

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1943.

*Cannon*

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Two weeks ago General ~~Douglas~~ MacArthur sent us the glad news that his airmen had won a dramatic

naval battle, in the Bismarck Sea. <sup>Now</sup> Tonight we have <sup>ward</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>of another important victory, this time</sup> ~~glad tidings of a victory~~ on land, in Africa. ~~The~~

~~swashbuckling~~ <sup>Hardboiled</sup> <sup>(General)</sup> Lieutenant Patton, at the head of a hell-for-leather army of doughboys, rolled into Gafsa-

near the Tunisian coast <sup>---</sup> and took it away from Rommel.

~~It was~~ <sup>which</sup> a dramatic feat that Patton added to a career <sup>And - he</sup> ~~that~~ has had plenty of drama in it. <sup>He</sup> won this victory

the day after he was promoted from Major General to a <sup>a</sup> Lieutenant General. <sup>Also he had</sup> ~~He had~~ only just been appointed to the command of that section of the Allied line.

The capture of Gafsa is not only spectacular but of real importance. It was a place the Allied

strategy badly needed in <sup>central</sup> ~~southern~~ Tunisia. Patton's army is now <sup>hardly</sup> ~~not much~~ more than a hundred miles ~~away~~ from ~~Sir Bernard~~ Montgomery's British Eighth Army.

~~At the same time, it is~~ from Axis communique we learn that Montgomery <sup>is hammering away at</sup> ~~has begun his all-out attack on~~ the Mareth Line. Radio Berlin claimed <sup>5</sup> that German and Italian troops resisted and repelled the British attacks. <sup>But it added that the British offensive is growing stronger.</sup> ~~On~~

<sup>Concerning</sup> that part of the fighting front, <sup>the</sup> ~~our own~~ Allied communique ~~do not~~ say <sup>no</sup> ~~anything~~, except that in the Mareth area our positions were improved. Observers in London point out that such scarcity of news indicates pretty clearly that an attack is going on. When any new operation begins, ~~very~~ <sup>through</sup> little news come until it has been completed.

With the capture of <sup>American General</sup> ~~Gafsa~~, Patton threatens to trap the Axis army defending the Mareth Line. <sup>TP</sup> While the Americans <sup>afe</sup> in Gafsa, a French column is advancing from

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the south. ~~So if all goes well,~~ <sup>So,</sup> Rommel ~~will~~ <sup>may</sup> be hemmed in between Montgomery, and the French, and the Americans, and the Mediterranean Sea.

In the advance on Gafsa, the ~~United States Army~~ <sup>U.S. forces</sup> drove ahead forty-two miles at one smash. The attack on the city began with strong artillery fire. <sup>TF</sup> Rommel was expected to make a stand at El Quettar, but the Americans advanced ~~at such a pace that the Nazis~~ <sup>so fast the Nazis were forced</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>hurriedly,</sup> ~~withdrew,~~ <sup>but</sup> leaving the roads heavily sown with mines, ~~which~~ <sup>that</sup> delayed our advance. ~~but~~ American engineer units ~~are said to have made good time in clearing~~ <sup>are said to have made good time in clearing</sup> ~~cleaned the mines out in record time.~~ <sup>away the mines.</sup>

The next goal of <sup>Gen.</sup> Patton's army is Gabes, the port on the Mediterranean coast through which Rommel has been receiving most of the supplies for his armies. <sup>And</sup> That would cut Rommel off entirely from the Nazis in the north under General von Arnim, ~~and be left~~ ~~to face Americans from the North and British from the~~ ~~south.~~ So it seems probable that as the Americans approach Gabes, Rommel

will have to abandon the Mareth Line, or be surrounded, or driven into the sea.

