

L.T.-SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The long expected Axis attack in Libya has begun. Obviously, ~~it was~~ timed to synchronize with the battle of Kharkov, which is now at its height. The affair in the African desert is no mere skirmish, ~~but a~~ ^{it's} another battle in which ~~a battle started by~~ a strong German and Italian ~~armored~~ ^{Panzer} column ^{lunges} towards Egypt. ~~The~~ Nazi Commander-in-Chief Rommel sent his tank spearhead seventy miles across the desert, ~~toward~~ ^{on} Egypt, led by strong squadrons of dive bombers. When they reached a point south of Tobruk in that area of No Man's Land, they were met by British soldiers from the army of General Auchinleck and ~~a~~ ^{the} big battle is now ~~on~~ ^{raging} in the area known as Bir Hacheim.

And it's a tough
~~It is a weird~~ time to begin an offensive

because the summer heat of North Africa ^{right now is terrific.} ~~is now extreme.~~

~~But~~ The latest Nazi tanks are ^{reported to be} equipped with cooling

equipment ^{to enable} ~~and~~ the gunners in those rolling steel

fortresses ^{to} ~~can~~ fight without the terrific suffering

that went on in the tank battles of the earlier years of the war.

^{Launched by!} ~~This attack of Rommel's makes~~ ^{adds to the tension} the whole war of

situation ~~tenser, and sets all the~~ military experts ~~to~~ ^{are asking is} ~~guessing.~~ ^{can} this be the southern nipper of a pincer's

movement aimed at the communication lines and oilfields ^{both} of the Allies in the Caucasus and the Middle East?

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H There are hints that Rommel may even be able to outnumber the British Imperial forces in the Middle East, because the ceaseless attacks on Malta have served as a mask for the sending of huge reinforcements across the Mediterranean. ^H On the other hand, American tanks and planes have been sent to General Auchinleck. ~~Thus,~~

LEAD : 3

Tonight we

~~we~~ have no way of even guessing at the strength of the

forces on either side. It has been reported that the

Nazis have been landing large numbers of parachutists

on the island of Crete, so there is a possibility that

if Rommel makes any headway in the desert, there will

be an attack on Cyprus, to precede an invasion of the

main ^{land} ~~line~~ of the ^{— Syria, It is} Levant. ~~It was~~ also suggested that the

beginning of the Axis offensive in the Middle East will

herald a strong Japanese attack on India.

RUSSIA

Kharkov

Tonight's report from ~~the Russian front~~ announces that Timoshenko's Red Army has delivered heavy blows at the Nazis, *and has* stopped Hitler's counter-offensive at a crucial point on the Soviet southern flank. At one point Cossack cavalry forged ahead more than thirty-seven miles after penetrating the German lines. They recaptured a strategic high position that the Nazis had taken from them, and killed more than two thousand German troops. The RED STAR, organ of the Red Army, declares th[at the fighting has become even fiercer around Kharkov, *and that the* The Russians are consolidating and inflicting severe casualties on the Nazis.

The Russians claim ~~that~~ they have destroyed so many German tanks that instead of attacking with a hundred and fifty tanks in one mass, the Nazi units *each.* are now restricted to twenty or thirty. The Reds also declare that they have ~~destroyed~~ *killed* all the Nazi parachute

troopers that landed behind the Russian lines, and ^{that} the German Stuka dive bombers have been practically eliminated.

All this is quite hopeful. At the same time, Moscow acknowledges that the Germans in front of Kharkov are holding on tenaciously in spite of their huge losses in both men and materials.

The Germans, ~~for their part~~, say ~~that~~ they are making quick headway with the annihilation of the Soviet armies that are surrounded south of Kharkov.

TF Broadcasts from Stockholm were heard in London, reporting that the Germans had reached a town forty miles to the southeast of Kharkov and twenty-five miles to the west of Izyum. That story is not confirmed, but if it is true, it ^{would} ~~will~~ mean that a considerable section of the Russian ~~XXXXXX~~ left wing is pocketed.

AIR RAIDS

There ~~was~~ were fresh rumors today about that ^{Confabulation} ~~conference~~ in London between high officers of the American and British armies. The latest is that they are planning an air attack upon Germany such as the world has never seen before, air raids on a scale hitherto only dreamed of by writers of fiction. Definite preparations are being mapped out, ~~so says~~ ~~the report,~~ to drop at least two hundred tons of bombs on Germany every night. And some of these will be what are known as block bombs, new projectiles that are so big and so devastating that one of them can lay an entire city block in ruins.

