

WAR - Lead

C.I. - Sumoco. Friday, July 4, 1941.

Here's the latest war bulletin tonight -- a dispatch from Berlin with a startling sound. It states that twenty thousand Red Army troops in a ~~big~~ body have deserted to the Germans, after killing their political commissars. This Nazi claim is direct from Hitler's field headquarters, and it reads as follows:- "After shooting their political commissars on Friday, twenty thousand of the still encircled parts of the Soviet Army near Minsk deserted.

The mention of Red political commissars is unexpected, because that type of Communist functionary ~~was~~ was supposed to have been abolished in the Red Army. The time was when political commissars were attached to every Red regiment -- ~~to~~ to keep the soldiers firm in the faith of Bolshevism and Stalin. Then, when the Red Army looked so bad in the war with the ~~Russians~~, the news was that the Communist political experts had been ousted - and full control given to military officers. But now Berlin tells of soldiers shooting the commissars.

The Hitler claim refers to Minsk. That's within the huge trap in which the blitzkrieg is supposed to have caught a large segment of the Soviet forces - half a million men. Several days ago Berlin told us that the encircled Red legions had been annihilated, and that only a mopping up process remained. Which makes it all the more surprising to hear of a body of twenty thousand troops deserting in the encircled area today.

The German high command reports that the blitzkrieg forces ~~had~~ have crossed the Berezina River, and are resuming their drive in the direction of Moscow. The River-crossing is ~~xxxx~~ described as a clashing affair of tanks. The Soviets mobilized a ponderous tank force to oppose the Nazi mechanized column. Berlin claims that Stuka dive bombers blasted the Red tanks to defeat.

~~("etc continue with the paragraph~~

~~p The War picture in general "~~

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WAR

Berlin states that the Soviet retreat all along the front has now reached, what it calls, "The Stalin Line". Just what this may be is none too clear, but presumably the Stalin line is just inside the old border between the Soviets and Poland.

In the North, at the Berezina River, the Panzer units have plunged more than fifty miles past that one-time frontier. Have they at



this point driven through the Stalin line? We don't know.

Today's Berlin version does not give us so much about Red Army disorganization as yesterday- ~~so~~ such copious statements of desperate retreat, a veritable rout. Instead, the Germans talk of bad weather, rain and even snow. This has slowed down the advance, [^]wet ground hampering the mechanized equipment.

In London, Soviet circles claim that the Nazi machine has not yet encountered the main forces of the Red Army. These are still to go in battle. Neutral observers in Britain are of the opinion that the Blitzkrieg is running behind schedule - it is not up to the time table which the German high command had set. This - in spite of the fact that in driving to the Berezina the Panzer forces smashed on for two hundred miles. They say that, according to the time table, the mechanized columns should be all the way to Smolensk by now - ~~as~~ as, indeed, the unconfirmed rumor tells us they are.

As London sees it, the issue of battle depends upon how much the Red Army lost in its early reverses, how much damage

the Germans did in ^{the} ~~his~~ swift drives that slashed through. What proportion of the Soviet forces were cut off and eliminated?

Berlin, of course, states that a huge Red force of hundreds of thousands was trapped and destroyed in one area alone.

One London military expert pops up today and announces he was wrong. He made a mistake - in fact he made two mistakes. Who is this military expert, admitting his errors? He must be quite a paradox. He is in fact that masterⁿ of paradox, George Bernard Shaw.

Bernad
~~In a magazine article,~~ Shaw offers his apologies for having been wrong, before the war began - when he said that Hitler could take anything in Europe he wanted and Great Britain wouldn't do anything about it. And more recently- when he proclaimed that Hitler would never attack Stalin.

G.B.S. explains today why he was in error. "Knowing the strength and resources of Russia," he writes, "I could not believe any man with intelligence enough to lace up his own shoes, could in the middle of a very ~~the~~ tough war deliberately

complete his own encirclement ~~XXXX~~ and make war ^{on} ~~of~~ six fronts."

And then George Bernard Shaw makes the melancholy confession - that he may be losing his infallibility.

London has an interesting rumor about what Hitler intends to do with Russia - when and if he ousts his one-time pal, Stalin. They say that Germany plans a Russian monarchy - give the Muscovites a Czar once more. That's an obvious idea, the old imperial throne to take the place of the Soviet form of government - though it sounds a bit out ~~is~~ of date, like an Anachronism. The novel part about the London rumor concerns the person whom the Nazis plan to make the monarch of Russia - a Prussian prince, a grandson of the late Kaiser, Prince Louis Ferdinand.

He, as it happens, is well known in America. Some years ago he was in this country, and worked at the Ford Plant. In fact Prince Louis Ferdinand of Hohenzollern, grandson of the late Kaiser, brags that he speaks German with - a Ford accent. But what has this Hohenzollern to do with the dynasty of the Romanoffs? The answer is, he is married to Grand Duchess Kira,

daughter of ^{the} ~~the~~ Grandduke Cyril who at one time was the pretender to a non-existent imperial throne of Russia. That might seem to give the Hohenzollern Prince some sort of claim - though the present pretender is the Grandduke Vladimir. However, maybe Hitler won't pay so much attention to the Dynastic theories of exiled royalty - not, at any rate, if the story from London is correct.

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 Today, some of the nations at war took ~~time~~ time out to help America celebrate the Fourth of July. And here's a ~~the~~ headline - Moscow: The Soviet radio today gave one whole hour to a Fourth of July program - ~~xxxxxxx~~ declaration of independence, George Washington, no taxation without representation, and all that. The Moscow radio expressed its Fourth of July sentiments in these words:- "The Soviet union, now fighting a great patriotic war of defense, ~~it proclaimed~~ "sends ardent greetings to the American people ~~xxxxxxx~~ on the occasion of their glorious national holiday." ^P It's the first time ~~that~~ Moscow has celebrated the Fourth of July since Lenin and Trotsky were saying, "Comes the Revolution!"

