

AFRICA

P. 7. - Sunoco. ^{Wed.} Thursday, April 7, 1943.

The latest from North Africa is ^{an official} a bulletin that the British Eighth Army has linked up with the Americans. The British driving from the south have joined forces with the Americans, who pushed from the west - moving at a right angle to the British line of advance. Rather like people who move together along roads that cross each other. ^{It's an historic event.} ~~The news of the junction~~ ^{The 8th Army that started out from} ~~comes from the Morocco Radio.~~ ^{Egypt is now hand in hand with the} ~~Americans.~~ The British smashed forward last night against Rommel's fortifications north of Gabes. This was announced by Prime Minister Churchill in the London House of Commons this morning, Churchill telling how the assault was hurled in the dark of night, the black African night without a moon. The Axis enemy was taken completely by surprise, and the Eighth Army ripped into the strongly defended front. An enemy counter-attack was hurriedly organized, and ~~■~~ lurched

forward savagely. ^{But} It was beaten off, and the British continued to press forward. Dawn broke, with the red African sun, and the Eighth Army veterans were in open country beyond fortifications. Fighting was ferocious, and the assault as violent as that which cracked the El Alamein line ~~once~~ ^{months} before - when Rommel was smashed out of Egypt. So states the British command.

With his fortifications breached, Rommel could only take it on the run again. And this he did, pulling out northward - the British in close pursuit.

The Americans, meanwhile, were cooperating with a drive of their own - the push about which we heard last night. They drove forward in the El Guettar area, making an advance of six miles. And now their forward move has brought them in contact with the on-coming British, with the junction of forces. ~~that is reported by the Morocco radio.~~

Rommel on the retreat is apparently pulling back a long way. The fortifications through which the British burst represent the last natural barrier of hills and rugged lands, until the tip of Tunisia is reached. It is believed that Rommel will retire to that constricted space, where the terrain is mountainous and suitable for defense. There, ~~with the~~ⁱⁿ conjunction ^{with} of the Nazi troops already at the tip, he will stand siege. ^H Meaning - the climactic struggle is drawing near, and a violent clash will ensue when we ^{strike to} tear the North African Nazis from their last toehold - the fortified ^{corner} ~~part~~ of Tunis-Bizerte. The final stage of the campaign seems to be at hand, and it is likely to be the toughest fight of all.

NAZI PROTEST

We hear that the Nazis are accusing Marshal Petain and the Vichy Government with what the Nazis call - "tolerating conspiracy in American consulates in French North Africa;" - *that is before the invasion.*

~~The latest conspiracy taking place, of course, before the American and British North African~~

~~offensive.~~ The German charge, said to have been made in a letter to Petain, is interesting because it discloses information that the enemy claims to have.

The Nazis tell of a secret conference between Robert Murphy, the American diplomatic representative who took part in the preparation of the offensive, and French General Weygand. Weygand, famous military leader and supporter of Petain, is said to have talked things over with Murphy, who presented the General with a personal message from President Roosevelt.

Weygand promised to keep the whole thing secret and told Murphy he was in favor of the Allied cause. "He also stated," says the Nazi letter to Petain, "that Germany's total defeat was absolutely necessary, and that he was ready to do his utmost to accelerate it."

Weygand is now a prisoner in Germany.

STALIN

We hear from London that Stalin is studying English. The war leader of the Soviets has been no linguist hitherto -- sticking to Russian for conversation. Well, I've been thinking lately that our leaders might well be studying Russian! But it's the other way around; and, maybe, the next thing you know Stalin will be able to get up at one of those Moscow parleys and recite the Declaration of Independence

London says that he made up his mind at the time of Winston Churchill's visit to the Soviet capital last August. Churchill is a past master in handling the King's English, so maybe Stalin was sorry because he couldn't understand a word of it. He missed those stately Churchillian terms of speech, so ultra-English, and had to take them in Russian -- in which they may not have sounded so ultra-English.

