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EGYPT

L.T. - ~~Sunco~~ - ~~Thursday~~ Friday, June 26, 1942.

It is altogether probable that the decisive battle for Egypt is being fought right now. The latest from British headquarters at Cairo pictures the Germans a hundred and ten miles inside ~~of~~ Egypt and approaching the British defense line based on ^{Mersa} ~~Matruh~~ Matruh. They were last reported to be about twenty miles away - and ~~are~~ advancing steadily.

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The British are now holding the only good defense ^{line} ~~line~~ that is to be found all the way back to Alexandria and the valley of the Nile. It ^{is} a strong line, with great natural advantages. It extends from ^{Mersa} ~~Matruh~~ Matruh on the coast for about fifty miles to the south, to a place called the Quattar depression. This is a large basin - a marsh. It is hard to think of a swamp in connection with the desert, but deserts are apt to be paradoxical places. The Quattar depression is described as being so boggy as to be almost impossible for heavy mechanized equipment to traverse. The assumption is that Nazi Field Marshal Rommel won't be able to get through it - although you never can tell. Meaning - one end of the British line rests on the sea, and the other

on a swamp. So they cannot be flanked - unless Rommel does get through the swamp or unless he goes all the way around it. That would mean a long trip, for the Quattor Depression occupies a huge area. The assumption therefore is that Rommel will have to make a direct attack on the British defense, charge headlong against it with his weight of tanks.

~~Less favorable for the British is the fact that the~~ Germans are bringing up huge supply ~~so~~ columns across the desert. They seem to have an immense amount of material, and are moving it forward with precision and speed. The Cairo dispatches tell of great supply trains arranged in a quadrangle, flanked by tanks, and rolling on.

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The R.A. F. is ~~strixx~~ striking all day long, smashing into Nazi troops and at those supply columns. The story continues to emphasize the work of American air units - with giant Consolidated bombers.

~~The report that American ~~motor~~ motorized troops have joined the British is insistent. Distant Melbourne, in Australia, flashes a story stating that an American mechanized outfit of eleven thousand men has arrived in Egypt.~~

RUSSIA

In Russia, it would appear that in the Kharkov Battle the Germans ~~have~~ have now driven beyond the farthest point of their advance last summer, ~~but~~ before they pulled back, retreating for the winter war. The Nazis ^{as you may have heard} have captured the railroad junction town of Kupyansk, which is sixty miles southeast of Kharkov.

~~The~~ This [^] represents a considerable drive to the east, and Moscow reports that a violent ~~battle~~ battle is in progress ^{there}. They are fighting for ~~lengths~~ of the railroad that runs through Kupyansk. The Germans are using hundreds of tanks, and ^{the} Russians report that they ~~are~~ ^{Nazis} outnumbered ^{them} in men and machines in that sector. ~~And~~ ^{also} They say they have withdrawn from still another town, which they abandoned to avoid encirclement.

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The battle for Sevastopol goes on, with Moscow ~~not~~ declaring that the Nazi besiegers have not made any further ~~a~~ progress. They are still battering away at the almost incredibly stubborn defense of the Soviet Naval base, and are said to be using cannon of huge calibre -- the biggest cannon ever.

Moscow describes a heavy Russian air raid against a port in Finland. More than a hundred planes struck hard. They ~~said~~ ^{say they}

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~~several~~ ^{sank} several Axis transports, blasted supply storehouses, and set huge tanks ablaze.

The Finns and Germans on their part seem to be launching a drive. This is reported by Stockholm, which states that Finnish and German Forces are attacking in an attempt to cut the Murmansk ~~Rail~~ Railroad, ~~This is~~ the main supply line along which American war material for the Red Army has been going.

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Russia and Japan are having a sharp controversy about a Soviet steamer which ^{was} ~~as~~ torpedoes and sunk off Japan nearly two months ago. The Japs tried to blame the attack on an American submarine. There has been talk back and forth, and today an official Soviet ~~statement~~ statement places the blame definitely on the Japs. It declares that two Japanese submarines came to the surface right after the sinking, and escorted the lifeboats of the survivors to a Jap steamer, which picked them up. So ~~the~~ ^{it} ~~was~~ ^{was all} ~~ship, is~~ ^{Jap} just a propoganda attempt to sow trouble between the United States and Russia.