OIL

Here's a statement by President Roosevelt on a subject often debated - the use of alcohol as a motor fuel, mixing it with gasoline. Recently, the ^{California} ~~California~~ Legislature adopted a resolution which says that alcohol as an auxiliary motor fuel would be a good thing for national defense.

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The President's letter is ^{to} speaker Garland of the California Legislature, and states the following: "While it is true that a number of foreign countries process agricultural materials for the production of alcohol as a motor fuel, it is equally true that the motor fuel economy of countries possessing no petroleum resources is very different from such economy in the United States. It has never been established in this country,"
The Presidential epistle goes on, "That the conversion of agricultural products into a motor fuel is economically feasible, or necessary for national defense."

The President adds that the government is still ~~studying the subject, in fact is setting up an experimental plant to investigate the use of alcohol with gasoline.~~

What effect is all this military training going to have on our boys? It will make soldiers and sailors out of them; mechanics and aviators. We know that. But, away from home, herded into these huge new base camps, cut off from their friends and relatives, what are they going to do with themselves in their spare time, off duty?

That's a job which has been put up to the U.S.O., the United Service Organizations. A campaign is in full swing to raise nearly eleven million dollars to provide our boys in training with places to go and things to do in their off hours. And the heads of this campaign is my next door neighbor, Thomas E. Dewey. Mr. Dewey, (I forgot to mention he's sitting beside me, our two families are going to a Fourth of July picnic together after this broadcast) Mr. Dewey, can you give us a homely illustration of why this campaign is being conducted?

MR. D EWEY:- I could give you a hundred, Lowell, Here Is one. There is a big army camp down at Livingston, Louisiana. One of the men there -- a lad from ~~xx~~ Minnesota -- told me why they need a recreation center near that camp. He's a bowling fan. And,

by the way, I am amazed at the popularity of bowling. More people seem to be taking part in that sport today than any other. Well, he said that when he got leave from the camp at Livingston one evening and went into the town, in order to bowl just one game he had to stand in line for an hour and three quarters. The United Service Organizations hope to solve that and thousands of problems like it! . Another boy told me why he thought our men should have some place to go when off duty. His answer was: "When we go to town, we want to get off the streets" {

L.T.:- Mr. Dewey tells me that the figures for the entire nation are not available tonight. But he spoke in Buffalo a few days ago, and since then Buffalo has subscribed fifty per cent more than its quota. Indianapolis has just sent word that it has raised more than was asked of the Hoosier Capital. When the campaign organization was set up Tom, I recall stating on the air that it was with the idea of having five hundred organization centers. Now I understand the campaign has gone far beyond that.

MR. DEWEY:- Yes, far beyond it. Three weeks ago when I was on the air with you we had organized two thousand, seven hundred communities. Now it has reached more than four thousand. And, this is astonishing, when you stop to think that there are only about three thousand counties in the whole United States. Right here in our own little farming neighborhood on Quaker Hill, Lowell, the committee has gone far over its quota. As you know, our little church, here has only fifteen members, and last Sunday the collection amounted to over one hundred and thirteen dollars, all of which went to the U.S.O. And then in the afternoon your Nine Old Men played a softball game and still more funds were raised. It's going the same, all over the country.

One reason I am glad the enthusiasm of the U.S.O. drive is so great is this:- Another nine hundred thousand young men are now registering for service, soon to go into training. So the need for recreational centers is going to be far greater than was originally expected.

LT.:* And, a Fourth of July broadcast ought to be a pretty good place to point out that this U.S.O. drive is a patriotic necessity -

in the interest of our men who are being trained so they will
be ready to defend the freedom and independence of this country
which came into existence exactly one hundred and sixty-five
years ago.

SNAIL

Today may be the anniversary of the Declaration of Independence to you, but it's a lot more than that to Allen G. Smith of the California Academy of Sciences. The ambition of his life was accomplished today - he received a snail. It's a snail with a shell that goes around the wrong way.

It appears that the shell in which the normal snail resides has a spiral that goes around clockwise, the way the hands of a clock revolve. But imagine the shell going round the other way - counter-clockwise. That occurs about once in a million times - an extraordinary freak of nature, enough to make a snail shellologist collapse with wonder and delight.

All of which inspired the California professor with a great ambition. He started looking for a snail of the counter-clockwise variety. He had his friends join in, hunting around in their gardens, he organized a veritable corps of snail detectives -- seeking for that rarest of treasures - a wrong-way snail. This began years ago, and went along without result until now.

Today the professor got the snail. It was discovered last night by one of his army of sleuths - a snail the shell of

of which the spirals counter clockwise. So, it may be a glorious ^{fourth} ~~fourth~~ to you, but for Allen Smith of the California Academy of Sciences it's the day of the snail.

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Here's a man who says there are altogether too many snails in this country:- Just a few minutes ago my studio telephone rang. The long distance operator said that someone down in Virginia wanted to talk to me. (The war news had gone in come in a little earlier this evening, I had a moment to spare which is unusual so late in the afternoon. So I picked up the phone.) In a rich Virginia accent ~~the~~ man at the other end said to me:- My name is ~~Lambert~~ Lambert, ^{and} ~~and~~ I happen to be a descendent of the only man who signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States." Then he went on: "We people in this country are asleep! We are fools to allow Hitler to overrun this whole world. We are behaving like snails! I wish I could repeat it with his slow southern drawl. At any rate, he thinks we are snails, ^{and that} we should wake up as our forefather's did over one hundred and sixty-five

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years ago, and do something about it. And now I wonder what

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sort of a Fourth of July message Hugh James has for us?

RETAKE