

HUGH GIBSON - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The American invasion of Rendova in the New Georgia group ^{of} islands is proceeding according to plan. Once again ~~United States~~ Uncle Sam's infantrymen and marines are fighting in jungle territory. From their beachheads they are pushing the Japanese back steadily.

The Tokyo Radio acknowledged that we had succeeded in landing some men on Rendova. But it also claimed that Japanese navy planes had sunk or damaged six of our transports, three cruisers and one destroyer, and ~~shooting~~ down thirty-one United States airplanes. To this claim our own high command makes no reply. The Navy admitted that there were losses on both sides and that the United States Transport McCawley, seventy-seven hundred tons.

had been sunk, but without loss of life. The McCAWLEY used to be the Grace Liner SANTA BARBARA. She was empty when she was sunk.

7
We also lost seventeen planes in the opening of the attack on the central Solomons. However, our men destroyed sixty-five Jap planes and seized the harbor of Viru on New Georgia Island. On one point at Rendova, our men are only five miles away from the big Jap air base at Munda; at Viru they are only thirty miles below Munda.

There were no fewer than a hundred and ten enemy planes of all types, trying to prevent the landing on Rendova. The landings were carried out with excellent timing and perfect cooperation between American infantry and marines, American naval units and American plus Australian air forces.

We also learned for the first time today that

before the landing on Rendova, United States air formations delivered a series of savage attacks against Munda and the nearby base of Vila. The idea was to prevent the Jap airplanes from getting off the ground while our invasion fleet moved in on Rendova. The strategy succeeded because it wasn't until later that the enemy's air armada of a hundred and ten planes tried to interfere with the American landings. By that time our men were already ashore.

The attack on the Solomons and the New Georgia group is only one part of a great offensive on a line seven hundred miles long. It stretches all the way from the Solomons through the Trobriand and Woodlock Islands to New Guinea. Reports from General MacArthur's headquarters tell us that the offensive succeeded in taking the Japs by surprise, although they had plenty of knowledge that something was brewing on our side.

~~The fact~~ That they were surprised was proved by the fact that while our attack was going on, twenty-seven Japanese bombing planes and twenty-one fighters made an attack on Port Darwin on the northern coast of Australia. They lost eight planes and eight others were damaged, while only six Allied planes were missing. The ~~planes~~ that attacked ^{Port} Darwin could have been more usefully employed in fending off the Allied offensive if the Japs had known what was up.

American and Australian forces are now anchored in Nassau Bay on the New Guinea coast. There they are only ten miles away from the Jap stronghold at Salamaua. The Trobriand and Woodlock Islands were occupied without firing a shot.

Secretary of War Stimson warns us to expect heavy fighting, especially in the Solomons and the New Georgia Islands, as soon as the Japs get their bearings.

MEDITERRANEAN

The latest bombings in the Mediterranean give a ~~definite~~ hint of things to come. Again the Royal Air Force and United States Air Force have pounded away at the ferry terminal in Messina in Sicily. That makes the fifth time in six days. Furthermore, they turned their attention to the western end of the harrassed island. In their last raid, they started huge fires in Palermo and four of the airfields nearby. Judging from reports, they have ~~rendered~~ Sicily ~~in~~ pretty nearly in a state of blockade. The ferry terminals are virtually out of commission. In case of a landing by Allied forces, it would be exceedingly difficult for the Axis generals to reinforce the island. The Allied fliers are meeting ~~very~~ little opposition from enemy fighters, and ~~no~~ ~~anti-aircraft~~ ~~fire~~ ~~to~~ ~~speak~~ ~~of~~. Even the Rome Radio acknowledges that our fliers have caused notable damage in Palermo. They have also spread fire and ruin

throughout the city of Cagliari in Sicily.

The London Admiralty announced that British submarines have sunk four more ships in Italian waters.

One ship loaded with munitions exploded so violently that it shook the submarine ^{that} ~~as it~~ torpedoed it.

U-BOAT

The Berlin Radio today made light of Winston Churchill's claims that the British and American navies had been massacring U-boats. A Nazi spokesman said that Churchill had once again been putting on his rose tinted spectacles.

51
However, the Nazis do admit that there was a sharp decline in sinkings of Allied shipping by their U-boats during June. The explanation they offer of this decline is that all German submarine commanders have been called home to study new methods of attack. And the Nazis hint that these new methods will do terrible things to Allied shipping.

AIR WAR

The British Air Ministry tells us that during the month of June, the Royal Air Force ^{dropped} ~~dropped~~ a total of more than nineteen thousand tons of bombs on Europe.

The Air Ministry tells the story in detail. Two thousand at Duesseldorf, two thousand on Bochum, two thousand on Krefeld, and so forth. The American tonnage was less.

RUSSIA

After a lull of several days, we have some news from Russia tonight. What sounds like a heavy artillery battle is going on not far from Leningrad. The Red army generals are moving reinforcements to the front in that sector. So the German big guns are trying to hamper those movements by a concentrated fire on the railroads near Schluesselburg.

That news comes from Germany. The Berlin Radio also reports that the Russians are attacking in strength down along the Donets River in the Lisichank sector.

HITLER

2
The old rumors about Adolf Hitler were revived today. But they should not be taken too seriously. British official circles place no trust in them. The sole basis for them is that the talkative Fuehrer has hardly spoken in public for more than seven months. He made a short, rather flat, speech at Berlin in March, and that was before a hand-picked audience. On one occasion in May he appeared at the funeral of the Chief of Staff of the Nazi Storm Troops and made a short funeral oration. But that was a private ceremony.