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This report followed the arrival of Lieutenant-General Somervell in London to join the conference. ^{Somervell} ~~You will recall he~~ is head of Service ~~and~~ Supply in Uncle Sam's Army. With him is Brigadier-~~General~~ ^{head} General Lee, ~~Commander~~ of the new air command of the

armed ground forces, ^{of the United States. The} ~~The hope of the~~ Allies ^{hope} ~~is~~ to be
able to send a thousand bombers over Germany ^{per} a night.

Some of these will be huge affairs with a speed of
more than two hundred miles an hour ~~and able to~~ dropping
^{five and even} ~~from five to~~ eight tons of explosives ^{apiece} from a height of
six or seven miles in the air.

HANGMAN

In the Nazi Gestapo, there is a high official named Reinhard Heydrich. He is the Number Two man in that bloody secret police. Apparently he is one of the most ruthless of all time, for even the Nazis themselves describe him as "Der Henker", "The Hangman".

Wherever Heydrich has gone, heads have fallen. His official title at present is Protector of Bohemia and Moravia.

The affection that sanguinary fellow has inspired evidently came to a climax today when somebody tried to kill him at Prague. The attempt was a failure, for the Nazi news agency announced that he is out of danger. What the Nazi Government thinks of him may be judged by the fact that a prize ~~XXXX~~ amounting to

four hundred thousand dollars has been put up on the heads of the people who tried to assassinate him. *and*
Anybody who knows about and fails to turn informer will be instantly executed.

Another consequence of the attack is that there is a strict curfew in Prague, tonight, civilians forbidden to be in the streets after nine at night, anybody away from home to be shot, all places of entertainment closed, all public transportation suspended in the capital of one-time Czechoslovakia.

CHINA

Communicues from the Chinese Army still have a sanguine tone. They talk of large numbers of Japanese killed and of the repulse of an attack on Kinhwa in the east of Chekiang Province. The Chinese also claim to have annihilated half a Japanese army that tried to break through a trap on the Salween River. So far, say the Chinese, the Japs have lost more than ten ~~thxxxx~~ thousand men in their efforts to take Kinhwa.

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Nevertheless, the Chinese troops outside the gates of Kinhwa are outnumbered and ^{are} hanging on desperately.

AUSTRALIA

Australia is expecting a heavy attack from the Japanese, before long. War dispatches from Down Under bring word that the Japanese are concentrating large numbers of their finest fighter planes in New Guinea.

The Japs have been fairly quiet in the Antipodes lately, because the monsoon rains have been flooding their airdromes, obliging them to use seaplanes. The Allies have been sending out the world's fastest bombers, the American Bo-Sixes. But that concentration of Japanese Q Fighters in New Guinea raises a serious problem for our bombers that go out without fighter protection.

Meanwhile, the Australians at home have a problem more immediate. Their birthrate has gone up so high, that all the maternity wards in the Australian hospitals are filled, in fact booked to capacity as far ahead as December and January. With this comes another problem. No more baby carriages available in the Land Down Under.

SUBMARINES

The Navy is using new methods in the prolonged battle of the submarines off the Atlantic Coast. So says the senior senator from Massachusetts speaking as Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee of the Senate. He told newspapermen that the new plans now being put in operation by the Navy will go a long way toward coping with the menace of the Axis underwater boats.

From Boston we have the story of a fishing trawler sunk with shellfire by an enemy undersea boat. A fishing trawler! ~~of course~~ ^{no doubt} The object ~~is~~ [^] to discourage fishermen and ~~so~~ ^{out} cut down ~~the~~ [^] supply of fish on the Atlantic seaboard. The Nazi submarine ^[popped up suddenly] ~~approached~~ [^] within fifteen feet of the trawler and ~~fairly~~ raked her with shells. ~~The undersea raider came up quietly and fired on the trawler~~ [^] without any warning. The trawler's master promptly gave the order to abandon ship and most of the crew took to a lifeboat. The chief engineer jumped into the water and swam in a life-preserver to a raft that had been launched, when a shell exploded with a roar in the water beside him. When the smoke and spray had cleared, his shipmates could see no sign of him. ^{He} ~~That~~ was the only ~~life~~ ^{one} lost; ~~twenty~~ ^{were} saved. [^]

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LABOR

The ^{latest} ~~new~~ Number One row in the labor world, ~~it~~ broke wide ~~open~~ today at a meeting of the leaders of the United Mine Workers Union. It began when the directors of District Fifty came ^{into the ring} ~~to bat~~ with a resolution charging the C.I.O. with deliberate sabotage of the United Mine Workers and recommending a breach of relations. District Fifty of the ^{United Mine Workers} ~~U.M.W.~~ is a creation of John L. Lewis himself, ^{to} organize the workers in the chemical industries and by-products of coal. It finally went to the length of trying to organize all the dairy farmers in the United States. Today the directors of that District Fifty made the charge that the C.I.O. had been conducting a deliberate campaign of abuse, insult, injury and slander against them. They also expressed their complete and profound loyalty to John L. Lewis.

