

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, August 22, 1941.

WAR

44

The spotlight of the news tonight, the lurid glare of war, is on a great and historic city. A northern metropolis which, in the course of time and startling events, has had three names - St. Petersburg, Petrograd and Leningrad. Names that recall two very different persons. Peter the Great, the all powerful Czar who ^built the city on the banks of the River Neva. And Lenin, the founder of Bolshevism, Apostle of Communism and creator of the Soviet State. In a way, the present stupendous conflict is a battle of names. The Germans, in referring to Leningrad, always call it "St. Petersburg" - indicating their intention to erase the name of Lenin in destroying the Soviet regime that was built by him.

Dispatches from Russia today picture Leningrad as a city rising in mass movement to obey the call issued yesterday by General Voroshilov, the Red Army Commander of the Northern sector. A fight to ^{the} ~~he~~ bitter end, was the Voroshilov mandate. "Rise as one man", he commanded. "Defend Leningrad to the last drop of blood," was his grim injunction. And we hear that Leningrad, with its three million inhabitants, is rising and preparing to obey.

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Today barricades were thrown across the streets. Guns mounted, buildings fortified. The city built by Peter the Great turned into a fortress. Nearly every able-bodied man and woman has volunteered to fight. Workers are staging mass meetings adopting resolutions that pledge desperate resistance. Civilian ~~DEFENSEXXXXXXXXXX~~ Defenders are being organized by a Bolshevik veteran named Sokoloff. He fought in the barricade battles of the Bolshevik Revolution, and was a famous leader of Proletarian fighters. Under his command are veteran revolutionaries who served under the Red Banner, when Lenin and Trotzky led the Bolshevik Revolution. The picture we ^{are} ~~are~~ given is one of Communist fervor, a flare of the Bolshevik Revolutionary spirit - as the Nazi Blitzkrieg hammers at the gates with an armored fist.

48
Leningrad reports that German air raids have been beaten off. They say that Nazi bombers have not been able to penetrate the anti-aircraft defense. Not a single bomb has fallen on the city proper. The latest is that the Hitler flying force has restored to attacks on the airfields in the vicinity of Leningrad, blasting the air bases to facilitate bomb attacks later on.

Berlin reports that the Blitzkrieg attack is, as Berlin expresses it - "in full flood." That phraseology is used by the German High command today. The claim is that the drive on Leningrad is thrusting on relentlessly. It would appear that the German intention is to encircle the city rather than to attack the powerful defenses directly. The Blitzkrieg forces are based on three points, the capture of which was announced yesterday. The towns of Narva, Kingisepp and Novgorod. This gives them a diagonal line from the Baltic Sea southward and Eastward to Novgorod, which is south and East of Leningrad. They are at a distance of sixty to a hundred miles from the city, and their continuing advances are threatening to cut the Leningrad-Moscow railroad - as the next objective.

There is still another drive against the one-time capital of the Czars. And this brings us to a phase of the Russian war that has not been headlined thus far - ~~the~~ Finland.

49
The Finns, cooperating with Nazi forces in their country, are driving into Soviet territory - areas that the Red Army took from the Finns in the war ~~the~~ winter before last. The Karelian

Isthmus is featured in the news tonight. That's where the Mannerheim line used to be, the fighting front that the Finns defended so bitterly. From this direction, the Finnish army threatens it strike straight south at Leningrad - which lies just below between the neck of land that ~~XXXXXXXX~~ separates Lake Ladoga and the sea.

Helsinki today announced the capture of a place called Kaekisalmi. That's an important town which the Soviets took from the Finns. It's eighty miles from Leningrad, and if the Finns should keep going, the great Soviet city will be caught between two jaws - the Germans to the south and the Finns to the North.

The Helsinki dispatch claims that the hundred and sixty-eightth division of the Red Army was trapped and destroyed. Still another division was, what the Finns call, "totally dispersed." Today's dispatch was the most important that Helsinki has issued thus far - claiming a series of victories, driving the Red Army units back toward Leningrad, The second largest city in the ~~Soviet~~ Soviet Union - where three million people are described as prepared to obey the command to defend Leningrad to the last drop of blood.