*appears to have been considerable*  
There ~~was huge~~ excitement in Africa~~n~~ over the

capture of Gafsa. The Algiers radio station announced the news ~~xx~~ with a fanfare of trumpets. Then a band played the ~~great~~ national anthem of the French Republic, "The Marseillaise". <sup>FF</sup> From our point of view, the taking

of Gafsa was all the better because it was done by the same American doughboys who <sup>got a roughing from</sup> ~~had such a rough time in~~

*the Nazis in*

~~the retreat from Faid Pass, last month. It is the most~~

~~clear proof that our fellows are able to take a~~

~~shellacking and then make a swift come-back.~~

*All of which for the moment*  
Naturally, ~~this~~ makes Lieutenant George S.

Patton, Jr., the <sup>man</sup> ~~hero~~ of the hour. He is described as

a rip-roaring tank fighter. His men call him by a

picturesque name which by the etiquette of the air

I do not repeat, but you can read it in your newspaper.

He is a spectacular fellow, flamboyant, <sup>and</sup> ~~an~~ aggressive,

~~hell-for-leather officer.~~ Though he is fifty-seven

years old, he still wears two <sup>[cowboy]</sup> pearl handled revolvers.

~~Now does he sit well~~  
~~cowboy model.~~ He does not <sup>^</sup> sit back of the line to

<sup>a</sup> direct ~~the~~ fight, <sup>Instead he</sup> ~~but~~ dashes all over the place in a  
<sup>checking every part of the line. Thing that's going on.</sup>  
light tank. Twenty-five years ago he was aide to none

other than General ~~John J.~~ Pershing, first in Mexico,

later in France. And, it was he who led the first

American tank unit into action in the last war, for

which <sup>he got</sup> ~~they gave him~~ the Distinguished Service Cross.

~~and the Oak Leaves~~

TP At the taking of

~~You may recall that at the taking of~~

Casablanca, Patton led the way with a tommy gun in his

arms and his two six-shooters on his hips, ~~always in~~

~~the vanguard until the town surrendered.~~ He has made

himself a tank specialist and has his own theories about

<sup>l</sup> ~~that~~ kind of warfare ~~which~~ he is now putting into <sup>practice.</sup>

Here's a sidelight on him: -

~~practice.~~ He has taken a vow not to smoke or drink until he enters Tunis. And he is reported to have said that he hopes that will be soon. In fact, they attribute to him these words: "When I enter Tunis I hope somebody hands me a cigar and a bottle, ~~of whiskey.~~" His pet slogan is: "Go forward, always go forward. Go until the last shot is fired; go until the last drop of gasoline has gone, and then go forward on foot."

So much for central and southern Tunisia, but there is also news from further north. There, *Hitler's* General von Arnim is attacking. Our men gave way in places, ~~so that~~ <sup>and</sup> the enemy, as the Allied communique admits, made local gains, <sup>which our people never</sup> ~~But they were later restored~~ by counter-attack, ~~and fighting continues.~~

U-BOATS

From all accounts, Hitler's U-boat campaign in the Atlantic is at its peak. This morning we heard the story of the coast guard cutter CAMPBELL and her fight with six under-water ships <sup>all at one</sup> ~~at a~~ time. Elsewhere as many as fourteen have been seen running in packs with many other known to be submerged. In short, the Nazis have literally scores of submarines raiding Atlantic Ocean traffic. The Allies are united in a campaign to beat them off, ~~that runs~~ all the way from the Mediterranean to the Arctic. <sup>We are told that</sup> New methods of detecting submarines and also destroying them have been developed.

At the same time, the Germans have been improving their U-boats. <sup>TP</sup> What we need is more destroyers, more corvettes, <sup>more</sup> frigates, <sup>^</sup> especially designed for submarine combat.

The authorities believe that the German Navy now has about five hundred submarines

fully equipped and able to operate. About one-third are on operations, another third on the way to their stations, one-third being refueled and refitted.

Whole packs of these undersea destroyers operate in relays. When they detect a convoy they just hover around with no limit on their ability to keep up.



## RUSSIA

The Russians and Germans along the Donets River are in their greatest test of strength since the fall of Stalingrad. What is going on at present is

*and tank*  
~~principally~~ an air battle or rather a series of

battles. Hitler has massed all his air army that he can spare from Tunisia and the defense of the west coast of Europe. He has literally hundreds of dive bombers

blazing away at the Russian line, trying desperately

to crack it. But so far that Russian line has managed

to stop cold every Nazi attack. With huge fleets in

the air, the General generals also have great masses of tanks on the ground. The Soviet command has gathered a large volume of anti-tank batteries and field guns.

