

RUSSIA

D.J. - Sunoco Friday, Aug. 6, 1943.

Tonight the Soviet armies are driving against Kharkov. This follows their swift and unexpected capture of Belgorod, about which we had late news yesterday. From conquered Belgorod, Red Army units promptly wheeled southward -- with a thrust aimed to cut in behind Kharkov. This threatens to spring a trap on the Nazis in that key city, which has been captured and recaptured several times during the war in Russia. Moscow states that the line at Belgorod was shattered along the length of nearly forty-five miles, and that today's advances are from fifteen to thirty-seven miles -- swinging down toward Kharkov.

Moscow explains the capture of Belgorod by citing the element of surprise -- a lightning surprise attack. And this is echoed by the Germans. A number one Nazi military commentator stated today that at Belgorod the Hitler forces had not expected anything like the sudden offensive that hit them. Moscow says the Germans then threw in reinforcements, but it did not do good. For a while the Nazis defended the city street by street, but they were being encircled -- and pulled out in a hurry.

To the North, the ^{scene} ~~scene~~ of their other victory, Orel, Soviet troops are pressing toward the city of Bryansk. Having

smashed the Orel Salient, they drove on swiftly to keep the Germans from consolidating new defense lines and have recaptured seventy towns and villages. The enemy himself confirms the new march of the Soviet troops. The Berlin radio speaks of fighting at a point twenty-one miles southwest of Orel -- and that puts them on the road to Bryansk.

The victorious Russians, meanwhile, renew their demand for a second front. Obviously they don't consider Sicily as fighting line number two. One wonders -- whether they will regard the invasion of Italy ~~proper~~ ^S as the establishment of a second front. Today's Soviet opinion was expressed in the sharpest way -- in the number one Russian newspaper, 'Pravda, the journalistic organ of the Communist Party. *today pointedly said that* Pravda ^{said} the United States and Great Britain gave a pledge that a second front would be formed in Nineteen Forty-Three, and ^{they} called for that pledge to be fulfilled. Furthermore, Pravda charged ^S that there are some British and American elements that are not too anxious for decisive action against Nazi Germany. Pravda quoted another Soviet journal called "War and the working class", and described ~~x~~ the attitude in some British and American circles in the following words -- "entirely uninterested in the war ending quickly."

CHINA

From Moscow today we ^{also have} ~~have~~ a blast against the Chiang Kai-Shek Government of China. An official Soviet newspaper charges that the Nationalist regime at Chungking harbors elements that want to appease Japan. Chinese officials of high rank are defeatists, and seek to come to an agreement with the Japs. So claims the Moscow newspaper.

The key to the whole thing is found in the further ~~in~~ charge that these appeaser elements in the Chiang Kai-Shek Government are anti-Communist and are trying to bring about a clash between the Nationalist Regime and the Chinese Communist Party. Specifically, the Moscow newspaper declares that the Chiang Kai-Shek Government, influenced by anti-Communist leaders in its own ranks, sent large forces to the area where the Chinese Communist ~~in~~ armies are operating. This - for the purpose of disarming the Red Forces, and wiping out the Communist Party. Which threatens ~~in~~ to cause civil war in China, says the Moscow newspaper.

ITALY

In Sicily, the Allied Forces press onward, crowding the Germans further back into the narrowing angle at the tip of the island. The Americans are battling for a mountain stronghold called Troina, while the Anglo-Canadians are approaching the town of Adrano.

There ~~is~~ ^{are} on the road to Messina; but, the going is tough. A late dispatch from Allied headquarters states that today ~~the~~ the American and British troops had the heaviest fighting thus far in the Battle of Sicily. The Germans ~~are~~ have the immense ~~and~~ advantage of terrain, the rugged difficulty of which has been emphasized repeatedly -- and cannot be over-emphasized. ~~It is~~ ^{It is} much tougher ground for an attacking force than Tunis ever was.

Amid the mountain steps of Etna, the volcano, and its attendant peaks, the Nazis are defending every inch of ground. The Allied communique explains that the British capture of Catania broke the anchor of the southern flank of the enemy, and the whole line is in danger of folding. ^{and} That's the critical situation which incites ~~the~~ desperate German resistance -- "suicidal resistance".

the dispatch calls it.

