

<sup>L.I. - Sunco.</sup>  
Knollwood, No. Car., May 6, 1943

Good Evening Everbody! In Tunisia, the British First Army pushed ahead ten miles today and stormed the Germans out of Massicault and that puts the Allies well out on the open plain southwest of the city of Tunis. In fact only six miles from Tunis.

This was all a part of a general all out offensive by all three Allies. French, British and Americans alike opened up with a tremendous artillery barrage and observers on the ground could easily see the fires started in the area around the harbor of Bizerte by the Big American guns. As the barrage lifted, Uncle Sam's doughboys also advanced and captured the last hill northwest of Bizerte. This puts them only nine miles from the great North African Naval Base.

Some reporters today went so far as to describe the Axis front as collapsing. But that probably is not so. The Americans launched an attack with a tank spearhead on Ferryville, where they are after the power station upon which all the defense installations in Bizerte are said to depend for their electric current.

In Stockholm, a story is current which came out of Germany, to the effect that Bizerte would not be the strongest center of resistance in

Tunisia; that the Nazis will hold Bizerte as long as they can, but that the final line of defense will be around Tunis.

And here is a still later message from the American front near Mateur. It says that the Germans are evacuating Tebourba, the key rail junction East of Tunis and that the Nazis are falling back on Tunis itself.

Also word that the air support of the Allies today was the most terrific ever seen. The report says that more than two thousand sorties were flown. With the heaviest concentration of air power over the British First Army, where one-thousand-two-hundred sorties were flown in an area of four by three miles.

## DEVERS

A new American Commander in the European theater of war. The man who succeeds Lieutenant General Frank Andrews, who crashed in Iceland, is Lieutenant General Jacob L. Devers. His new official designation is Commander of the United States Forces in the European Theater. Up to now, Devers has been Chief of the Armored Force in Europe.

Military observers point out that it is significant that a ground officer is given this job. Does it mean the United Nations are getting set for a land invasion of Europe? Perhaps.

This ties in with something Elmer Davis, Director of War Information, had to say:- that it is not at all essential to delay the invasion of Europe until Tunisia has been cleaned out. Once the enemy is pocketed at Bizerte, added Davis, an attack on the continent would be perfectly feasible. Apparently the pocketing of the Nazis and Italians at Bizerte is not so far off.

Davis points out an interesting fact that has been overlooked. It is true that the defenses of Bizerte are strong. But, the man who built them is now on the allied side; French Admiral Emile Muselier.

Elmer Davis is a civilian, yes, but he's in close touch with the heads of our Army and Navy. So his opinion may be a reflection of this.

At Secretary of War Stimson's press conference today, the subject of General Devers naturally came up. Stimson said he considered Devers particularly well fitted to succeed Lieutenant General Frank Andrews because as head of our Armored Forces he has demonstrated capacity for organization and administration. Also he recently spent considerable time studying the war, at the front.

Secretary Stimson tells us further that the Battle of Tunisia seems to be entering its final phase. However, he believes the Nazis and Italians with their backs to the sea, will fight it out to the finish. He says they are still capable of strong resistance, and that even though they have suffered heavy losses, the bulk of their army is intact. He intimated that he does not believe there will be an African Dunkirk; that there have been no signs of the Nazi Generals evacuating any large part of their force.

The success of our American forces at Mateur, Stimson diagnosed as the result of excellent coordination between the air and ground forces of the French, and British and ourselves. The Secretary added that the British Navy

had also been doing a stout job---against the Axis supply lines.

The Secretary of War then went on to talk about our other war, the fight against the Japs. Our air strength is growing in ~~the~~ China, he said; and, he mentioned specifically the heavy air raids made from bases in China on Jap positions in Hainan and Haiphong. Lieutenant General Stilwell, commanding Uncle Sam's forces in India, Burma and China, will soon leave Washington and head back to the Far East along with Major General Claire Chennault, Chief of the Forteenth Army Air Force.

MANPOWER

Uncle Sam's fighting forces now number more than eight million.

