

Italy - 3  
MARCH 3 1944

L. J. Sunoco. March 3, 1944

(Substitute for Part of Italian story about strike)

Here's the latest on the wire - - That Rome is being bombed again, tonight, Friday.

On the political side of the news from Italy -- The Italian left wing parties have called off their strike, the labor demonstration <sup>that</sup> had been scheduled for tomorrow in all the Italian territory controlled by the Allies. It was to have been merely a ten minute affair -- entirely political in nature.

The Italian Communist and Socialist parties, together with other factions opposed to the regime of Badoglio and King Victor Emanuel, are up in arms against British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and his recent endorsement of the Badoglio-Victor Emanuel government. They have been protesting to high heaven, and to give their anger a more concrete form, they ordered the ten-minute demonstration strike -- all workers to halt their jobs.

The strike order created a ticklish situation because the Allied Military commanders could hardly be expected to have any enthusiasm for walkouts and other labor demonstrations staged by people in countries occupied by their troops,

and their attitude toward the Italian strike was sharpened by the fact that this scheduled labor demonstration would be concentrated in Naples -- ~~which is~~ only sixty miles behind the fighting line.

So our commanders told the leaders of the Communist, Socialist, and other malcontent factions that the strike would not be permitted. Their attitude was that a political stoppage of work for even ten minutes would be a threat to the Allied military position.

The left wing leaders were stubborn and insisted they would have their strike -- the Allied military leaders notwithstanding. But today they backed down -- after a four hour conference with the Allied commander in the Naples area, British General Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane. He laid down the law to the Italian left wingers in such fashion that they finally agreed and uttered the Italian equivalent of -- okay, let's call the whole thing off.

In return for cancelling the strike, however, Lieutenant General Sir Noel Mason MacFarlane granted them permission to hold a mass meeting in a public square on Sunday.

# ITALIAN FLEET

The fate of the surrendered Italian Fleet was revealed by President Roosevelt today. It is to be divided between the United States, Great Britain and Soviet Russia. The Soviets will receive about a third of the Italian warships said the President - <sup>e</sup> ~~either~~ <sub>^</sub> that or the equivalent. The President noted that some of the Italian ships might not fit Russian requirements in which case the Soviets will receive a proportionate amount of American or British vessels.

Which reminds us, of course, of the difficulty that one nation is likely to find in using warships of another - the vessels needing their own kind of ammunition and spare parts. Most of the Italian munitions and armament factories are in Northern Italy, controlled by the Germans - though it is probable that we captured a lot of material for the Italian warships in the seizure of the great Southern Italian naval bases, Brindisi and Taranto. Such supplies, however, would be limited -

~~However,~~ The President pointed out today that the Soviets were entitled to one-third of the Italian warships - since the surrender of Italy was made jointly to the United States, Great Britain and Russia.

This was the subject of a message recently sent by <sup>Stalin</sup> ~~Stalin~~ <sub>^</sub> to the

White House. <sup>Stalin asking</sup> ~~Italian asked what~~ what about handing over the Soviet third of the Italian Fleet ?

So that is now being planned, said the President today. He added that no Italian ships have yet been turned over to the Russians, and <sup>had only been about half way worked out.</sup> that the plan ~~was only about half decided.~~

The Italian Fleet includes a formidable lot of craft - five battle-ships an aircraft carrier, eight cruisers, nineteen submarines, twenty seven destroyers and a number of other smaller vessels. Some of these naval units manned by their Italian crews, have been operating actively with the Allies, <sup>on escort duty.</sup> ~~this has been stated officially.~~

The war news from Russia is limited tonight to the Northern front, where Soviet forces today pushed forward at opposite ends of a battleline of a hundred and forty miles. At the Southern end they drove to a point eight miles East of that key city of Pskov.

And, at the Northern end of the Northern front, Red Army troops crashed forward in the region of Narva.

The limitation of the news, <sup>we hear is all</sup> ~~of the north~~ because of the weather. Up there the ground is still hard and fit for military operations, But, Southward a great thaw has set in - the tremendous thaw that ends the Russian winter. And the flat plains of deep, <sup>rich</sup> earth have been turned into one big quagmire of mud and flood. Russia in the Springtime.

## SATELLITES.

The news tonight includes a variety of reports about Nazi satellites trying to make peace. Turkey tells us that Rumania <sup>is</sup> asking. They say <sup>as I mentioned last night,</sup> the Rumanians have sent an emissary to Stockholm to contact the Soviet Ambassador there, Madame Alexandra Kollontay.

And, Bulgaria is reported to be trying to find out about possible armistice terms. We are told that the Bulgarians have gone so far as to name a rendezvous where their delegates would like to talk to Allied representatives on the subject of a separate peace.

These peace moves by the satellites have been inspired by the action of Finland-- which country has received terms from the Soviets, terms that are now being debated in Helsinki. One report from Scandinavia states that a Finnish armistice commission has gone by plane to Moscow for some further discussion with the Soviets.

