

L. T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, March 16, 1943. *Amman*

RUSSIA

Moscow announces that Soviet troops have hurled the Germans back to within sixty miles of Smolensk, which historic city is the pivot of the whole German front. Red army troops are within thirty five miles of Yartsevo, the key to the huge system of defense built around Smolensk. Thus on the central front before Moscow the Russians continue their forward surge.

To the south, where they lost Kharkov, the Germans are hurling attacks in an attempt to envelope that other important point---Voroshilovgrad. The Nazi thrust is to the southeast of Kharkov where it is attempting to smash through the new line the Red army has arranged along the Donets River.

Moscow gives us an explanation of the fall of Kharkov, citing a lack of railroads. The Germans continued in possession of strategic lines and the Russians were deficient in railroad transportation. Moreover the highways went bad on them, because of the spring thaw. Floods engulfed the roads, and blocked them for truck transportation. Thus the Soviets were not able to bring up sufficient forces fast enough to check the drive against Kharkov.

FRANCE

Today ~~Martial~~ law was declared in the old and romantic province of French Savoy. There, in the Alps, the campaign waged by the French guerrillas has become so formidable that the Axis oppressor has been compelled to resort to full military measures.

In the craggy mountain passes bands of young Frenchmen are fighting against the police of the Vichy government and against regular troops of the German and Italian armies. They ^{se} consist in part of workers whom the Nazis wanted to draft for labor in German war plants. Every time Hitler has tried his slave labor push, French resistance has become more bitter---and now it culminates in actual guerrilla warfare.

Not surprising that this should have broken out in Savoy, that province long famous in books of romance---Savoy in the high country of the Alps, where the mountains rise in snowy grandeur and the passes are lofty. The guerrilla fighters are said to be well supplied with food and weapons---and of course are supported by the local farmers in the valleys.

2-France

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The Germans have sent strong forces against them, and have bombed them from the air. An ultimatum was issued, and Switzerland reports that a few of the guerrillas thereupon surrendered. But the bulk of ~~them~~ ^{fight} remain ~~defiant~~ under the command of the French general. So now martial law is proclaimed in Savoy--- with the enemy bringing up new forces to suppress an insurrection that may set the pattern for a future general uprising of the oppressed ^{French} people, ^{and others too} when the hour has struck for an allied invasion of Europe.

NORTH AFRICA

Things were comparatively quiet in Tunisia today.

There is little more to report than heavy artillery fire by allied batteries in front of that key point called Gafsa, which commands a dominating pass through the hills of Central Tunisia. However, that thunder of artillery fire is interpreted as being of large significance. London military opinion regards it as a preliminary to an all out Allied offensive to smash the Axis in Tunisia.

We are told that the strategy for the big drive is to begin with a break through at Gafsa. The first blow will be launched at a huge concentration of force at that point, the objective being to crash through to the coast. Gafsa is in Central Tunisia, where a successful forward lunge would cut the Nazi armies in two---separating Rommel's Afrika Korps at the Mareth Line from the northern German forces, which seized positions in Tunisia to begin with. With the Axis line cut in two, the obliteration of the divided forces would be the military matter of crushing one

2-North Africa

and then the other.

London tells us that the blow at Gafsa will be struck by Americans and French^{and} if they succeed in taking the place Rommel would have a hard time in pulling his Afrika Korps northward to join the other Nazi forces--^{because} the capture of Gafsa would narrow so greatly the corridor through which he would have to draw them.

All of which takes us to a very different theater of war---the Atlantic, the submarine menace. Because^{we are told that it's} ~~it is~~ the U-boat that has slowed up our North Africa operations thus far.^{and} We have some figures on the subject tonight, statistics forwarded by United Press correspondent Virgil Pinkley. From information that he has obtained at allied headquarters in North Africa--It takes ten tons of equipment to land one American soldier in that theater of war and a ton and a half a month to keep him going. This includes supplies and the means of transporting the supplies. During the first three months of the North African campaign eight hundred ships brought six and a half million tons, and a year

3-North Africa

of war would require twenty five million tons.

Army experts figure that in the winning of a war seventy per cent depends on supplies---and the Nazi submarine campaign is the number one factor endangering that seventy per cent of victory.

At the London house of commons today Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated that he was satisfied with the way Allied sea forces were fighting the U-boats. Churchill appearing for the first time after his illness, got an immense ovation in the House of Commons.

In Washington, ^{was held} an anti-submarine conference, ^{with American,} British and Canadian naval officers coordinating plans for the protection of our war supply lines. ~~for the protection of our~~ ^{the U.S.} ~~war supply lines.~~ Admiral King, commander-in-chief of ^{United} ~~States~~ fleet, was chairman of the conference, which today issued the following report: "Complete agreement was reached on the policy to be pursued in the protecting of allied shipping in the Atlantic."

4-North Africa

All of which has a pertinent relation to the thunder of
American guns at Gafsa today.

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NAVY

A late bulletin from the navy department announces the sinking of four more Japanese vessels--- including a destroyer. In other words, new victories for the United States undersea fleet. The Navy, listing a whole series of American submarine victories, names---a destroyer sunk, two cargo vessels sent to the bottom and one large transport. Three other ^{Japanese} ships were damaged in the undersea drive against the enemy lines of communication.

SENATE

Into the United States ^{here in Washington} senate, today, was entered the much

debated resolution to put the Senate on record as being in favor of the establishment of an international system after the war--- world organization, with the United States playing a full part.

The resolution was offered by Republican Senator Ball of Minnesota, who acted in behalf of a group of four that is backing the idea. The others of the four are Democratic Lister Hill of Alabama, Democratic Carl Hatch of New Mexico, and Republican Sen, Harold Burton of Ohio.