One of the rumors to spring to life again was that he had retired to his nest on top of a peak in the Bavarian mountains and was there sulking. The other was that the German general staff has taken the bit in its teeth and ~~thrown~~ ^{dropped} the former corporal ~~out~~ as Commander-in-Chief. That would mean that the old guard of generals is now in command, the men of the old ~~Prussian~~ Junker tradition. old

FRENCH

3
The dispute over the leadership of the French in Africa took a new turn today. Last Monday we heard that General Giraud was to come to the United States and would be welcomed in Washington. That infuriated the partisans of General DeGaulle. They recalled that DeGaulle was all ~~xxx~~ packed up and ready to come months ago ^{but} ~~when~~ he was informed that his visit would be inopportune. The DeGaullists therefore considered their leader was again definitely snubbed when Giraud was invited so cordially.

The latest from London today is that Giraud's visit has also been postponed ~~and postponed~~ indefinitely.

British Prime Minister Churchill made a ~~report~~ ^{report} ~~statement~~ to the House of Commons about the Giraud-DeGaulle problem. ~~He told the House the story of diplomatic events in that connection during the last few months.~~ One thing he said was that the world should not give undue attention to the personal ~~aspect~~ aspect of the

new French organization. The British Government hopes
~~that all the members of the French committee of~~
~~liberation will merge their personal and individual~~
~~interests for the common good of France.~~ It never has
been the policy of the British Government to take
sides in disputes between Frenchmen, Churchill then
said that it is not the policy of the ~~British~~ government
~~xxxxxxx~~ of the United States and the British
government that their armies shall be used to impose
upon France, directly or indirectly, any particular
military leader.

54

General Giraud's brother, a doctor, has escaped
from France and arrived in Algiers. He gave out an
interview today, and the most important thing he said
was that the people of France as a whole hate the Vichy
government almost as much as they hate the Germans.
~~In France itself, people do not think in terms of~~

JONES-WALLACE


The latest repercussion from the row between Secretary Jesse Jones and Vice-President Wallace is the report that the staff of the White House may make another effort to ^{achieve peace & harmony between them -} ~~bring the bombstoms together~~. The loud demand of Secretary Jones for an investigation by Congress brings no ^{cheer} ~~news~~ to the Executive Mansion. Observers agree that such an investigation would do the Administration ~~no~~ no good, and certainly would contribute nothing toward reassuring the public and bringing about unity.

If the peacemakers cannot succeed, President Roosevelt will have an unpleasant dilemma on his hand. If the Vice-President continues to be Chairman of the Board of Economic Warfare, it may not be so easy for the President to keep Jesse Jones on as a member of his Cabinet,

Further details leaked out today about the

5
meeting at which ^{Justice} ~~the O.W.M. Director Jimmy~~ Byrnes tried to make peace. The Vice-President, says the report, was light and affable. Jesse Jones from Texas was furious. After the two-hour meeting was over, Jones left first and told the reporters that they would have to get their news about the conference from Byrnes. The Vice-President stayed twenty minutes after Jones had left. Then, to Jones's astonishment and indignation, it was not Byrnes, but Wallace, who gave out information about the peace conference. That set a new match to Jones's anger.

So, as matters stand tonight, the net result of ^{Justice} ~~Jimmy~~ Byrnes's ^{intervention} ~~endeavor~~ was to pour oil on the troubled fires.



DAVIS

56
Elmer Davis, the Director of the Office of War Information, has ordered fifty-eight field and regional offices of the O.W.I. closed by July Fifteenth. Those offices are in forty-five states. Mr. Davis is doing this to comply with the wishes of Congress, as he has given up all hope of persuading the national lawmakers to let him go on as before. The Congressmen are still arguing about just how much money the O.W.I. should have. But both Houses are agreed that the domestic branch of O.W.I. should be cut down, the Motion Picture Bureau should be abolished, also the Publications Bureau and Field Operations. Elmer Davis's order means that three hundred and forty-two people in the employ of O.W.I. will be first dropped.

RIOT

The Dies Committee this afternoon heard a detailed account of a riot in a Japanese camp in California. It happened last December at Manzar, California.

There were both pro-Japanese and anti-Japanese among the people interned at that relocation center. But it was the pro-Japs who started it. They picked December Seventh, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor, for the row.

The story was told by Tokie Slocum, a Japanese who had fought under Sergeant Alvin Yorke in the First World War. He was one of those in the camp and he ran away to escape being killed. When ~~the~~ he escaped he ran the danger of being shot by the military police guard. But he told the Committee that he would rather be killed by an American than by a Japanese.

7

STEPHAN

from the gallows

President Roosevelt today saved the traitor Max Stephan of Detroit ~~from the gallows~~. He was to be hanged at midnight for harboring and helping a German aviator who had escaped from a prison camp in Canada.

A statement from the White House gave as a reason for the commutation that Stephan's treason did not ~~come~~ come from a plan maturely initiated by him. It was not part of a preconceived plan. The German prisoner who escaped from Canada was put in touch with Stephan after reaching the city. Stephan's treason bore something of a parallel to murder in the second degree or manslaughter in the first. It was therefore less of an offense than in the case of the saboteurs last year.

President Roosevelt's own words were:- "Stephan will go to prison for life and I hope no one of my successors will commute that sentence."

FOOD

The new food administration is at work on plans to avert a shortage of potatoes next year. We have just been through one of those. If something isn't done about it, the situation will be worse early in Nineteen Forty-four. One plan being considered is to have the government purchase the entire potato crop and sell it to shippers, wholesalers and retailers. In that way, it is maintained the government would be able to fix maximum prices without, ~~it is hoped,~~ injuring anybody.

1/2 ~~And now, Hugh James,~~
And now, speaking for Lowell
Thomas, So long until tomorrow.