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Here's the latest -- a radio flash from Berlin.

It states that the German High Command has decided to order

the complete destruction of Leningrad. The Nazi radio bulletin

states the following: "The Soviet government decided to defend

this city to the death. We take note of this and we declare that

when the city is completely destroyed the Bolsheviks will have

no right to complain. The responsibility will be theirs."

FRANCE

More reports of trouble for the Germans in occupied France. We hear now that the problems of ~~existing~~ sabotage they face are concentrated in the railroads - damage done to rolling stock and freight shipments. One story tells of sabotage on a big scale at a freight yard south of Paris. Authorities in the German occupied area are calling on the ~~ri~~ railroad workers to prevent the damage caused by Communists. The Nazis blame everything on Communists and Jews; and, it would seem ~~in~~ indeed as if the Nazi-Soviet War had been followed by a wave of red ~~activity~~ activity. This is particularly the case ~~of~~ in Paris ^{with} and its large communist element.

Another military execution was announced - a man court-martialed and shot on a charge of recruiting volunteers for the DeGaulle movement. That angle, too is causing the Nazis a lot of trouble - the spread in occupied France of the Free French movement sponsored by Great Britain. The German military authorities announce that the Death penalty will be inflicted on anybody caught working for the DeGaulle cause. And this also ~~applies~~ applies to anybody shielding British aviators that are ~~shot~~ shot down in France.

IRAN

In London, the British Government ~~xxxx~~ today received a reply from Iran- Persia. It is believed that this reply refuses the demand made by the British and Soviets. The Persian Government was called upon to expel German agents, technicians and tourists. Thousands of these are said to be in the country - doing Nazi work. If Iran really has rejected the British-Soviet proposal, it looks as if there might be a *march* ~~force~~ into Persia. Reports from the Near East indicate that the British in Iran will stage a push in collaboration with forces ~~of~~ of the Red Army.

In Washington today the Persian Minister said that if his country is invaded, it will fight.

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JAPAN

The question of the Americans held in Japan seems on the way to a solution. Secretary of State Cordell Hull said today that a formula has been reached between Washington and Tokyo. This provides a way for Americans in Japan and Japanese in America to return to their respective homelands -- all those who want to return.

ROOSEVELT

The President is at his Dutchess County home - Hyde Park. And over the weekend he'll have a guest - the Duke of Kent, coming from Canada. The President says that the visit by the brother of ~~the~~ King ~~George~~ George will be purely social, just a neighborly call from Canada to the United States.

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In his news conference today, the President took a fling at Congressional opponents who are attacking his foreign policy. He recalled the late Senator Borah and a prophecy that Borah made. A few months before the European war broke out, the veteran from Idaho derided the White House claim that the situation in Europe was most ominous. ~~Borah~~ Borah said that he had sound information from Europe that there would be no war in the near future. He was very wrong about that, and the President today remarked that Borah at that time was in a position ~~today~~ to have ~~believed~~ better information than are the administration opponents right now. They are just as likely to go wrong - or more likely. So said the President.

DEFENSE

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President Roosevelt today answered the charge made by Senator Byrd of Virginia - the Senator's claim that the defense program was bogging down, falling. The President said that on the average armament production was up to expectations, and that in some cases it was better than expected. He added that he himself was still not satisfied with the amount of weapons of war that we are turning out, but contended that the figures recited in the Senator's attack were all wrong. Incorrect, in every case, save in that of aviation - warplane production.

Senator Byrd declared that not a single American-made tank had gone to England. The President today replied that actually hundreds of tanks had been turned over to the British. He said that these have been in service in Egypt, and have shown themselves to be excellent.

Senator Byrd charged that the schedule calls for delivery of only four ninety-^{anti-}millimeter aircraft guns per month. The President replied that the figure on the schedule is really sixty-one per month. And, according to all appearance, they'll be produced

at that rate. The Senator's figures were equally wrong with respect to thirty-seven millimeter anti-tank guns and eighty-one millimeter mortars - so said the President.

