

L.T. - SUNOCO, Wednesday, May 13, 1942

I'm overwhelmed, Mr. Plummer. Many thanks to you and to Movie-Radio Guide, and to all those who had anything to do with this national poll. I mean those who did the voting!

I ALMOST FORGOT TO SAY -- GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY! Now for the news of the world!

It looks as though the expected Nazi drive against Russia were really under way. But we should watch the dispatches carefully because ~~the~~ most of them are coming from the German side, and they claim a spectacular victory. Hitler is boasting that he took the Russians in the Crimea by surprise -- that he did it with a terrific mass attack of planes, that his armies have over-run the Reds on the Kerch peninsula, surrounding them, annihilating them, and taking some forty thousand prisoners.

In London the news is that what they term a battle to the bitter end is raging on that narrow peninsula stretching from the Crimea toward the Caucasus mainland. But, London has word that the battle is still going on; that the ~~new~~ new Russian stormovik anti-tank planes

have been most successful, and that the first American triple turret tanks have been fighting in that battle.

The British <sup>also</sup> have reports that scores of Nazi tanks and dive bombers have been destroyed <sup>as well as</sup> ~~and also~~ twenty-five

hundred German soldiers. <sup>But</sup> ~~Even the~~ British military experts

admit that the issue is clouded. <sup>however</sup> ~~But~~ They point out that

Nazi official communiques about the Crimea <sup>in the past</sup> have often

proved exaggerated. ~~in the past.~~

The Nazis <sup>story is</sup> ~~insist~~ that they have broken through at Kerch, destroyed <sup>ing</sup> ~~ed~~ a hundred and ninety-seven of the Red Army's fighting cars, five hundred and ninety-eight guns, and two hundred and sixty airplanes. They add that the beaten Red Army is being pursued. They declare that the surprise attack on the Russians was made by the greatest number of planes of all types ever concentrated on such a narrow battlefield.

The intensive activity on the front was echoed

within Germany by an order issued to the people over the  
Nazi radio <sup>telling them</sup> to stay <sup>at</sup> home and use the railroads only for  
extreme necessity, as the needs of war are severely  
straining the Reich railroads. This order applies  
particularly to Whitsuntide ~~ide~~ a religious festival ~~celebrated~~  
celebrated far more in Europe than here, an occasion on  
which in normal times Germans go holiday-making and  
traveling. That <sup>order</sup> adds considerable support to a broadcast  
by Radio Vichy, <sup>order</sup> according to <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ Hitler's all-out  
offensive against Rostov and the Russian Caucasus is to  
begin next week.

The battle of the Kerch peninsula has now been  
going on for five days, and the story from Moscow is that  
Stalin's generals have thrown all the <sup>arms</sup> ~~armies~~ of the  
Caucasian <sup>no</sup> ~~ian~~ army, including the Black Sea fleet, into the <sup>struggle</sup> ~~struggle~~  
~~battle~~. Hitler, on the other hand, has been using up his  
best Spring reserves, <sup>they say</sup>

We still do not know what the new and improved  
*as weapons*  
fighting methods <sup>^</sup> are that the Nazis have been using. ~~But,~~

On the other hand, ~~we hear~~ even the Nazis admit that the  
Stormovik planes developed by the Russians are a

9 formidable weapon against tanks. They describe them as  
almost impervious to ordinary cannon fire, while they  
themselves shoot a whirling rocket-like projectile which  
pierces the armour of tanks. The Russians themselves  
gave out no information about the Stormoviks.

A still later communique from Berlin carries the  
claim that after breaking through the Russian lines, the  
Nazi Crimean armies moved east and north to the shores of  
*Sea of*  
the Azov and cut off Red Army ~~troops~~ <sup>forces there,</sup> Hitler's high

command says the Russian troops were so numerous and so  
concentrated that they were an easy target for <sup>the</sup> Nazi  
<sup>^</sup>  
air arm.

The evening communique from Moscow makes no

mention whatsoever of the fighting on the Crimean front,  
and that may be significant. <sup>TP</sup> Radio Moscow <sup>does</sup> claimed that the  
Red Army ~~xxx~~ has captured an important town on the  
northwestern front, but does not mention its name,  
just calls it "K". It has been reported that communiques  
of that nature are really code signals to Russian  
guerrilla troops behind the German lines.