On the other hand, Stalin may be thinking about a meeting with President Roosevelt, and may figure he'll need a bit of English to penetrate some

of that F.D.R. phraseology. I wonder how some of those Rooseveltian terms of speech would sound in Russian -- suppose the President said -- "My friends, this fireside chat is about the four freedoms." Maybe in Russian that would be -- "Novorossisk, Staraya Russa, Velikie Luki, Mirsk, .Pinsk." So no wonder Stalin is studying English.

FAR EAST

We have an interesting disclosure tonight of recommendations made by a group of Far Eastern diplomats and experts assembled by the Institute of Pacific Relations last December. Their opinions were circulated at a luncheon during which the Institute was addressed by Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles.

~~The diplomats and experts who~~ ^{They} included Chinese representatives. ^{And the} ~~proposed~~ ^{was} that upon victory, Tokyo should be occupied by Asiatic troops of the Allies - not by American and British soldiers but by Asiatics like the Chinese. They urged that Japan should be completely disarmed, and all its colonial possessions taken away.

They ~~rejected~~ rejected a suggestion that the Imperial Palace of Tokyo should be destroyed, and doubted that the Japanese war criminals could ever be ^h punished properly. _^

One idea advanced was specifically opposed by the Chinese delegates. Some thought that battalions of Japanese forced labor should be sent into China to repair the war damage that the invader has inflicted. But the Chinese said - No, they did not want anything like that. They argued that the way to cure the Japs of their mania for aggression was to make peace seem attractive to the Japanese people - peace so attractive that they would prefer it to war. Which opinion seems to have some kind of Chinese philosophy in it.

Well, everything is settled in the case of the
~~and~~ the
newsmen ~~and~~ forthcoming United Nations conference on food.

Elmer Davis, head of the Office of War Information,
stated this afternoon that the news correspondents will
be permitted to sit in on the full sessions of the
conference, and report them without restriction.

So this ends all the hullabaloo raised by the supposition
that the men of the news might be excluded.

ARMY

In Congress ructions are being raised ^{over} a new order issued by the War Department. This regulation forbids any man on active army duty to run for political office. Now, who is the army man that you might think of as a possible political candidate?

The question wa's promptly answered in Congress today when Representative Bennett of Missouri said -

MacArthur. He denounced the new army order as an attempt to eliminate General Douglas MacArthur, the hero of Batan, from consideration as a possible presidential candidate in Nineteen Forty-Four.

There has been talk that the Republicans might nominate MacArthur, ~~a thing that would seem to be a great relief~~ ^{although the General himself} ~~has declared himself out of politics.~~ ^{has declared himself out of politics.} ~~out by the new regulation.~~

Another name ~~that is~~ mentioned is - LaGuardia.

New York's M^ayor is not a general yet, and maybe he won't be, but he might become a colonel or something

like that. If so, the regulation announced today would keep him from running for political office - which LaGuardia does *regularly and well.* ~~better than anything else.~~

As a general, in fact, His Honor might be tempted to win an election instead of a battle, and capture votes instead of the enemy. You can almost hear the general command - "Forward march, boys, over the top and roll up a big majority." But the fiery Fiorello couldn't do that, according to the edict the War Department now has issued. So maybe he had better be content with winning the war as Mayor, instead of winning elections as a general.

RESCUE

Tonight rescue parties are pushing through the snow in the mountains of Idaho, toiling their way toward a place where an army pilot in a plane overhead saw a message. The message was spelled out in the snow. It said: "One Okay."

Last Tuesday, a big army bomber, with a crew of nine, had engine trouble over the mountains, and the nine men bailed out. They went parachuting down and landed - scattered at wide intervals in the frozen wilderness.

On Monday, five of the nine were rescued, and ever since a search has been on for the other four. And it may have been one of these who wrote on the snow - "One Okay."

FARM BILL

Late this afternoon the Senate ^{decided} ~~voted~~ to send the ^{vetoed} Bankhead Bill back to the Agriculture Committee.