So says Paul McNutt, Chief of the War Manpower Commission. Eight million, three hundred thousand is the figure he gives for the total strength of Uncle Sam's Army, Navy and Marine Corps. And the plan is to have a total force of ten million, seven hundred thousand by the end of the year.

Recruits are being inducted at the rate of three hundred thousand a month.

McNutt told the committee that all this can be done without hampering our war industries. That there will be no need to strip any defense plants of the labor they need.

By the end of the year, war industries will need some two million, seven hundred thousand more workers, but he tells us that one million nine hundred thousand of these can be women. Already fifteen million women have jobs in war plants. ManPower Commissioner McNut tends to discourage women with small children from defense work unless it becomes absolutely necessary to have them.

INTRO to Major General Weaver.

I am at Knollwood Field, North Carolina, tonight among the famous Carolina pines. Knollwood Field is the Headquarters for the entire Army Air Forces Technical Training Command, the head of which is Major General W. R. Weaver, one of America's veterans of the air. And to say his job is colossal would be putting it mildly. He has under him more than a half-million men. And it is the job of those who are trained by the Technical Training Command to keep American fighting and bombing planes in the air.

As ~~General Weaver~~<sup>we</sup> explained to me this afternoon, "For every fighting plane that rolls off the assembly line, and every pilot that graduates from flying school, the Technical Training Command must turn out from ten to twenty mechanics and technicians - - - men able to do their job under most extreme conditions - - - Equatorial Africa, in the deserts of Arabia, Persia, India, and Central Asia, in Arctic and Subarctic Alaska and the Aleutians. Yes, even on the unexplored Greenland icecap.

And here is an angle that had not occurred to me until one of the Nation's aviation leaders mentioned it to me yesterday, at the Willard in

Washington. He said: "Many of our best fliers are men who have first had the technical training that young men are now getting <sup>in the TTC.</sup> ~~under General Weaver's~~   
~~Command.~~ A young fellow is likely to go much further in aviation if he is something more than a pilot - - - if he is a technician, and an engineer as well."

~~Major General Weaver is standing beside me right now.~~ And sitting before us are <sup>the</sup> ~~several~~ hundred officers, and ~~their~~ ladies, of the Headquarters of the Army Air Forces Technical Training Command.

~~General Weaver,~~ I understand that <sup>U. T. C.</sup> yours is the largest educational institution in the world. ~~(Will you give us a little glimpse into its size?)~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

Yes, you are quite right in saying that more than a half-million <sup>with</sup> ~~men in this Command, and~~ Army Air Forces Technical schools are scattered

~~across the continent from coast to coast.~~ <sup>These include</sup> specialized courses in dozens of

colleges. <sup>here in the East</sup> In the East, Yale University is an example. In the Middle West,

at Chicago University <sup>they</sup> are training men in meteorology. On the West

<sup>at</sup> the University of California, and so on. ~~Coast, and~~ ~~at~~ ~~the~~ ~~University~~ ~~of~~ ~~California,~~ ~~and~~ ~~so~~ ~~on.~~ These are mere examples.

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many others.

~~I could mention hundreds - We have even taken over the plants of some~~

~~of the Nation's great preparatory schools. An example is the Paulding~~

~~School up where you live, Mr. Thomas, and of which you were a Trustee,~~

~~I believe. There we do our Air Force training in Cryptography.~~

But, even with all of these hundreds and hundreds of institutions,

we needed more space, so we have taken over literally hundreds of the great

hotels of America, like the ~~Shirley~~ hotels of Miami, and the Stevens,

in Chicago, the largest hotel in the world where we now have ten thousand

young men who are studying radio.

L. S.

I can remember when I thought how big a job it must be to be the

president of a University. But when I think of ~~the being of~~ ~~General Weaver's task,~~

the super-president of ~~hundreds~~ <sup>dozens</sup> upon ~~hundreds~~ <sup>dozens</sup> of universities and colleges

and schools, it leaves me almost speechless, ~~almost but not quite,~~ <sup>but not quite,</sup>