ADD LEAD

Here is a still later communique from the Soviet High Command, fresh off the wire. It denies categorically the claims made at Hitler's headquarters. The Soviet High Command uses these words:- "The statement of the German High Command that fighting on the Kerch peninsula has ended in their favor and that German troops have captured a great number of prisoners, tanks and guns, is false."

However, the Soviet High Command does admit that Russian troops on the Kerch peninsula have retired to new positions in the face of superior enemy forces."

BURMA

General Stilwell's Chinese have cut the communication lines of the Japanese armies in north Burma. That is the most important news in the communique from Chinese headquarters at Chungking today. The Japanese had lines leading from Mandalay to Lashio, and from Bhamo to the town of Myitkyina, an important ~~place~~ <sup>transportation center</sup> in north Burma at the end of the railroad, and some fifty miles from the Chinese border. It was over these lines that the Japanese received reinforcements and munitions. But now they are cut off.

In spite of this bit of success, it appears that the Japanese are pressing northward in three columns. The Rome Radio broadcast a claim that they had smashed <sup>Japs</sup> <sup>their way</sup> into India, ~~territory~~ <sup>Chin Hills</sup> from the ~~north~~ and were driving a wedge between India and China, <sup>But that's doubted.</sup> ~~but that appears to be only~~ propaganda.

~~Of the three Japanese columns advancing north.~~

The main British army is still fighting its way out of Burma into India under the most difficult conditions. But there is reason to believe they will reach India in spite of everything, in spite of the Monsson weather, the jungle, and the Japanese. This we gather from a report by an American correspondent who escaped from Bangkok at the beginning of the war. Then he got through to India -- to Assam -- over trackless wastes, part of the time in a United States Army jeep. And he reports that the Imperial Army is fighting its way along the same route that he followed. They are having to drag their equipment over mountain tracks and through jungles, floundering through mosquito swamps and all the time fighting the Japanese.

The same correspondent reports that General Joe Stilwell personally has accomplished incredible feats of physical endurance. He risked his life constantly during the desperate days in the dusty valley below Mandalay. And when the Battle of Taunggyi began, he was only a hundred yards



from the main point of contact. When he had satisfied himself the battle was progressing according to plan, he refused to rest but drove back immediately, through a driving rain, to direct a strategic withdrawal at another point.

And here is another thriller from that Burmese front. On their drive to Kunming, the Japanese had gotten as far as the Salween River, and found only a small force guarding it. They wiped ~~out~~ it out to the last man and established headquarters, leaving their truck column two kilometers away. The fate of the entire Yunnan Province was in the balance, for apparently nothing could stop the Japanese from crossing the Salween during the night.

But suddenly, out of the low hanging dark clouds came two small P-Forty ~~air~~planes, piloted by American Flying Tigers. A Chinese officer who saw them said they swept so low over the truck column that they

appeared to touch the ground. In a veritable blanket of shrapnel they released bombs and set more than a dozen Japanese trucks afire. ~~right off the bat.~~

In a withering machine gun and rifle fusilade, those two Flying Tigers attacked five times. Then, their ammunition was exhausted, they flew off leaving somewhere between three-hundred and five-hundred Japanese lying on the ground. <sup>And</sup> The disorder they created gave time for Chinese reinforcements to reach the opposite bank of the Salween, <sup>there</sup> ~~River~~, to set up artillery batteries and machinegun posts, in readiness for the Japanese crossing. The consequence was, the Japanese did <sup>not</sup> even try to cross, the Chinese crossed <sup>the other way</sup> instead!

## SUBMARINES

Navy officials in Washington said today that Italian and German subs are concentrating in the Gulf of Mexico and in Florida waters. The Navy is increasing the use of blimps for submarine patrol. We hear that the Navy's lighter-than-air vessels have already rendered valuable service. We hear also that invaluable work on submarine patrol is being done by the Civil Air Patrol.

This arm is making itself useful in numerous ways. It is not only furnishing anti-submarine coast patrols but fire patrols in fire sections and courier service, doing errands for the Army, so saving military planes for strictly military purposes. The C.A.P. for instance is flying medical supplies. It brought help to areas recently stricken by tornadoes. The Flying Minute Men, as they are called, were until recently under the command of Major-General John F. Curry. Since he was transferred to Denver the national commander of the Patrol is Major Earl L. Johnson.

FRANCE

Here is the latest on Martinique and the other Caribbean islands. The Vichy Government has consented to demobilizing the three French warships at Martinique.

*This means*

~~That means~~, one modern aircraft carrier and two cruisers.