London believes that the German plan is to retire fighting, so as to cover an evacuation at Messina. If they try a minor Dunkirk, what chance have they got? London military ~~experts~~ experts, pointing to the short space of water to be crossed, ^{reason that} ~~reason~~ the chance is about fifty-fifty.

In Rome today, Pope Pius issued a call for ~~any~~ prayers for peace -- so we hear. Presumably, such an invocation for an end of the war will be meant for the whole ~~European~~ world, but will have a special application to Italy -- where the cry for peace is so loud and insistent.

A ~~hit~~ dispatch from Switzerland tells of significant ~~xx~~ scenes that attended the departure of the first trainload of Germans from Italy. *They* left without ceremony or ostentation -- secretly, from a small and obscure railroad station at Milan. However, the German special train was spotted by workers, and they jeered at the Germans, staged a demonstration of hostile ~~redicule~~ ridicule. We are told that similar evacuations of Germans have been organized at Rome, Florence, Venice and other Italian cities.

FRENCH

Secretary of State Cordell Hull said today that a decision may soon be announced on the subject of the recognition of the French Committee of National Liberation. There has been plenty of demand that this committee, headed by Giraud and DeGaulle shall be formally considered the legitimate government of France. All the more since now the Giraud and DeGaulle factions on the committee have come to a settlement, agreeing that Giraud shall command all French forces fighting against ~~the~~ Nazi-Germany, while DeGaulle is in charge of political matters. The United States has hitherto held off any recognition of the committee as a French government, ~~and~~ arguing that the whole thing should wait until the people of France, upon liberation, shall have a chance to decide for themselves.

Today the Secretary of State declared that the United States and British governments have been debating the matter day after day, and that their decision will soon be announced. The word in Washington is that the decision will recognize the committee, not as the formal government of France, but as a custodian or trustee of French interests until the people of France are liberated and can vote.

CHURCHVELT

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I had something of a shock today, when I picked up a United Press bulletin from London. I looked at the slug line, and blinked. The slug line, you know, is the sort of informal heading stuck at one side of a press dispatch so that you can quickly recognize ~~what~~ what it's about. This one read -- "Churchvelt." That seemed rather irreverent, but then of course it was just a case of a quick brevity on the news wire. The story was about Churchill and Roosevelt, and it was convenient to telescope the two long names into -- Churchvelt.

London was giving us word that there might soon be another of those Churchvelt meetings. *Why not say Roosevelt?* The British capital has reports that a new Churchvelt Conference has been under discussion. London quotes the French radio as saying with flat factuality that the British Prime Minister and American President were scheduled for a get-together in what the French radio called -- "The immediate future." In fact, for all I know, Prime Minister Church and President Velt, may be talking things over somewhere right now.

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London points out that there are a number of things for them to discuss -- ways to get shaken and staggering Italy out of the war, the altered situation brought on by the new Russian

successes which might well indicate that the power of the German army is breaking, and the possibility of launching some quick heavy blow to knock the Nazis out in a hurry.

The dispatch from the British capital surmises that Soviet Russia might send representatives to a forthcoming Churchvelt meeting -- and Stalin himself might attend. If that should come to pass, the dispatches telling about the conflagration might be slugged *as Roosevelt*. *would it? Well,* Churchveltstal, which would be altogether too much, ~~however~~ the importance of getting Stalin at a personal conference with the President and the Prime Minister is of such global importance, that we might be willing to stand for such a global expression as Churchveltstal.

MUNDA

Today just a year ago ^{the U.S.} ~~United States~~ Marines ~~xx~~ landed on Guadalcanal;-- and that began a year ~~xx~~ of almost continuous advance against Japanese forces occupying islands in the Pacific. So what's the news on this first anniversary of Guadalcanal? Most appropriate news.

Today General MacArthur's headquarters announced the completion of the capture of Munda. Yesterday we heard how American forces had fought their way onto the big airfield. And today the conquest of Munda is history.

Only ~~only~~ a few isolated pockets of Japanese resistance are still left. ~~Rem~~ A remnant of the enemy garrison that was driven out of Munda is trapped in a tight corner west of the airfield. Another force is isolated at Bairoko Harbor, eight miles north of Munda. ^{But} All organized resistance has been smashed, and all that needs now to be done is to mop up the remaining parties of isolated Japs.