We hear that the Finns are trying to stall and delay, for the purpose of giving the Germans time to withdraw their troops from Finland-- if the Germans intend to get out. And here's a story that would indicate that they don't:--Most of the Nazi troops are in the Northern part of Finland where they are in touch with the Germans Garrisons <sup>in northern</sup> ~~of Northern~~

Norway, and the <sup>of</sup> Northern <sup>Nazi</sup> forces are busy strengthening their positions, ~~and throwing~~ <sup>their</sup> defense lines, apparently <sup>getting set</sup> <sup>(awake up)</sup> for a stand ~~for~~ there in the Arctic.

Russia demands that the Finns intern the Germans - which would seem to be a tough job for the Finns to accomplish, and they don't relish the entrance of Red army troops into their country to help them. So, they're trying to stall.

Moscow is not in a mood to let the Finns go on delaying and <sup>is</sup> said to have given Helsinki a deadline - midnight of Sunday. The Finns have that long <sup>to</sup> make up their minds about accepting the Soviet terms, which are regarded as moderate.

A story from London states that the influence of Moscow was responsible for the peace treaty between rival anti-Nazi factions in Greece there were two of these. One called the Elass-the other called Edes . The Elass are supported by Soviet Russia, the Edes adhere to the Greek government in exile. The regime of King George.

The lineup is similar to the bitter feud in Yugoslavia, where the Soviet supported partisans of Marshal Tito are in savage conflict with Mikhailovitch and his Chetnicks, who support the exiled government of King Peter. The Yugoslov feud is still raging fiercely, but its equivalent in Greece has been called off - because of the influence of Moscow.

We are told that on his last trip to the Soviet Capital, British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden approached the Stalin authorities on the subject of the trouble between the Greek anti-Nazis. And the Soviet Foreign Office said - - Yes, they'd see if they could do something about it.. And they did with, Stalin's Vicar<sup>r</sup> Commissar sending a message to the Greek Ambassador to Moscow who represents the exiled government of King George. As a result of this,<sup>a</sup> series of conferences were arranged between the Elass and Edes with American and British representatives participating. Everything went off all right,<sup>and</sup> an agreement was signed whereby the Elass and Edes



are to stop fighting against each other. Prisoners and hostages will be released, and the two factions will concentrate on fighting the Germans.

This, I believe is the first time that mutually hostile patriot groups in German occupied countries have got <sup>ten</sup> together. Those embittered factions which exist among so many of the conquered peoples.

We've hit the Kuriles again -- that string of islands which reaches  
Southern from Kamchatka to Japan, <sup>proper.</sup> The Kuriles in fact, are a natural stepping-  
stone route to the Japanese main islands. Navy planes have bombed Paramur-  
shiro again, they also hit <sup>nearly</sup> Shimushu. ~~islands~~ Five tons of bombs were dropped  
with little opposition. There was no aerial interception, no Japanese planes  
rising to assail the bombers. And the Anti-aircraft was feeble and did no  
damage.

At the same time we have news that our air-force in the Central  
Pacific contuing <sup>in</sup> its attack against those islands in the Marshall <sup>group</sup> which  
the Japs still hold. Three enemy bases in the Eastern Marshalls were  
blasted by twenty-eight tons of bombs.

add PACIFIC

The latest news from the South seas comes from the Admiralty islands, the most recent group in the Southwestern Pacific to be invaded by Gen. MacArthur's troops. The Japs have been counter-attacking, but it has done them no good -- the late bulletin stating that our troops have beaten off the assaults, and have advanced their positions in all directions.

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~~Note for Mr. Thomas: In the Russian story the Soviet troops are now four miles from Pskov.~~

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It may seem odd to say that, while looking at a sinister scene of a motion picture, it reminded me of something in my own Home. But that's what happened when I had a look at ~~that latest and most dramatic film~~ ~~feature put out by~~ Darryl Zanuck, <sup>is latest, a</sup> ~~the~~ picture called - "The Purple Heart".

The whole thing is virutally a trial scene - that monstrous Jap<sup>a</sup> trial in which some of the Doolittle Fliers were condemned and several were later executed. And on the screen was presented the phoney Jap charge that the bombers of Tokyo deliberately attacked non-military objectives.

That took my own memory back to a scene in the living room at my home in Dutchess county. Jimmy Doolittle sitting there ~~and he was~~ explaining to us the immense pains that he and his Brother Airmen took to avoid hitting anything non-military in the bombing of Tokyo. He detailed at length the careful and scrupulous way they planned to bomb nothing but legitimate targets and objects of war.

That was the scene in the back of my mind, as I looked at the Trial scene in the Purple Heart.

LOVE MESSAGE

Here's something new in the way of Love Letters-- Dorothy LaMour of Hollywood has received a sentimental missive from a Czecho Slovakian soldier in England. It begins with a sigh and ends on a practical note:

"Dear Miss LaMour: I love you very much. I dream about you every night - please send me a carton of American cigarettes."

