

L.J. - Sunoco. Thursday March 12, 1942.

RUSSIA

Big news about Russia tonight. Soviet generals are not waiting for that much publicized Spring offensive of Hitler's. According to reports that come by way of London, the Red generals are striking first, and striking hard. Soviet Marshal Timoshenko has thrown ninety divisions - that's the story, ninety - against the Nazi lines in the Ukraine. ^{Meaning} ~~That means~~ an army of somewhere around one million, seven hundred and fifty thousand effective soldiers [^] attacking on a two hundred and fifty mile front. ~~If that offensive succeeds, it will take the ball away from the Nazis.~~

~~The news appears to be authentic, because~~

^{IP} Berlin admitted ^S ~~ed~~ that ~~the~~ Nazi entrenchments had ^{pl} been subjected to furious attacks both in the Donets basin, which includes Kharkov, and ~~atxTxx~~ in the region around Taganrog. Even according to reports from neutral sources,

this is the mightiest offensive of the Soviet counter-attack. Judging by announcements from Berlin, and dispatches from neutral sources, Timoshenko has aimed his assault in three spearheads, aimed at those places where the Nazis have been hanging on desperately in the hope of using them for a Spring drive into the Caucasus.

The Reds also have almost accomplished the surrounding of Rzev, a city a hundred and thirty miles northwest of Moscow, the nearest point ~~to~~ to the Soviet capital, still in German possession.

AUSTRALIA

From all indications, the Japanese are not going to wait to do one thing at a time. They seem definitely to be preparing for an invasion of Australia, and an all-out offensive on Burma, at the same time. Their huge fleet of troop transports is descending on New Guinea. It looks now as though they are going to attack Port Moresby in force, evidently in preparation for an attempt to land on the north coast of ~~ANXXXXXXXXX~~ Australia.

Both Australian and American planes are doing their utmost to hamper the New Guinea invasion. A dispatch from Melbourne tells us that American and Australian planes put out of action thirteen ships. Australia informs us that probably only a few of those thirteen were actually sunk. But

BURMA FOLLOW AUSTRALIA

Meanwhile, on the Asiatic mainland, there were definite signs that the Mikado's generals are all set for a major battle in central Burma. Information received in London leads the experts there to believe that it will be a decisive affair. The British Imperial forces have withdrawn still further, an orderly withdrawal, to a new defense line, says their high command.

The probability is that the British are bracing themselves, getting set about a hundred and fifty miles north of Rangoon. They believe the Japanese generals will launch their spearhead somewhere between Toungoo and Prome. Lesser cities of southern Burma, north of Rangoon, on the road to Mandalay. A spokesman for the British added that the Imperial forces are intact in the main, but that they have suffered heavy casualties.

Lieutenant-General Alexander, the British Commander on that front, reports that his men have fought extremely well, especially the armored formations.

But the nature of the ground limits the usefulness of tanks. They are fighting again in tropical jungle, which will make the Japanese tactics of infiltration behind the British lines extremely difficult to combat. Furthermore, the British are fighting in territory inhabited by people of whom many are unfriendly, some in actual revolt.

The Japanese claim to have occupied Bassein, a port on the Irrawaddy delta, where ships of two thousand tons can be accommodated. It is believed that they will make use of that point to attempt a landing by sea at that other Burmese port-Akyab, nearer ~~to~~ India, to try and out-flank the British.

COMMUNICATIONS

We are in communication with part of the Dutch East Indies again, though not a very important part. The Netherlands Government still hangs onto the northern two-thirds of the island of Sumatra, and still has possession of Sumatra's capital, Medan, in the northwest of the island.

Our last word from the Dutch East Indies was on March Seventh, from over-run Java. But now the Radio Corporation of America, in cooperation with the Dutch authorities, has managed to establish radio communications between Medan and San Francisco, around the world by way of India, a distance of some twenty-seven thousand miles.