It's been a tough and bitter battle against the enemy force of five thousand that occupied New Georgia Island, with that strategic air base at Munda. The Japs had to be blasted out of

virtually every position -- or burned out. Their strong points were so cleverly placed that often artillery fire couldn't get ^{at} them, and tanks were ineffective. So American soldiers had to push up ~~xx~~ close with flame throwers. They'd ^{shoot} ~~last~~ a blast of flame into a Japanese pillbox, and then ~~xx~~ whatever Japs were left inside would scurry out. Thus scores of individual positions had to be taken, by close-up fighting -- one at a time.

Now that Munda has fallen it is believed that our forces in that sector will go ahead and clear out the Japs on nearby Kolombangara Island, which is right across narrow Kula Gulf from Munda. ^{and} ~~That probably will~~ ^{max} not be so difficult -- because apparently the Japs are not so powerful there and they are cut off from supplies and reinforcements.

~~(American headquarters warns us not to misinterpret the Fall of Munda, saying that the capture of New Georgia Island is not to be regarded as part of what military men call -- a rolling offensive, meaning an offensive that rolls on and on. In other words, we are not on the long trail of island hopping -- which would be so long a road to Tokyo. We are told that following the fall of~~

~~XXXX~~ MUNDA - 3

Munda there will be new offensives against the Japs. But these won't be from Munda to the next island step by step along the chain of the Solomons.

MOUNTAIN TROOPS

The call that Uncle Sam is sending out for more picked men for the Mountain Troops seems to indicate that our military experts suspect that before long we are going to do some fighting against the Axis in the mountains. Of course, this is obvious anyhow if we look at the map. For the Japs are still at Kiska in the Aleutians, or they were the last time we had any official word on this from Washington. And that island of Kiska is all mountains.

Furthermore, it may only be a matter of weeks until we are facing the Germans at Brenner Pass, in the mountains of Jugoslavia, or in northern Greece, not to mention Norway.

So, it's not surprising that the Army has sent out another call for men who have lived and worked in the mountains, preferably those who have had at least some experience as skiers, climbers, packers, prospectors, woodsmen, and so on.

Charles M. "Minnie" Dole, Chairman of the National Ski Association, tells me that to get into the Mountain Troops it is not necessary to be a member of the National Ski Patrol System or of any ski, or mountain organization. And, if you don't already know how to get into the Mountain Troops you can

send your application to the National Ski Patrol System, Four Fifteen Lexington Avenue, New York City.

I'll repeat that address again in about twenty seconds. And while you are reaching for a pencil, here is another bit of information on the subject:- the training camp for the Mountain Troops is in one of the most spectacular spots in the Rocky Mountains, just over the Continental Divide, high up in the Sangre de Christo Range, between the two famous old mining camps of Aspen and Leadville. If I were young enough, and they would accept me, I would head for there in a hurry. So, if you feel the urge to become a mountaineer coming over you, and if you think you've got the stuff, and if you want to spend the next few months climbing and skiing and training in the Rockies, just write to the National Ski Patrol, Four Fifteen Lexington Avenue, New York City. And then a little later on you may see a lot of the world -- and hit the high spots - the real high spots - on your way.

DRAFT

Today brings still another decision in the matter of drafting married men with children. Early this week, manpower Commissioner McNutt issued a statement that fathers would be taken into the Army -- beginning October first. That was countered by a blast from Senator Wheeler of Montana, who demanded that the drafting of fathers be delayed for a month after October first. The senator is the sponsor of a bill that would forbid the induction of married men with children before the first of the year.

This now is followed by still another official order. Selective headquarters today decreed that fathers shall not be called until the entire national supply of other men liable to the draft has been exhausted. It was explained that in some states there are available large numbers of men without children; in other states -- very few. So the idea is for the army to draft more recruits from states with a lot of eligible non-fathers and fewer from the states that are running out of non-fathers. Meaning --
8 1/2 they'll poll the nation's supply of non-fathers, and see if the army can get enough men by the first of October. If they can get enough non-fathers, they'll keep deferring dad.

DRAFT - 2

I don't know that I like this terminology -- non-father.

It's the expression that is being used, of course, but you might logically have to go on and say, non-mother, non-uncle, non-sister-in-law and non-fourth cousin. Or in other words, nonsense.

9 Hello Hugh, are you there?

— and no nonsense!