

LEND-LEASE

P.I. - Sunoco

Thursday, March 11, 1943.

Today was the Second Anniversary of Lend-Lease and Congress commemorated it by passing the bill to extend it for another year. The House had already okayed it by an almost unanimous vote of four hundred and seven to six. This afternoon the Senate followed suit. So now it awaits only the signature of the President, ~~and of course that is a foregone conclusion.~~ The Senate vote was unanimous.

The British and Russian Ambassadors both took occasion to say kind words for Lend-Lease.

And President Roosevelt improved the shining hour with *a promise to the Axis powers,* a promise of "mighty blows on battlefields of our own choosing." He also promised them inevitable defeat. Soviet Ambassador Litvinov said: "Supplies received through Lend-Lease have been an enormous help and as such are deeply appreciated by the people of the Soviet Union, who are fully ~~xx~~ aware of

of its extent."

And
Now that is a sentence worth underlining!

Coming as it does after all

~~It comes right on top of~~ the hubbub over what Admiral

Standley said in Moscow the other day. ^{TP} While the

Senators were passing the measure, Acting Secretary of

State Welles told the newspapermen that ^{Adm.} Standley had

assumed entire responsibility for his remarks and ^{had} said

they ^{were} ~~had been~~ misinterpreted. Russian newspapers

gave a great deal of space, that is, comparatively,

to the Standley story. They cannot give ~~very~~ much,

as they are allowed only four pages. ^{But} They gave

particular prominence to the statement from Welles

that Standley had spoken without consulting his

government.

The only note of objection in the Lend-Lease

~~discussion~~ ^{jubilation} today came from Congressman Philbin of

Massachusetts. He complained that he had not been

able to get satisfactory information out of Lend-Lease officials. They have refused to make answer to reports that shocked the Congressman's ears. "I have heard," he said, " that we have been sending shoes to North Africa, where the tribesmen wear them around their neck and use them for bottles, and rayon panties to uncivilized regions where there is no earthly use for them."

Lend-Lease Administrator Stettinius revealed that we have transferred nine billion, six hundred and thirtytwo million dollars' worth of goods to the United Nations, and ninety per cent actually has been shipped. More planes, tanks and trucks have been sent to Russia than to any other area. In the past twelve months, the United States has given its Allies thirty out of every hundred bombers produced and thirty-eight out of every hundred fighter planes. The total of ~~xxx~~ stuff sent to Russia amounts to one million, eight hundred and twenty-six millions.

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1943.

~~GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:~~

A new battle ^{in a} ~~has begun~~ ^{modern way} in Tunisia, or
rather a new phase of that long drawn out fight.

Rommel has ~~flung a new attack~~ ^{launched an attack} at the southeast end
of the Allied line. That is the end touching on the
desert. ~~But he has taken hard blows for his pains.~~

The Nazi Marshal's attacking divisions were up against
the formidable, ~~hard bitten,~~ seasoned warriors of
British General Bernard Montgomery. ^{And the enemy} ~~They~~ took heavy
casualties at the hands of the Britishers.

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This move of ^{Rommel's} ~~the Nazi Marshal's~~ was made
necessary by the ^{arrival of a French column which had} ~~French troops who had~~ driven
northward around the salt lakes, ^{ing 9} ~~They had~~ reached a
point only twenty miles below Gafsa. There they were

beginning to skirt ~~around~~ Rommel's right wing. ^{and},
Rommel was obliged to strike. ^H ~~and~~ ^H he made his attack
forty miles to the southwest of the southern end of the
Mareth Line, and seventy miles from the coast. Heavy
fighting still is going on.

The Allied communique reports that in addition
to the heavy casualties, many vehicles were left burning.

^{TP} The Royal Air Force gave ~~most~~ effective support during
the day, ~~and that is reassuring.~~ The battle has been
fought around a place called Ksar ^{RHILANE} ~~rhilane~~. Ksar is
an Arabic word which means "fortified village." ~~There~~
one ^{is} ~~lies~~ on high ground, which slopes away to the desert
on ~~the~~ one side and to a plain on the other. Thus
the Afrika Korps and the Eighth Army were at hand grips
once more on the sort of ground ^{so} ~~that is~~ familiar to them.
Familiar to them and different from the scene of last
week's battle where they were fighting in woods and
valleys.