The Germans claim to have advanced in the battle sector between Kharkov and Kursk. They ~~claim~~ <sup>say</sup>

~~to~~ <sup>they</sup> have thrown the Russians out of positions they have newly established. The Nazis also claim to have

surrounded and annihilated Soviet forces to the southeast of Kharkov.

But the picture ~~that~~ the Moscow communiques give is different. On the central front, two Russian armies are advancing westward. They are going along the well built highway from Vyazma to Smolensk. Another army is hitting south, wading through slush and mud and has reached a point within forty miles of Smolensk. They report that the retreating Germans are leaving a graveyard of Russian towns and villages behind them. The Russians have passed sixty inhabited places and are pressing ahead for all they are worth. They also claim to have recaptured two towns on the western bank of the Donets. But the battleline still runs east of Kharkov and extends all the way down to the Donets basin. That continues to be the danger point for the Red Army.

## ALEUTIANS

It now looks as though our high command had started a serious and concerted effort to blast the Japs out of the Aleutian Islands. American raids have not only become more powerful but more frequent.

In fact, the word from Washington is that they are almost <sup>at</sup> ~~on~~ a non-stop <sup>rate.</sup> ~~basis.~~ We are ~~giving~~ the Japanese garrison at Kiska no rest. ~~The~~ Day before yesterday,

for instance, there were three separate bombing raids on Kiska, on the Jap submarine base <sup>and</sup> the camp area,

~~and the airfield. There was also a hot dogfight.~~ On

our side <sup>in one fight</sup> ~~there~~ were eight 2-motored Lightning <sup>s</sup> ~~fighters~~

and an equal number of enemy planes. Two of the Jap aircraft were ~~definitely~~ destroyed and two others probably shot down.

~~These attacks were a quick follow-up to the six heavy raids made on Kiska during the previous twenty-four hours. The pilots observed effective hits~~

AUSTRALIA

A communique from Japan tends to back up the belief that the Japs are planning an invasion of Australia. Tokyo claimed today that Japanese naval aircraft had done heavy damages to American and Australian military establishments at Port Darwin. The Nipponese command also claimed to have shot down sixty out of thirty Allied interceptor planes, losing only one Japanese ~~plane~~ <sup>aircraft</sup>.

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General MacArthur's headquarters, on the other hand, had already announced that two Jap bombers with twelve fighters had been destroyed, and only four Allied planes. The damage to Port Darwin was only slight.

Frederick Jones, the Defense Minister of New Zealand, ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> added to the number of authorities who warned us that beating the Japanese is going to be a tough job. One reason, he said, is that they do not care how many men they lose.

COUNCIL

President Roosevelt has established a committee to advise him on post-war plans. Judging from what Presidential Secretary Steve Early said, <sup>this</sup> ~~it~~ is a permanent committee to meet once a week. It will confer with the President on what Early called "certain phases of post-war development." It consists of Secretary of State Cordell Hull, Under-Secretary Sumner Welles, Red Cross Chairman Norman Davis; Dr. Isiah Bowman, President of Johns-Hopkins; Dr. Leo Pasvolsky, political advisor to Secretary Hull; and Myron C. Taylor, who has been special envoy for Mr. Roosevelt to the Vatican and other places.

The four great powers of the United Nations are now in complete accord on the conduct of the war. So <sup>yo</sup> ~~sa~~ <sup>re</sup> British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, <sup>who added</sup> ~~He went on~~ to ~~say~~ <sup>s</sup> that he hoped <sup>^</sup> they <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ also be in agreement on the peace to follow. He said this to several senators and representatives whom he met at luncheon today.

MANPOWER

The War Manpower Commission came in for an attack from the President of the Connecticut Manufacturers ~~Association~~ today. Alfred C. Fuller declared that this Commission is wasting the time of business executives and causing many <sup>vital war</sup> man-hours of work to be lost.