Now, there's a soldier who knows what he wants - Love and a carton of cigarettes.

Ben, what do you want - or what do you think the rest of us want?

## SHOOTING

In a Chicago gangster crime last night, a racketeer leader was shot - by Santa Claus. That, at least, is the story the victim tells.

He is John Joseph Williams, whom the news dispatch calls - "The South side gambling King." He's a big shot who has risen to a commanding position since the demise of the old time Capone chieftain, Frank Nitti, who was called - "The Enforcer."

Nitti, "the enforcer," killed himself some months ago, while the heat was being applied to him and some other Capone mobsters who were involved in big time Labor racketeering - The others have since been convicted and sent to prison. Since then John Joseph Williams has risen rapidly to the top in the outlaw gambling gang, and the change in the underworld was accompanied by the usual assassinations.

First came the killing of Danny Stanton, a Capone mobster who had been in cahoots with Nitti "the enforcer," and this was followed by the bumping off of Sonny Boy Quirk - who was reputed to be competing with John Joseph Williams for the <sup>over</sup>lordship of gambling. In fact, Williams was tried for the murder of Sonny Boy Quirk, but was acquitted.

Obviously the Southside gambling <sup>er</sup> was navigating in dangerous waters and as it it happened, he got into trouble with the army - just to

intrude a wartime note into the affair of the underworld mobs. Williams

has a business partner named Harry Robert who was taken into the army, and

~~deserted at~~ <sup>deserted at</sup> ~~and recovered near~~ <sup>at any rate he disappeared,</sup> ~~Camp Waters, Texas,~~ Williams was arrested <sup>he</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>was</sup>

<sup>along</sup> driving and a search was made of his car. ~~And~~ <sup>who did</sup> hidden in a trunk <sup>they find but</sup>

~~found~~ private Harry Robert, the former business partner. They say he was

deserting, with Williams helping him. ~~Williams was arrested~~

~~Williams was arrested~~

And, Williams was held on bail of ten thousand dollars.

*back in the Windy City,*

Last night, he was driving along the South Side gambling district of

Chicago, when suddenly there was a blast of shotgun fire. There must have

been two batteries of guns in action on either side of the street, because

both sides of the car were ripped by shotgun slugs - and Williams was hit

by seven. He was badly wounded and taken to a hospital.

There he preserved the grim silence of gangland. <sup>In fact he</sup> preserved it in

mocking fashion. When asked who had shot him, he replied sardonically -

"Santa Claus."

So today the Chicago police were looking for Santa Claus - whom they

hope to find in the guise of some Chicago gun men.

enthusiasm for strikes staged for people in countries occupied by our troops, and their attitude toward the Italian strike is sharpened by the fact that the labor demonstration will be concentrated in Naples - which is only sixty <sup>miles</sup> behind the fighting lines. *— — the great city we have just freed.* So our commanders have told the leaders of the communist, Socialist and other malcontent factions, that the strike will not be permitted. They say that a political stoppage of work for even ten minutes would be a <sup>th</sup>reat to the Allies.

To this the strike leaders today made one concession:—The leaders of the Communists, Socialists and Allied factions announced that they will exempt essential employees from the strike. That is, workers who are necessary for the maintenance of power and water supplies, and the operation of the docks. But they insist that with that exception, they are going ahead with their strike, ~~t~~he Allied military commanders notwithstanding.



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AIR WAR

Today for the first time, formations of American war planes  
*Our first American raid on Berlin.*  
hit Berlin. Not daylight bombers, however, but fighters. We are  
not told what the strategy may have been, a late bulletin merely  
informing us that American fighter-planes carried out what the  
bulletin calls - "an offensive sweep over Berlin." *Probably just  
to drop a few calling cards before really  
moving in on Berlin.*  
At the same time, the bombers were in action. ~~They were~~ hitt-  
ing at an <sup>un-</sup>identified target in Northwestern Germany. <sup>TP Perhaps</sup> ~~one~~ ~~surmise~~  
that the fighter-sweep over Berlin might <sup>was all a</sup> ~~have been~~ part of some  
<sup>air-</sup> ~~clever~~ strategy, hurling the fighters in that direction while the  
big bombers were attacking somewhere else.

## PACIFIC

War news from the Pacific; MacArthur's men have fought their way North on Los Negros island in the Admiralty group, taking more valuable South Sea territory from the Japs in spite of the reinforcements rushed in by Tokyo.

Nor is that all. MacArthur's jungle troops made a leap-frog jump on New Guinea. An amphibious action, from Saidor. Supported by planes, and Allied warships, they landed behind Jap positions and established a new beachhead thirty miles west of the original positions at Saidor.

In the last five weeks the American and Australian forces in the South Pacific and Mid-Pacific have been carrying out the greatest demonstration of amphibious power in history.

An arc of Allied airpower is fast closing in on the Japanese Empire.