We have no ^{about} details of the battle of
 KSAR RHILANE, ^{and we don't}
~~Ksarrhilaine~~, we do not even know how ~~xxxx~~ large are
 the forces engaged nor what ^{of type} ~~kind of divisions~~. All we
 know is that the fighting has been heavy and German
 casualties large.

That ^{the} French column ^{that fought} ~~which~~ advanced to within
 twenty-five miles of Gafsa, ^{a bunch of} ~~must be quite an army.~~
~~stout fellows. They~~
~~It~~ advanced thirty miles in two days across dusty
 desert terrain. Radio Algiers reported ⁵ ~~that~~ ^{they} ~~it~~ took the
 place with a sharp attack. The Axis counter-attacked
 in a snowstorm, but ~~the~~ ^{those} Fighting French from Lake Chad
 repulsed them ~~in French Equatorial Africa, did~~
~~not budge.~~

Secretary of War Stimson announced today that
 from February Fourteenth to February Twentieth, our
 total casualties were two thousand, two hundred and
 forty-two. That was a period ~~x~~ when some of the hardest
 fighting was going on. The retreat of the Allied forces

and the beginning of the counter-attack. Of those casualties, fifty-nine were killed, a hundred and seventy-six wounded, and two thousand seventy-six missing.

We probably have fared better than the enemy, said Stimson. More than a thousand Germans and Italians were taken prisoner, more than a hundred enemy tanks captured and destroyed. The Allied forces in Tunisia, he added, have had much the better of the fighting during the past week. Their highly mechanized forces have been extremely active, but the net result has been decidedly unfavorable to the Axis.

RUSSIA

The Russian picture continues to look good in one region, and not so good in the other. The danger point is still, Kharkov. This is emphasized in a dispatch from Moscow. The Soviet high command admits the battle on the Kharkov, and Donets River front, is critical. The Red Army again repeats that near Kharkov they are fighting against heavy odds both in tanks and manpower. The twenty-five divisions Hitler's generals have thrown in have the Soviets heavily outnumbered.

The Russians thought they had the Nazis checked at the new Donets River line to which they retreated earlier in the week. But, they are still being hammered by tank concentrations far more numerous than their own.

And - Moscow announces that the Germans are counter-attacking savagely west of Rostov, on the coast of the Sea of Azov. Also, southwest of Voroshilovgrad.

All of which amounts to a grave threat to the Russian tenure of Kharkov.

The Berlin communique says the Nazi divisions have thrown the Russians back to the city itself - which the Reds do not deny. The Germans say tonight that they are now in the northern and western outskirts of Kharkov.

But, from the center of that long Russian line of battle, the story is as it was. There the Red Army continues to drive deeper into the heart of the Nazi defense line around Vyazma, with a new advance of some ten miles - taking Isakovo, a strongly fortified place. And now they are advancing on the suburbs of Vyazma itself. Having recaptured Bely from the invaders, they are marching ahead toward the Moscow-Vyazma-Smolensk railroad line and they now threaten to outflank Vyazma. The roads there are narrow with the

slush and mire knee-deep -- which isn't stopping the Russians.

A question was raised in the British House of Commons today about relations between Britain and the Soviets. The member who raised it explained that he was impelled to it by the suspicions going around - all the talk about some one double-crossing someone. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden replied: "Our Soviet Allies are fully informed of our military position and our military plans."

IRELAND

A conspiracy in northern Ireland was revealed today. ~~It was a~~ plot ^{to} ~~of the Irish Republican Army to~~ disorganize the government; ^{to} ~~in fact~~ ^{dislocate} the entire life of the northern counties. The plot was fomented by the Irish Republican Army; so it was charged. ~~And~~ The man who brought the charge was ^{the} ~~none other than the~~ Attorney General of Northern Ireland. ^{who made} ~~He brought~~ the accusation openly before the House of Commons of the Northern Ireland Parliament. The object, said the Attorney General, was to disorganize the war industry, ~~the~~ civil defense services, transportation, and, ~~even to~~ assassinate ^{the} policemen.