The administration forces wanted to bring it to a vote, to see whether or not the President's veto would be over-ridden. The certainty was ^{- it would} not. It was entirely apparent that the two-thirds vote necessary to go over the veto could not be had. So the anti-administration farm bloc wanted to send the bill back, and keep it in the Committee - for future reference - on ice. And they won out.

~~In the debate preceding the vote, Senator Barkley of Kentucky touched upon a delicate point - the subject of changing his vote. Senator Barkley, as administration leader, was against recommitment and in favor of a decision on the veto. He, of course, would cast his vote to sustain the veto. Yet he himself had voted in favor of the bill. Nearly all the~~

TAXES

Congress, it seems, can't get away from the matter of taxes -- well, who can? Today Congressman McCormick of Massachusetts, Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, got behind an increased effort to get action on pay-as-you-go. He said that he hoped that the house would get around to a ~~pay-as-you-go~~ tax bill before taking a recess at Easter. This action by the Democratic leader is the more significant, as the Ruml pay-as-you-go plan was beaten by the administration Democratic majority.

At the same time, Democratic congressman Anderson of New Mexico is moving to get action on pay-as-you-go. He is getting other Democratic law makers to sign a letter calling upon Congress to do something about taxation ^{and do it} in a hurry. The letter is addressed to Congressman Doughton of North ~~Caroline~~, who is Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, ^{and} ~~is~~ a number one opponent to the Ruml Plan, and the question of taxation is now in the hands of his committee. He believes the

whole thing should go over and be delayed until the committee has dealt with other important legislation. The signers of the round-robin letter to Chairman Doughton hope to persuade him to change his mind. The sponsor of the letter, Democratic Congressman Anderson claims he has twenty-six signatures and adds that thirty or forty other Democratic congressmen are interested.

WAR LOAN

Today a leading citizen spoke up and said:

"I'm a great salesman." He was, in fact, the most leading ~~man~~ of all the citizens - ^{the} President. ~~Roosevelt~~

At the White House, ^{he} ~~the President~~ gave an exhibition of selling - handing out the merchandise and raking in the cash. The merchandise consisted of bonds. The customers were members of the White House staff. The salesmanship was ^a preliminary to the launching of the Second War Loan drive, which begins next week - April Twelfth.

Speaking of the White House staff, the President said: "This is like a great many other American houses throughout the country. Most of us have got some member of the family in the fighting forces of the United States and we back home are trying to do out ^{it} bit too. We subscribe."

The first sale was made to a White House

messenger, an elderly negro named John Pye, ^{who} ~~he~~ handed
Eighteen Dollars and Seventy-Five cents to the
President, and got his bond. And then the rest of the
merchandise went like hot cakes, and the President
congratulated himself, saying: "I'm a great salesman."

Of course, the customers did not exhibit much
sales resistance, not too much ^{far} ~~of~~ the presidential
salesmanship to ^{overcome.} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ And, on the other hand,
Mr. President, who couldn't sell that kind of
merchandise. Old Titus J. Skinflint himself would
jump at the chance to invest in America.

SCIENCE

Here's a hot flash from the world of science.

Two professors have discovered something new - the mystacocarida. What is that? It's a kind of micrometazoa.

The two professors had quite a search, snooping around in the water along the coast. And, low and behold, they discovered a small peculiar kind of entomostracan. And were they excited! They thought at first these were copepods, but they were not. Next the professors thought they had found what they call - an aberrant species of harpacticoida. *But no they were mystacocarida.*

What are they like? "They are probably facultative anerobes," say the professors, and their mandibles are biramous. What words those professors use! However, they do get around to one scientific term that we can all understand. The word - female. The new critters are all females, all girls and no boys. Does that excite

the burning admiration of the professors? Not at all.

They tell us that because the mystacocarida are all females, they are probably the most primitive of living

crustaceans. Hear that, ladies? ~~The professors might~~

~~seem to imply that we keep you from being primitive.~~
Hear that, ^{Hugh - I mean} ~~Hugh~~, Don Lowe?