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He argued that even in the case of warplane production, the Senator's accusation was not exactly true, though the ~~fig~~ figures he gave were all right. The President explained that the program called for a delivery of fifteen hundred planes per month, and the actual figure for July was fourteen hundred and sixty-five. He challenged the Senator's contention that plane production had declined during May, June and July of this year. The number of training planes turned out had increased, while the figures for military planes had held at a steady level. Military plane production did not increase, the President added, because the factories were changing designs. They ^{are} ~~re~~ learning lessons ^s ~~a~~ taught by the war in Europe, and that makes changes necessary. The President based his argument today on figures procured from the War Department, and suggested that somebody had sold the Virginia Senator down the river.

To which Senator Byrd replies- "I will say that wisecracks may create amusement, but they do not accomplish military preparedness." So retorts the gentleman from Virginia.

SHIPYARD

In the big shipyard strike at Kearny, New Jersey, the word is - negotiations have broke down. That message was sent today by the President of the union to Sidney Hillman, co-director of the O.P.M. The collapse of the negotiations appears to leave no way to get work going again - except by government action. But, at the same time, President Roosevelt does not want to take over the Kearny shipyards. He does not want to repeat the case at Inglewood, California - where the Army took over the strike bound plant of the North American Aviation Company.

At Hyde Park today the President stated that he was extremely reluctant to commandeer the Kearny shipbuilding plant. He won't do it, if it can be avoided.

~~"Can you say whether you'll be able to avoid it?"~~

~~The President was asked.~~

~~He replied that he could not even guess the answer~~

~~to the question.~~

DETROIT STRIKE

Tomorrow morning is set as the deadline in the Detroit street railway strike. A compromise proposal has been placed before the ~~xxxx~~ A. F. of L. Union. It proposes a set of terms to end the walkout, ^{that} ~~which is a~~ jurisdictional battle - between the A. F. of L and the C. I. O.

Today the President of the Detroit Street Railways stated that the A. F. Of L. group would have until tomorrow morning to accept the compromise. He didn't specify what would happen if they failed to accept, but added that the city is getting very tired of the transportation tie-up.

The latest is an appeal by city authorities of the A. F. of L. union. They tell the union that the tie-up is seriously harming Detroit defense industries.

INSTALLMENT BUYING

In Washington they've just issued regulations to restrict installment buying. The restrictions are to become effective after the first of September. This move has been coming for some time - in an attempt to check the trend toward inflation. (Too much buying, with the rising of prices.) So now the government has cracked down on the dollar-down-and-a-dollar-a-week-kind-of-transaction.

Under the new regulations down payments will be larger on various kinds of merchandise. For example, the down payment on automobiles will have to be one third of the price. (And the term of credit is limited to eighteen months on a long list of articles. Both down payments and term of credit differ in the cases of various kinds of merchandise.)

SOLDIERS

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In the state of Washington, two soldiers were cited today for special honors. They're heroes, and are being cheered. But mingled with the cheers are a few loud laughs.

In the Western Army war games last Monday, Private Glenn Sollie and Private Andrew Bearshield of the fifteenth infantry, were ordered to make their way to a bridge, and guard it. They were told to stand on duty at that bridge until they were relieved.

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9 1/4

^{Glenn} Private Sollie and Private Bearshield are faithful soldiers. They went and they guarded - and guarded. They stuck to it for three days and three nights - without food and without blankets. Then they were - no, not relieved. They were found. They were guarding the wrong bridge. The two brave warriors had lost their way, and taken their battle stations at a bridge seven miles away from the one they were to guard. They'd still be there, if the fifteenth infantry had not sent out a detail to look ~~at~~ for them.

I suppose the two heroes might have been sent to the guardhouse for going to the wrong bridge. But they also deserved military honors for guarding it that long. And so they get the honors - plus a laugh or two.

And now a laugh or two or at least a chuckle from you Hugh. Or