SIEGE

Tonight we have the first detailed account of the prolonged siege of Corregidor, that tiny fortress of the United States which still guards the entrance to Manila Bay. At least one thousand, five hundred Japanese bombs have fallen on the fortress, and according to a dispatch from Corregidor itself, the garrison has never shown the slightest sign of weakening. The bombs were mostly high explosives, ^{plus} ~~but~~ a few ~~incendiaries~~ incendiaries. ~~were thrown in.~~

The Japanese raids ^{have} lasted for hours at a time, and with heavy and medium [^] dive bombers filling the sky.

That little island has undergone some of the most intensive bombing ever experienced by ^{any place.} ~~any place.~~ [^] but the destruction has been negligible. And Corregidor has had no fighter plane protection whatsoever, only artillery. With it all, not a single flight of the Japanese has escaped undamaged from the straight shooting anti-aircraft

batteries of Corregidor. The enemy created plenty of huge bomb craters and started plenty of fires. But when the smoke cleared away, the check-up invariably showed that the damage was ~~negligible~~ superficial.

News from the Navy that one of our submarines has been operating with success in Japanese waters! It sank three enemy freighters and one passenger cargo ship, right in the enemy's home waters. And these are in addition to sinkings reported in previous communiques.

~~Meaning~~ Meaning that our undersea boats have sent no fewer than eighty-eight Japanese vessels to the bottom now -- including both men-o-war and non-combatant ships. All types of the Mikado's craft either sunk or damaged by the armed forces of the United States now total a hundred and forty-nine.

All of which stands out in sharp contrast to the propaganda claims of the Japanese. The Mikado's Minister of the Navy, Admiral Shimada, told the Parliament at Tokyo today that Japan had lost no more than twenty-seven transports and nineteen warships. But our Army and Navy issue no reports of sinkings of enemy vessels until first they have been proved beyond all doubt.

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BRAZIL

There was quite a hubbub in Rio de Janeiro today, in fact almost a riot, a riot against the Nazis.

Crowds of angry Brazilians burst into stores owned by Germans, ~~busted up the~~ ^{smashed} furniture and even attacked the

Nazi proprietors. The authorities had to step in with special detachments of the civil police with tear gas, and even military police with rifles to protect the subjects of the Axis in the Brazilian capital.

The mobs were angry because of the torpedoing of Brazilian ships, and the tumult produced several dramatic episodes. One German defied the crowd and shouted out that he considered it an honor to be a German. That brought the rioters on his neck and he was badly beaten before he took refuge in a barber shop.

It would have gone ~~badly~~ ^{still worse} for him, except that a certain

^{popular} judge happened to be getting a shave at the time.

With the lather in his face, he got up on his chair and harangued the mob, told them no good could be achieved by killing just one Nazi. All of which undoubtedly saved the victim's life.

President Vargas of Brazil today issued a decree confiscating a considerable portion of Axis funds in Brazilian banks, to pay for the four ships that have been sunk, and the fifty reported missing.

The government of Brazil has also ordered all Axis nationals to hand over ten percent of the value of all their properties, real estate, merchandise, anything.

WASTE

Out in California, a legislative committee has been investigating reports that men are sitting around idle in factories because they haven't any parts to work with. At the Ryan Aeronautical factory in San Diego, one ~~xxxx~~ employee told the committee that since December Seventh, there hasn't been any increase in production there.

Although the attack on Pearl Harbor plunged the country into actual war, the lack of materials and lack of coordination between men and materials has brought about many slow-downs. One workman told the committee that the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ men had been told to slow down a number of times or they would run out of work.

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He said further that this condition had been going on for some time. Last summer, William S. Knudsen and other officials of the O.P.M. were inspecting the plant, so the workmen were ordered to put on a good show. The witness used these words:- "We had just run out of

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parts and didn't have anything to do. So we took wings that had been finished and put them on benches and pretended to work on them."

LEWIS

There were signs today of rebellion against John L. Lewis within the ranks of his own union, the United Mine Workers. The opposition to Lewis comes from no fewer than sixty leaders of the New Jersey local of the U.M.W. They published a statement today that they are sick and tired of waiting for Lewis to come forward with a war program. They have, therefore, organized a victory committee so as to speed up production.

The secretary of that victory committee today charged Lewis with being still an isolationist.

GUEST

I planned on having a guest speaker tonight.