Meanwhile, Under-Secretary of War Patterson told a group of Senators that compulsory war service by civilians is necessary. <sup>That</sup> It will make a quicker victory possible. <sup>If done then</sup> ~~he declared: If it is enacted and enforced,~~ the United States would have an armed establishment by the end of this year of ten million, eight hundred thousand men.

<sup>Under-secy.</sup> Patterson went on to say that compulsory service will lessen the loss of life on the fighting front and bring about a more equitable distribution of burdens on the home front.

~~Under-Secretary~~ What the Under-Secretary was

arguing for is the Austen-Wadsworth Bill <sup>which</sup> ~~it~~ would enact the drafting of all men from sixteen to sixty-four for essential war work, <sup>and</sup> all women from eighteen to forty-nine.

~~No less an authority than Bernard Baruch has expressed the opinion that this would amount to slavery. It is one thing, he pointed out, to draft a man for military service, for there he is not working for anybody else's profit. If a man is drafted for work in a factory, he is compelled to work for somebody else's profit.~~

~~Labor leaders take the same view. To contradict that,~~ Patterson declared that the British have had three years' experience <sup>with</sup> ~~of~~ compulsory service and <sup>the</sup> that experience has shown that it <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ not oppressive, not destructive to individual initiative, nor to sound cooperative effort. <sup>Under Secy.</sup> Patterson said <sup>further</sup> that if we had had

compulsory service, we ~~sh~~ould have produced at least  
five hundred <sup>more</sup> planes last month than we did produce.

————— o —————  
Captain Eddie Rickenbacker today expressed  
the opinion that it ~~would~~ <sup>will</sup> take fifteen million men  
in ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> armed forces to win the war. Three years ago,  
he predicted that we could do it with ten million,  
~~but~~ <sup>s</sup> now he has revised <sup>d</sup> his figures.



SHORTAGE FOLLOW RATIONING

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The Price Administration branch office at San Francisco sends out a call for help. There are acute shortages of meat in nine areas of the Pacific coast. So the Regional Director has appealed to the head office at Washington for relief. The San Francisco O.P.A. says the shortage now seriously endangers efficiency, dispatch of the war effort, public health and morale. War workers are not able to obtain enough meat.

*Bender of*  
★ Congressman ~~from~~ Oregon made the charge on the floor of the House today that forty thousand gallons of tomato soup had been dumped into Lake Erie at Cleveland. The reason, he said, was that government agencies, he did not say which, had bungled the processing of the soup so that it was unfit to eat. It was <sup>worth</sup> ~~sixty~~-eight thousand dollars, he said, and belonged to the Surplus Commodity Corporation of the Department of Agriculture.

## RATIONING

Families living on farms will be on their honor not to eat any more meat, butter and cheese than city folks. This we learn from the Office of Price Administrator Prentiss ~~M~~ Brown, today. They will be asked to sell all they can, <sup>^</sup> put it on the market, — <sup>and</sup> keeping ~~ing~~ for their own tables only what they would use if they were townspeople using war ration book Number Two. And the O.P.A. will also ask them not to use the full number of their red coupons in the ration book.

<sup>8</sup> <sup>77</sup> The Price Administrator <sup>says however he</sup> does not propose to try using ~~MP~~ police to enforce rationing.

It has been calculated that there are something like twenty-four million people living on farms in the U.S.A. <sup>And</sup> If the honor system <sup>should</sup> break down, it <sup>would</sup> ~~will~~ cause a grave shortage for other people.

<sup>8 1/2</sup> Suppose, for instance, every member of every farm family ate two ounces of butter a week more than the

ration for other ~~people~~<sup>falls</sup> — the difference would mean  
a hundred and sixty-eight million pounds of butter a  
year. If every farmer and his family ate half a pound  
of meat more than the two and a quarter pounds allowed  
to other people, they would consume an extra six  
hundred and twenty-four million pounds a year.

9 now Hugh