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ROOSEVELT- CHURCHILL

We are ~~not~~ told that President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill have been talking things over with Soviet Ambassador Maxim Litvinov. The three statesmen have been having what White House Secretary Steve Early called -- extended and most important conferences. So much emphasis is put on this aspect of the Roosevelt-Churchill meetings that the question of a second front is brought into still greater prominence. What the Soviets want, above all, is an invasion of the Nazi-controlled continent, to relieve German pressure against the Red Army. And if President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill conferred with Soviet Ambassador Litvinov so extensively and most importantly -- second front must have been the major theme.

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In Canada today Prime Minister Mackenzie King told of the talks that he ^{has just} had with the President and Prime Minister in Washington. He summarized by saying that right now the United Nations are in the midst of what he called "One of the most critical periods of the war." And he said he thought the conflict might last another three or four years.

SOUTH AFRICA

A news dispatch from South Africa tells of warplanes, believed to be Japanese, flying over the city of [~]Petoria.
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Apparently it was a reconnaissance flight by the enemy. Anti-~~air~~ aircraft guns went into action against the unidentified planes, and British fighters took off to intercept them. But they got away.

It is thought that these reconaissance aircraft were from a Japanese carrier. There have been recent rumors of Jap Naval units ~~is~~ operating in the Indian ocean not far~~o~~ off South Africa, and the planes that flew over [~]Petoria may have belonged to such a naval squadron. The city is on the southeast coast of Africa -- about a thousand miles from ~~M~~Madagascar, which the British seized and took over from the Vichy French last month.

ARGENTINA

There were riots in Argentina today -- clashes between the Anti-Nazis and those who favor continued neutrality.

Indignation is rising in Argentina because of the sinking of an Argentine freighter by a Nazi U-Boat. The Buenos Aires Government has protested to Berlin, and is awaiting an answer.

With ~~high~~ ^{high,} feeling running, a pro-Nazi group today held a public rally to get signatures to a petition advocating a continuance of neutrality. They were attacked by an anti-Nazi group of students of the Buenos Aires University. A lively fight was staged, until the police intervened and put a stop to the disturbance.

PHILIPPINES

The enemy policy of terrorism and bloodthirsty reprisals in occupied territory has extended to the Philippines -- the Japs imitating the Nazis. Today brings word that eight patriotic Filipinos have been executed at Manila. ~~They were~~ Shot for ~~si~~ distributing Anti-Japanese ~~ph~~ pamphlets.

There is an added touch of the sinister in the Jap explanation that the offense was exceptionally grave because the victims distributed the patriotic pamphlets on the birthday of the Emperor. Worshiping their ruler as a god, the Japs are shooting Filipinos for not observing a similar degree of veneration -- which does add a touch of barbaric superstition to the ferocious policy of suppression.

From Europe -- stories of organized Nazi terrorism continue to stream by wire and wireless. ~~(At Brussels, the Belgian capital, the chief of police in one district of the city is said to have been executed because he had something to do with the publication of an underground anti-Nazi newspaper. And Stockholm has a report from Berlin stating that a total of seven hundred and~~

~~more~~ fifteen persons have been killed in reprisal for the assassination

~~Heydrich the Assassin.~~

C.C.C.

The question of ^{the civilian} ~~civilian~~ conservation corps came to life today -- when the Senate voted to continue the C.C.C. The lower House a couple of weeks ago ^{had} voted to abolish ^{it.} ~~the conservation corps.~~ And the Senate Appropriations Committee took the same stand. The Committee's recommendation came to the floor of the Senate today, and the vote was mighty close. In fact, it was a tie to begin with -- thirty-two to thirty - two. In case of ^{tie} ~~tie~~ ^{in the Senate} the Vice-President casts a vote; and, that tipped the balance -- with Vice-President Wallace voting in favor of the C.C.C. The final ^{then being} count ~~was~~ thirty-three to thirty-two in favor of providing money to continue the organization.

The question now goes to a joint committee of the Senate and Lower House -- in order to harmonize the views of the two branches of Congress. This time it ^{is a} ~~is the~~ question of harmonizing yes and no, and it will be interesting to see how the whole thing works out.

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SUGAR

From Washington we hear that the sugar ration may be increased. The Office of Price Administration announced today that studies are being conducted to determine if it is possible to grant -- a moderate increase.