~~because here is another question: "General Weaver, what are some of the~~

~~subjects you teach in all these institutions?"~~

~~Gen. W.~~  
 In them <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ young men are trained  
~~We train men not only~~ as aircraft mechanics, ~~but~~ as armorers,  
 for metal work of many types, <sup>as</sup> machinists, <sup>as</sup> Link trainer instructors, as  
 parachute riggers, ~~as~~ photographic experts, ~~as~~ radio operators, ~~as~~ weather  
 observers - - - and <sup>so on,</sup> ~~there are many, many other subjects.~~

~~Gen.~~

I should think all this would be particularly inviting to a  
 young man, ~~especially~~ partly because it gives him a chance to be a better  
 all around air-man, and, partly because when the war is over he will have  
 an invaluable education <sup>to</sup> ~~which may help him solve his personal problems.~~  
 the rest of his life.

~~Oh, yes, Colonel Daley was telling us that you have a favorite~~  
~~expression, you might almost call it a slogan. Would you mind repeating it?~~

~~Gen. W.~~ Here is one of Gen. W's favorite  
~~I guess what you have in mind, Mr. Thomas, is this: A plane~~  
 expressions: - that a plane that  
~~they~~ cannot fly is one of the most useless things in the world! And planes

will not fly unless they have sufficient ground crews for their proper

maintenance! *And, that* ~~To this I might add~~ When a plane takes flight it is vital

for the pilot to know that the man who put that ship in condition ~~was~~

*And* skilled, thorough, and dependable. That ~~is~~ the job of the Army Air Forces

Technical Training Command."

# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

~~THE NEWS FROM THE OTHER SECTORS OF THE RUSSIAN FRONT IS PERFUNCTORY  
AND NOT INTERESTING.~~

Truman

AT LAST WE HAVE THE LONG <sup>TRUMAN</sup> ~~EXPECTED~~ <sup>awaited</sup> REPORT OF THE TRUMAN COMMITTEE, <sup>of the</sup> SENATORS <sup>Committee</sup> THAT HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING THE WAR EFFORT. ~~IT IS~~ A PRETTY PLAIN SPOKEN DOCUMENT, ALTHOUGH ~~IT IS~~ EXPRESSED IN MODERATE LANGUAGE. ONE THING THE COMMITTEE ~~DECLARED~~ <sup>says is that</sup> WAS THAT SEVERAL OF THE <sup>top</sup> ~~MOST IMPORTANT~~ OFFICIALS OF OUR GOVERNMENT HAVE <sup>engineered</sup> ~~FUSHED~~ THEMSELVES INTO AN IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION, ~~IT~~ <sup>concerns</sup> EVIDENTLY THIS ~~WAS~~ A COMMENT ~~ON~~ THE CONTROVERSY BETWEEN UNDER SECRETARY OF WAR PATTERSON AND RUBBER BOSS BILL JEFFERS, THE ROW IN WHICH PATTERSON ACCUSED JEFFERS OF LEAVING THE ARMY SHORT OF HIGH OCTANE AVIATION GASOLINE. THE TRUMAN COMMITTEE DIDNT EXPRESS ANY ~~OPINION~~ ON WHICH ~~ONE~~ WAS RIGHT AND WHICH WRONG. INSTEAD ~~OF THAT~~ IT DECLARED THAT THE QUARREL WAS DUE TO A RADICAL WEAKNESS, TO LACK OF A SUPREME <sup>war</sup> PLANNING AGENCY. THE TRUMAN COMMITTEE ALSO SAID THAT IMPORTANT OFFICIALS WERE CONFUSED BECAUSE <sup>of</sup> THE AUTHORITY OF ONE OVERLAP<sup>ing</sup> ~~ped~~ THAT OF ANOTHER .

THE COMMITTEE WENT ON TO SAY THAT CONTROVERSIES LIKE THIS CANT BE SOLVED IN PUBLIC. NEITHER CAN ANYTHING BE ACCOMPLISHED BY DISCUSSING THEM IN FRONT OF A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.