FRANCE

But here's a different story:- Guerrilla warfare in France seems to be growing. The underground movement appears to be well organized; and doing increasing damage to the Germans. The latest - the wrecking of a Nazi troop train, killing two hundred and fifty of Hitler's soldiers and injuring several hundred more.

To illustrate how well organized the movement is, we are told that from December Twentieth to January Twentieth, some three hundred separate guerrilla operations were carried on in France.

From its hidden headquarters the French guerrilla command is beginning to issue regular communiques. One tells of fourteen troop and munition trains wrecked in thirty days, ninety-four railway locomotives destroyed, four hundred and thirty-six railway cars put out of commission, four bridges blown up, twelve major fires, and so forth.

And, these guerrillas, we learn, are just part time fighters. By day they work at their jobs.

But, there are also partisans who live in hiding and give all their time and energy to planning and carrying out attacks on the Germans.

SOLOMONS

From the Solomons, today's news is that the Japanese for the first time in six weeks attempted an air raid in force. They have recently reinforced their air strength; and they sent ten dive bombers with an escort of twelve Zeros on an ~~ix~~ air mission to Guadalcanal. However, American flyers were there to intercept them, long before they approached Henderson Field and our installations there. One Jap bomber and three Zeros were shot down. American casualties - none!

Meanwhile, U.S. airmen have been attacking Jap bases in the Solomons, and other islands.

And - they took another crack at Kiska in the Aleutians - all American planes returning safely.

AVIATION

The British Government today picked up the gauntlet on the issue of civil aviation after the war. This was ~~done~~ in a statement by the noble Viscount Cranborn, ~~Minister~~ Colonial Secretary, in the House of Lords. The British government, said he, would prefer to cooperate with other countries in civil aviation. But, he added, if the others want cut-throat ~~competition~~ competition, the British are quite ready to jump in.

Lord Cranborne then revealed the fact that a committee has been at work planning post-war civil aviation. It includes designs for new types of planes and a program for converting military aircraft into civil work. Then he said: "We have ~~produced~~ produced the best warplanes and we are convinced that we can product the best for civil flying."

MANPOWER

The farm senators won a parliamentary victory today over the forces of the Roosevelt administration.

It was over a measure proposed by Senator O'Mahoney

of Wyoming. This would have enacted the draft

deferment of only a limited number of farmers, only

those who raised production quotas in essential crops.

The Farm Bloc kicked over ~~all the~~ party lines.

Twenty-two Democrats and ten Republicans voted in

favor of the measure. Twenty-one Republicans and one

Progressive joined with twenty-seven Democrats to vote

it down.

MORGAN

J.P.Morgan, who has been seriously ill at his place at Bocagrande in Florida, is getting no better. On the contrary, his New York office announced tonight that his condition was grave.

COSMETICS

The feminine world agog! Which it often is!

This time over the attempt of an Episcopalian Bishop to abolish cosmetics for the duration. The Right Reverend gentleman went so far as to say that if the ladies will cut out rouge, lipstick and fingernail dyes, that he himself will cut out shaving. The author of that suggestion is Bishop Oldham of Albany , New York, who seems startled when someone told him that the things women put on their faces are necessary to feminine morale. Said the Bishop:- God help this country if we have to depend on cosmetics for morale.

All of which provoked acid retorts from ladies.

Which ladies? Oh, those on the west coast, and not all actresses either. For instance, a woman inspector in an aircraft plant - a defense worker - sprang to the defense of face lotions. Her husband is a prisoner of the Japanese and said she:- "The self-respect and

morale of a woman are built on keeping herself up as best she can, especially when she has to depend on herself alone more than ever before." A woman employee in another aircraft plant remarked:- "Why take the war paint away from a woman just because she's working in a warplant?"

And, the actresses did have their say - or maybe their press agents! Cinema Star Irene Dunn remarked: "The shock of seeing a million women without make-up would be a worst blow to morale than the explosion of a blockbuster!" And irrepressible Gracie Allen asked: "Isn't there enough damage being done to the maps of the world without moving in on the feminine map?"

But an expert in the government's career clinic in Washington has another idea. She believes that the rationing of food will do more to make beauties out of

all our women than cosmetics or even exercise.

Hugh, how abbut it?