The O.P.A. states that the whole thing depends principally upon sugar shipments from the West Indies. If it is possible to bring enough of sweet stuff from such places as Puerto Rico and Cuba, the public will get more under the rationing system.

PRODUCTION

Today in Washington, some war production figures were given out -- the first to be released since our entry into the war. All such figures have hitherto been withheld. Now, however, ~~some statistical data is released. Why? The President makes public the information, and also provides an explanation.~~

"We ordinarily do not release production figures," says the White House statement, "Because they might give aid and comfort to the enemy. I am going to give you just a few," the President goes on, "Which are definitely going to give the Axis just the opposite of aid and comfort."

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Then comes the figures, which are for one month -- the month of May. In that four-week period, we produced nearly four thousand military planes. ~~That is~~ *And that's* at the rate of fifty-four thousand ~~military planes~~ a year. The President's program calls for sixty thousand planes a year. So no wonder today's White House statement declares:- "We are well on our way towards achieving the rate of production which will bring us to our goals."

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PRODUCTION - 2

In May we produced fifteen hundred tanks and two thousand artillery and anti-tank cannon -- not counting anti-aircraft guns and the cannon to be mounted on tanks. And in that one month we turned out fifty thousand machine guns, not including sub-machine guns. The ~~the~~^{es} latter would bring the total to well over one hundred thousand.

The President's production disclosure concludes with a note of warning. "While these figures give you some idea of our production accomplishments, this is not the time for the American people to ~~get~~^{get} over-confident. We need more," says the President, "And we will make more."

BONDS

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A few minutes from now, New York's Times Square is going to have one of the most original of war bond selling rallies. The slogan of the patriotic ja^m boree is -- "Drop your personal calling card on Berlin or Tokyo."

They've got a string of huge army air bombs, and everybody who buys a bond is permitted to autograph a bomb. So the giant missiles destined to be dropped from American warplanes will be the calling cards inscribed with the names of thousands of Americans.

The calling card rally is being run by New York's former Mayor, Jimmy Walker -- who wisecracked his way to political fame. Nowadays Jimmy ^{is} ~~has~~ ^{my} turned wisecracking ^s ~~ing~~ into war-time slogans.

For example, Jimmy talked ^{my} ~~ed~~ baseball ~~and~~ said: "The boys at the front are making the hits. It's up to you and me to make the sacrifices." ~~And that evokes the familiar vision of a batter laying down the sacrifice to advance the runner on the bases.~~

~~Another time Jimmy Walker put it this way: "There is a liberty bell in every home -- and we're going to ring it."~~

R.A.F.

This afternoon British reconnaissance planes flew over the blasted Nazi port of Bremen. They report that huge ~~pa~~ fires are still raging, a flaming sign of the tremendous devastation inflicted by the more-than-a-thousand-plane bombing-raid last night. The R.A.F. struck incessantly for seventy-five minutes against the harbor which is of such key importance to German war traffic. ^{TV} Many American built bombers took part in ~~ri~~ raining down a flood of giant bombs. ~~Let~~ London reports the loss of fifty-two bombers in the Bremen raid. In the previous thousand plane devastation of Cologne, forty [^] - five were lost. So, in the Bremen bombing last night, the percentage of planes shot down may have been higher - or the R.A.F. may have sent over more planes.

The Germans ^{are} reported to be putting a special censorship on mail ~~from Cologne~~ to soldiers in the Army - this to conceal from the soldiers the frightful damage done to Bremen, *Cologne, Essen and other places.*

This afternoon, British fliers continued their war work by renewing daylight raids on northern France. Two squadrons went winging across the channel, and attacked Axis *targets.*

targets.

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The importance to the United States of the bombing of Nazi Germany is not only because of the American built planes used. It is also a case of American trained British pilots. This was stated today in London by Lord Balfour who has just returned to England from a tour of flying fields in Canada and the United States. He was enthusiastic about the way British pilots are being trained over here, although he said there were some difficulties. For example, American aviation slang.

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Lord Balfour told how an American instructor would tell ~~to~~ an English pilot - "Give her the gun", and the Englishman would look around for a pistol.

And then there were instances in which an English pilot flying a plane would look down for a city in which to land, when the Americans with him would say - "Let's go to town".

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Now Hugh, it's time for you to go to town!