~~lead~~ at them. However, every ~~United States~~ plane returned. They brought back no ~~report as to the results of their bombing.~~

PREP - ACCELERATE

Now that our American colleges have adopted what they call an accelerated program, everywhere you hear the question asked, "will this have a permanent effect on our American system of education, and have our schools ~~xxxx~~ had too lengthy vacations heretofore?" Many seem to believe that we will never go back to the old system.

At any rate, the prep schools seem to be on the verge of following the ~~xx~~ example set by the colleges. The first to take the ~~xx~~ lead being the Taft School at Watertown, Connecticut. Headmaster Cruikshank has just announced that beginning with June, Nineteen Forty-Three, Taft will operate on a four term basis. The immediate purpose being to enable boys to ~~xxxxxxx~~ complete their secondary education, get that much schooling, at least, before entering the armed forces.

The Taft Headmaster reasons as follows:-

"Though there are disadvantages in an educational 'speed-up', during the present crisis, they are far outweighed by the gains". And, he adds "our youth of today are faced with certain hard facts which the school must meet realistically".

ANTHRACITE

Early today we had a report of a back-to-work movement among the miners in the northern Pennsylvania anthracite field. But the report appears to have been premature; ~~at least~~. For by early afternoon at least one important local voted against stopping the strike. There was a mass meeting of miners at Plymouth, Pennsylvania, not far from Wilkes-Barre. The men gave their answer to the demand of the War Labor Board that they go back to work. The answer was a vociferous "No".

In southern Pennsylvania, four thousand miners went back to the pits, but only for a couple of days. They will work until Friday, by which time they expect the Company to take action on their demand for a raise of two dollars a day.

Later in the afternoon at least five other locals voted to defy the War Labor Board and continue their strike. There will be a general meeting of district

local officers at Wilkes-Barre tonight. They will report on referendums taken by eleven locals. As of this afternoon, the news is that some seven thousand miners will stay out, some two thousand five hundred will return to work. ~~All in all, the outlook tonight is not promising.~~

PETRILLO

After twelve years on the air, I have only just

learned what a pancake turner is in a radio studio.

A pancake turner is

~~It is~~ the man who changes the records when transcriptions

are being broadcast. According to the rules, a pancake

turner must be a *member of the musicians'* ~~musician in an American~~ union. In

Chicago, he gets ninety dollars a week. *turning*
Pancakes.

All this came out at Washington today during

a hearing by a sub-committee of the Interstate Commerce

Committee of the Senate. The subject of the hearing is

James ~~Q.~~ Petrillo, President of the American Federation

of Musicians, and it was Petrillo who brought this fact

to light. ^{TP} It seems that not every pancake turner earns

ninety dollars a week. In St. Louis he is paid only

forty-five dollars. Petrillo told the Senators that if

he had been pressed he would have dropped the demand

for ninety dollars in Chicago. "But," he added, "they

gave it to me and I could not turn it down."

Senator Tunnell of Delaware asked Petrillo just what he wants. His reply was: "More work for musicians." That, he said, is the issue at the bottom of his forbidding radio stations to broadcast recorded music. He went on to say that his union makes no demand of Congress. He just would like to have a law putting the musicians in the same position as the Ascap, the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers. In such an event, musicians would get revenue from every record made.

Pancake Turner here. We have no person.

The Senators asked Petrillo about the stand-by system. That is the rule by which, if a visiting band plays in any place, it is compelled to hire a local band consisting of as many as the visiting company. These local musicians do not insist upon playing. They usually sit in a dressing room playing pinochle. Senator McFarland of Arizona said: "Do you admit that many times unreasonable demands are made?"

Hugh, will you speak up, in person.

TP Petrillo replied: "Many, many times." And now I have a reasonable demand:-