~~THE TRUMAN COMMITTEE WENT ON TO SAY~~ <sup>TR Also</sup> THAT ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT <sup>gave</sup> ~~HAD GIVEN~~ PRODUCTION CHIEF DONALD NELSON BROAD POWERS, NEVERTHELESS THE LINES OF AUTHORITY HAD FALLEN INTO A CONFUSION WHICH BRED SUCH DISPUTES. <sup>IT</sup> THE COMMITTEE THEN USED THESE WORD ' THE STRONG OVER-ALL AUTHORITY OF THE WAR PRODUCTION BOARD MUST BE MADE A LIVING REALITY.' AND IT CONTINUED, "THIS AUTHORITY MUST BE READY TO MAKE DECISIONS AND TO ENFORCE THEM OVER THE OBJECTIONS OF AGGRESSIVE DEPARTMENT HEADS." ~~THE TRUMAN COMMITTEE WENT~~

ON TO SAY

## PRICES

Bakers in Utah, North Dakota and Minnesota today told the OPA that they can no longer afford to operate at a loss. In fact they are threatening to close if not allowed to get a cent more per loaf of bread.

All of which puts the OPA on the spot. For if these bakers close down then bread will have ~~had~~ to be brought in from other areas. And that will mean even greater expense. So the OPA has had to allow the bakers their cent a loaf increase.

Today we also learn that Administrator Prentiss Brown is going to establish food ceilings in a hundred and fifty cities and the surrounding districts; ceilings on poultry, milk, bread, eggs, butter, and a long list of other things.

In Albany, Governor Dewey has written to the governors of five surrounding states, urging them to join him in a fight against the black market. The governors of Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania

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and New Jersey. Governor Dewey points out that unless they all join in, it will be useless for the State of New York alone to try to enforce ceiling prices.

# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

"RUSSIA"

THE RED ARMY HAS BROKEN THROUGH ON THE KUBAN FRONT IN THE CAUCASUS SO SAYS MOSCOW. IN FACT, THE RUSSIANS SAY THEY HAVE BROKEN THROUGH INTO THE HEART OF THE GERMAN FORTIFICATIONS OF NOVOROSSISK. RADIO MOSCOW AT NOON TODAY SAID THAT RED TROOPS HAD BEEN ATTACKING ALL THROUGH WEDNESDAY NIGHT AND THAT THE GERMANS HAVE SUFFERED HEAVILY.

HESS

A laborite member of the British Parliament declared today that the wife and family of Rudolf Hess are in Great Britian. This is the first time in months that we have heard anything about the former number two man of the Nazi party. But this is not the first rumor that Frau Hess had come to Britian. The question was raised last October and a spokesman for the Government replied that she was not in Britian and that there was no question of permitting her to come.

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Tomorrow, however, this labor member will ask a question in Parliament about the expenses of keeping Rudolf Hess as a prisoner. The general belief is that he is not being treated like ordinary prisoners but that he is being kept in some castle. So this labor member intends to ask whether the cost of keeping Hess and his family is being taken out of the fifteen thousand pounds worth of securities---the sixty thousand dollars that Hess is reported to have brought with him when he flew to Scotland. The British Government hitherto has refused to answer questions about Hess except that he was being kept ~~xxx~~ as an officer prisoner of war.



# WESTERN UNION PRESS MESSAGE

R. B. WHITE  
PRESIDENT

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J. C. WILLEVER  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

"ORSON WELLES"

*Here is a man you may get, Gen. Weaver.*

ORSON WELLES IS TRYING TO GET INTO THE ARMY. THE DRAFT BOARD HAD GIVEN HIM A SIX MONTHS DEFERMENT, A B-2 CLASSIFICATION, ON THE GROUND THAT HE WAS IN AN ESSENTIAL INDUSTRY. BUT WELLES TORE THIS UP, SAYING THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH TALK ABOUT CINEMA PEOPLE DRAFT DODGING. SO HE WALKED INTO THE OFFICE OF THE DRAFT BOARD AND REPORTED HIMSELF FOR INDUCTION -- ON HIS TWENTY EIGHTH BIRTHDAY.

WHETHER HE WILL GET INTO THE ARMY OR NOT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. THE ARMY DOCTORS SPENT THREE HOURS ON HIS PHYSICAL EXAMINATION, AND THEM SAID NOTHING.

*Too bad Gen-Weaver — a bulletin has just come saying that Orson W - failed to pass his physical examination, and s-l-u-t-m.*