That resolution against the C.I.O. was

unanimously adopted at a special meeting of the
directors of the U.M.W. Thereupon, something happened
which seems to mean a definite end to the beautiful
friendship between John L. Lewis and Philip Murray,
President of the C.I.O. Murray stalked out of the
meeting ~~of the U.M.W.~~ and declared the resolution
adopted was one that did not conform to the ordinary
rules and policies of common decency. *He said he left*
~~meeting, however,~~ because he had other important
engagements. But those in the know say ~~that~~ this is a
final ~~definite~~ breach between ~~Murray and Lewis,~~ *those* once warm
friends and associates, *John L. Lewis + Phil*
Murray.

RENTS

If you live in one of twenty war production areas or military training areas, don't pay any more rent than you paid in January, April and July of Nineteen Forty-One. That comes from Price Administrator Leon Henderson.

Now do you

~~You don't~~ have to argue it out with the landlord, he added. Just cut down your rent payment to what it was last year.

The Office of Price Administration has been investigating the rent problem and finds that neither landlords nor local authorities have been complying with the recommendations of the O.P.A. So Henderson is appointing rent directors in nineteen areas to see that his orders are enforced.

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HOUSING

need of housing for
The ~~housing of~~ war workers has become so

critical that President Roosevelt has asked Congress for
six hundred million ^{more} dollars to build places for them to

live. Mr. Roosevelt pointed out that war production

is now increasing at geometric ratio, and although

Congress has already appropriated one billion, twenty
millions for that purpose, six hundred million more is

needed. Munitions plants are expanding at such a rate

that there is even danger of holding up production

because there is no place for workers to ~~live~~ ^{sleep.} The

President estimates that ~~some~~ ^{about a} million, ~~xxi~~ six hundred

thousand war workers will migrate to production centers.

SOLDIERS' PAY

Extras

There is a squabble on in Congress about that raise of pay for the Army and Navy. The Senate, you will recall, passed a measure pushing the basic rate up to forty-two dollars for privates in the Army and seamen in the Navy. The House bill was different, and the ~~bill~~ ^{argument} went to conference. The Conference Committee agreed upon the Senate's figure - forty-two dollars a month. But the House today rejected that conference report. Congressman Rankin of Mississippi wants the lowest rate of pay to be fifty dollars. And on the strength of that, the House voted three hundred and thirty-two to thirty-one to send the bill back to conference.

BONUSES

The national spotlight was ^{turned} shed today upon another company with government contracts that has been paying exceedingly handsome bonuses. ~~Once again it is~~ ^{Another} a company in Cleveland.

The Naval Affairs Committee of the House was told by its counsel that this company had paid its vice-president a bonus of forty thousand dollars in Nineteen Forty-One. Heads of departments with salaries ranging from thirty-two hundred to twelve thousand five hundred dollars received bonuses from ten thousand up to fifty thousand. The workers in the lower brackets earning from eighteen hundred to twenty-six hundred were paid bonuses ranging from three thousand to five thousand. A plant foreman with a salary of four thousand, ~~a hundred and twenty-one dollars~~ received a bonus of twenty-five thousand. A secretary with a salary of six thousand six hundred and thirty-four dollars was given a bonus of fifty thousand. *So says Washington.*

RUBBER

A Los Angeles newspaper publisher has an idea for bolstering up the government's rubber supply. Manchester Boddy, editor and publisher of the LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS, declares that there must be something like three million tons of scrap rubber in the United States if it were only properly collected. So he proposes that the Government sponsor a sort of lottery to stimulate the collection of old rubber boots, raincoats, garden hose, overshoes, busted tennis balls, or what have you.

In fact, Boddy goes even further. He says there must be at least ten million tons of this kind of scrap lying around. And he proposes that anybody who brings in ten pounds weight of ancient galoshes, leaky hot water bags, and so forth, should be given a lottery ticket for prizes to range from a hundred dollars to two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. The value of the old scrap rubber so brought in, says the Los Angeles publisher, would be far far more than the money involved in such a lottery, or the cost of operating it.

The Rules Committee of the House today took a step aiming at the relief of the oil shortage in the east. It voted to report to the floor a bill authorizing the building of a pipeline and barge canal across Florida. With the bill goes an appropriation of a hundred and forty-four millions.

And now Hugh.