*And*

~~that is~~ the text of a formal note sent to Washington by Pierre Laval, chief of the Vichy Government, today.

At the same time, Laval refuses to hand over to the United States the hundred and fifty thousand tons of shipping in harbor at Martinique and the other French Antilles, ~~that~~ includes tankers and ~~ordinary~~ merchant ships.

Our own State Department, on the other hand, repeated once more that it ~~was~~ not conducting its negotiations over Martinique with Laval but with Admiral Robert, High Commissioner of the French Antilles; and, said the State Department, it will continue to negotiate with him. There were rumors running around Vichy today

that the Nazis had brought pressure on Laval, demanding that all the French merchant ships in the Caribbean should be scuttled if there seems to be any danger of their passing into the hands of the United States or our Allies.

POPE

Pope Pius today made a solemn declaration that war was threatening the sacred institution of the family.

It was just twenty-five years ago that the Pope was consecrated a Bishop, and he took this occasion to issue a special message to the rulers of the world, a word of peace, he called it, to all those at war. "We raise our voice once more with the utmost insistence," ~~he~~ <sup>TP</sup> said ~~the~~

<sup>Pope</sup>  
^  
"We think of the suffering in the occupied territories, of the hardships of prisoners, and of the wives who are separated from their husbands." <sup>Then he</sup> ~~He~~ described the family as the "second front."

The head of the ~~Roman-Catholic~~ Church <sup>of Rome</sup> ~~XXX~~

then used these words:- "During my term of office I have worked for peace with all of my might and heart. My appeals <sup>have</sup> ~~are~~ thus far <sup>gone</sup> ~~un~~heeded, so once again I lift my voice in a call for peace." And he continued:- "I know

such offers offend the parties concerned, whether in their

certainty of past victories or in hope of new ones.

But I warn the rulers of the world that the future of the world will be on their consciences." He advised them to conclude peace on principles of justice and moderation.

"A new world must be built," said the Pontiff, <sup>And he termed it</sup> "a world of brotherhood, <sup>^</sup> ~~so help us God.~~"

## GASOLINE

Several Congressmen were indignant because the public feels caustic about the <sup>Congressmen</sup> obtaining ~~an~~ "X" cards giving them unlimited gasoline. <sup>Whereupon</sup> Republican Representative

Clare Hoffman of Michigan told his colleagues they were too thin skinned. Most of them, he said, have been in Congress long enough to disregard criticism of that kind.

Other members of Congress declared that they needed unlimited gasoline in order to go home and <sup>see</sup> ~~visit~~ their

constituents. Still another said the stories in the newspapers were attempts to discredit Congress.

Representative Hebert of Louisiana said that steps should be taken to prevent newspapers from taking cracks at Congressmen. <sup>by the way</sup> Hebert himself used to be a newspaperman.

On the other hand, Senator Downey of California, declared that he is going to introduce a resolution in the Senate tomorrow, putting himself on record as not wanting ~~an~~ special privileges. The California



Senator thinks members of Congress should be on the same footing as their constituents.

The Office of Price Administration issued a statement that Congressmen were not given "X" cards just because they are Congressmen. They are issued only for cars used exclusively in government business.

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Complaints about the rationing were loudest in the country districts today. People living on farms and out of town said it was unfair to describe their ~~automobiles~~ automobiles as pleasure cars, because people who live in the country have to use their cars for the necessities of *life and hardly ever drove for pleasure.* ~~life~~ In many instances, volunteer firemen were refused cards entitling them to enough gasoline to <sup>answer</sup> ~~issue~~ fire calls. The fire trucks, of course, get all the gas they need, but a fire truck in rural districts isn't of much use ~~when~~ without enough firemen to man it.

The O.P.A. officials announce that if too many

"B" and "X" cards have been issued, they may be obliged to cut down the units below three gallons.

Later on in the afternoon, Price Administrator Leon Henderson issued a statement favoring ~~those~~ *I mentioned,* Congressmen. He declared that not only Representatives and Senators, but all other federal and state employees are entitled to unlimited gasoline if they use their own cars to transact business for a government agency. Not, however, if they use them just to get to and from their work. Then he used these words:- "I am relying on the good faith and patriotism of those who use "X" cards to see to it that the privilege is not abused for private use."

Mr. and Mrs. Henderson themselves have two cars, but they only have an "A" card for each, although Mrs. Henderson also works for the Government.