And, right at this moment Alex Dreier should be sitting next to me at the microphone. Alex Dreier, NBC foreign correspondent, was the ^{regular} last news man to leave Berlin before we got into the war. ^{alex} He has an article in the current issue of the American Magazine -- telling the latest first-hand information that's available on conditions in Nazi-land. Alex

And he ~~he~~ promised to Dreier said ~~xxxxxx~~ he'd be here tonight and tell us the latest concerning German morale. us a thing or two along that line. But instead, he

has ducked, out on a rush trip to California. *Why?* To get married! *is the villain who* So Dan Cupid has deprived us of

Alex. However, he sent me some notes of what he would have said, if love and romance hadn't ~~ex~~ taken him away.

He would have told us that German morale ^{overwhelming} began to crack when Hitler's blitzkrieg ^{victory in} Russia failed to materialize. He would have added that just before he left Berlin, the last news man out, Nazi officials talked openly of their fear of

ultimate disaster.

However, if Alex hadn't been in such a hurry
to get married, we would ^{also} have heard ^{him state} the opinion that

the Germans will fight harder than ever. He would

have told us that they ^{will now} ~~will~~ battle with a new ferocity

because they ^{are} ~~are~~ so afraid of what will happen to them

when they ^{are} ~~are~~ licked. ~~That~~ They feel they can't quit! -

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It's all fear
~~they're so afraid~~ of post-war revenge. Ex

N.B.C. &

That's what Alex Dreier would have told us,

if he ^{had} ~~had~~ not gone speeding across the continent to

the arms of his bride.

PROFITS

A joint committee of Congressmen heard the treasurer of a shipyards company tell about the profits his firm made during the past year. ~~It was~~ The treasurer of the Todd Shipyards Corporation, [^] testifying before the joint committee of Senators and Representatives on Economy. He said that on an investment of twenty-five million dollars, that concern had made a net profit of five million. ~~dollars~~. Going into details, he explained that a profit of seventy-two per cent was made on one repair job for the government alone, but the average profits on such contracts, he continued, would not exceed eleven point thirty-five per cent.

He also told the committee that one New York attorney had been paid a fee of a hundred thousand dollars. Of that, his firm had paid thirty-five thousand.

DRAFT

Congress as a whole is not hospitable to the suggestion by Mrs. Roosevelt that everybody should be drafted at once, men and women alike. Following that suggestion, Congressman Priest of Tennessee submitted a bill. Most Congressmen today seem to feel that it was premature.

Mrs. Roosevelt in her column today said that she had received a telegram reminding her that it was not in her power to draft anyone, and that Congress will do that when the times comes. The First Lady said she didn't need that reminder.

TAXES

The latest body to come to bat for the sales tax is the National Association of Manufacturers.

The N.A.M. wants a general sales tax of eight percent, as compared with other associations that have wanted to graduate it from two per cent on food to ten percent on luxuries. They figure that this would raise an annual revenue of four billions, four hundred millions.

Along with this, the N.A.M. urges Congress to cut civilian government expenditures -- that is the money that Uncle Sam spends for purposes other than the war, by two billion dollars a year. Also, to increase income taxes on individuals but not as much as the Treasury suggests, and to increase the excess profits taxes on corporations to the limit.

The N.A.M. believes that this tax program will bring into Uncle Sam's pocket more than seven billion dollars of new income. If Congress and the Government also manage to cut expenditures by two billions, that will make nine billions.

ENDING

Several weeks ago I quoted a line, I've forgotten what, and mentioned that some night I ought to put the whole broadcast in rhyme. Well, Miss Margaret McCutchen, of Plainfield, New Jersey, can't wait and sends me a few lines to get on with. Here are a couple of them. She writes:-

Oh yes, we'll have to pay some taxes

To put the axe into the Axis.

And when our tires have gone kaflop

We'll have to hoof it to the shop.

Each dame will hose her girdled shape

While mere man too will not escape.

And then it continues with the following bit of lofty poetry:

Hugh James along with all the rest,

Will have to go sans pants or vest.

Ah, but Lowell, you need not care,

For you'll always have that head of hair.

I hope I will, but, I'm alarmed over the idea
of Hugh losing his pants!