A five point program was presented. It calls for a United Nations plan, and suggests economic measures, political procedures for maintaining peace, and military procedures.

The resolution favors the establishment of a United Nations military force to suppress any future aggression. The sponsors of the measure indicate that President Roosevelt approves of their program, approves---"in principle."

2-Senate

Today, however, one administration stalwart said he wasn't so sure about that. Senator Connally of Texas, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, declared: "Neither the White House nor the State Department has indicated to me approval of the resolution in its present form." He himself does not favor the idea of summoning an immediate council of the United Nations to consider means for winning the war and for establishing the peace thereafter. The Senator from Texas argued that the military leaders of the United Nations are best equipped to decide about war measures. And, as for postwar organization, he contended that a United Nations conference right now might handicap the prosecution of the war ---because it would, most likely, produce disagreements about who is to get what. The Senator added that the resolution would plunge the Senate into a long and bitter debate---on the subject of the place the United States should take in rearranging the world after the war.

In Washington it is expected that the resolution will bring about the biggest debate the Senate has had since it rejected the League of Nations twenty four years ago. In the upper house of Congress right now there are seven senators who voted against the League of Nations and several of ~~the~~ them at least are expected to oppose the issue of internationalism as projected by the resolution.

Warm support of the attitude of internationalism is given by Wendell Willkie. This afternoon he wired his congratulations to the four senators who proposed that the Senate ~~shall~~ commit itself right now to a world arrangement after the war. "Let me know if there is anything I can do to help," telegraphs Willkie.

SALARIES

The senate finance committee today rejected the lower House amendment to repeal the President's twenty five thousand dollar a year salary limitation. However, it was not the salary limitation repeal at which the committee balked. They objected to other parts of the measure. They are going to retain the salary limitation repeal in a new amendment that they are preparing. The amendment is attached to the bill to raise the national debt limit from a hundred and twenty five billions to two hundred and ten billions of dollars.

DEWEY

Here in Washington tonight they are noting the striking victory scored by Governor Dewey in the New York State legislature today. He put through a reapportionment bill affecting the assembly and state senate---entirely a New York matter, but Dewey is decidedly a national figure nowadays and the success of his administration in Albany is being watched closely by the political seers and sages.

For years there have been vain attempts to get a reapportionment bill through the New York legislature. Democratic Governor Lehman, in spite of his great political strength, couldn't do it---even when he had a democratic majority in the legislature. The Tammany delegation from New York City turned against him on the reapportionment issue.

Dewey today put his bill through by almost a unanimous vote---forty four to seven. Even the democratic opposition joined in support of the bill. The attitude of the democrats was that, since they couldn't stop it, they wanted to get the bill through as quickly as possible---to test it in the courts.

Dewey 2

They believe that the Dewey reapportionment plan will be
declared unconstitutional.

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PARACHUTISTS

In case you happen to spot an enemy parachutist

descending from the sky, or think you do ---consider today's

report on the parachute rumors issued ^{here in Washington} by the FBI. J. Edgar

Hoover's organization for home front defense ^{announces} that, since last June, it has investigated a hundred-and-seventy-four

reports of enemies descending from the sky---and found there

wasn't anything to any of them. ^{Some of these reports came from my own neighborhood, Dutchess County and one man in New York state told how} reported that he had seen what

he called ---"a grayish white mass in the sky resembling a

parachute." That enemy from the sky turned out to be a flock of

birds.

A family in Vermont were positive they had seen a parachutist come down in a grove of trees. Investigation disclosed that

what they ^{saw} was a kite flown by a boy, who was standing near

his father, who was painting a flagpole. ^{And -} The combination of kite

and flagpole had a sinister look ^{apparently.} ~~Parachutist~~ of some kind of enemy parachute

~~operation.~~ with a tall gun I suppose.

2-Parachutist

* Parachutist landed in Maryland, ^{That} ~~such~~ was the alarming
report, ^{well,} ~~that flashed.~~ The FBI traced the rumor to a farmer who
had spotted the parachutist ^{And} on the ground. The enemy agent
from the sky turned out to be a man carrying a sack of flour
on his back.

So don't mistake birds, kites and sacks of flour for
parachutists.

RIOT

Today at Portland, Maine, a couple of battlers were under arrest, and numerous other bfilligerents ^{were} ~~were~~ nursing cuts and bruises after trips to hospitals. This followed a wild riot early in the morning. Why the fracas? Well, the audience didn't like the show.

It must have been the world's worst show, judging from the results it produced---a midnight performance for armament and shipyard workers. The theatre was jammed ---with three thousand men from the night shifts. I don't know who the performers were---the news dispatch mercifully leaves them nameless. They did vaudeville acts, and must have been terrible---sour singing, flatfoot dancing, and the jokes not funny in the least.

The trouble began when a bunch of war workers hollered--^{that} they wanted their money back. The show was that bad. Somebody threw something at a stage entertainer, who was not so entertaining, ^{and}

then ~~The~~ the crowd started to take the theater apart. They ripped up the seats, tore down the bannisters, smashed windows and doors, and pulled down the fixtures. The luckless vaudeville artists beat a hasty retreat, or they might have been lynched.

The rioters battled among themselves. Two thousand tangled in the wild melee. Streaming out of the theater, they continued the turmoil in the streets---fighting all over the place. The police joined-in, reinforced by the fire department, ^{and} the military police of the army and shore patrols of the navy. It was two hours before the disturbance could be put down---all because the singers couldn't sing, the dancers couldn't dance, and the comedians/weren't funny. Every vaudeville actorⁿ wants to bring down the house---but not that way.

And now Hugh, how about a little act from you. ~~I~~ I'll promise not to throw things ~~at you~~ my chair or this microscope at you no matter what you say.