

L.T. - SUMOCO. MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

*— which means Sicily —*

The Battle of Messina <sup>^</sup> seems to be in its

last phase. The heavy artillery of the British and

American armies is now within easy range, and that's ~~now~~

the beginning of the end ~~so far as Sicily is concerned~~

*for the historic island of the toe of Italy.*

The only example of the defenders of a big city resisting

heavy artillery was at Stalingrad. And it is ~~highly~~

doubtful <sup>that</sup> ~~whether~~ the people of Messina will ~~fight it~~

~~some kind of stance that the Stalingraders <sup>did</sup> showed in~~

~~fact, it is an official report that the end of the Battle~~

~~of Sicily is at hand~~

On the south, the British are <sup>now</sup> within twenty miles

of Messina. On the north, the Americans are within

the fifteen miles. <sup>The</sup> Americans <sup>are</sup> ~~sweeping down the~~ <sup>sweeping down the</sup>

road along the northern coast, during an eclipse of the moon last night, fought a battle, at Cape Milazo, which they won and then they continued on.

The U. S. motorized infantry stopped only long enough to wipe out scattered pockets of Germans of Italians, then they jumped into their trucks, Jeeps and half-tracks.

The Nazis are on the run, trying only to try to save what equipment they can. In fact, they are now moving so fast their engineers have little time for mine laying and demolition work.

The Americans have been sweeping through one place after another on the coast. One of them was a place called Barcellona, Barcellona with two "l's":

not like the great city on the east coast of Spain. When the Americans got to Barcellona, the Sicilians poured out into the streets and gave them an ovation.

Evidently the enemy have succeeded in one thing. In spite of the most intense bombardment from sea and air, the Germans and Italianas have evacuated a great many troops across the Straits of Messina. Which under the circumstances, rates as a real military feat. But there will be no second Dunkirk at Messina.

## AIR WAR - ITALY SOUTH

In the south of Italy, Allied fliers battered the evacuation district around Messina, relentlessly all day yesterday and today. Even so, they were unable to prevent some Germans and a few Italians from escaping in small boats. It takes only twenty minutes to cross the Straits.

British and American bombers also battered places on the Italian mainland, all the way from the toe of the peninsula to points north of Rome. They hit at railway yards close to the capital, and found that they are still being used for marshaling troops. This fact openly contradicts the claim of the Badoglio government that Rome has become an open city.

## MILAN

Following last night's Royal Air Force raid on Milan, all telegraph and telephone communications between Switzerland and Italy were cut off without any explanation. Maybe the object was to keep out of Switzerland any reports about the results of that terrific raid. But several eyewitnesses got over the border and gave harrowing accounts of what they had seen. Some of them described the City of Milan as one great rubble heap from the center to the suburbs. Others declared that huge fires are raging throughout the ruins with the Italian authorities unable to put them out.

The more than a million civilians of Milan are said to be completely demoralized. They would like to leave but the Badoglio government will not let them. We hear that crowds are still marching through the battered streets shouting for peace. The authorities called out the troops to

break up the crowds, and even had to call in the Germans -- to try and suppress the people by the most severe military control.

But for the troops, Milan would be in a state of revolution.

Last night's raid on Milan was the third in seventy-two hours. Great British Blenheims and Lancasters saturated the city with their blockbusters.

McMILLAN

Among the injured on the Sicilian front was United Press Correspondent Richard McMillan. His condition is reported as not serious, but he suffered severe burns from powder blasts and <sup>has been</sup> ~~was~~ evacuated to North Africa.

As this news came over the wire, a book was put on my desk called "Mediterranean Assignment", written by the same Richard McMillan, ~~is~~ one of the most interesting books <sup>so far to come out of</sup> ~~about~~ the war. Among other things, it includes the most detailed and graphic description of the swinging of the war pendulum in Africa. McMillan escaped from Tobruk when Rommel took it, and entered it again with Montgomery's army. He has written interesting <sup>an</sup> analysis of both Rommel and the man who defeated him, ~~Sir Bernard~~ Montgomery. He admits that Rommel is a great general, but <sup>says</sup> ~~infers that~~ Montgomery is better. Rommel won for a while, says McMillan, not because he is a genius,

but because of the poor equipment of the British and the indecision of their high command.

McMillan's guess is that after the Allies have taken Italy, they will strike through the Balkans, cut off the German forces there, and cut the Nazis off from the Rumanian oilfields.

*That is what he says in "Mediterranean Assignment."*



BOMB FOLLOW McMILLAN

*And*  
~~But~~ another U.S. correspondent had an experience  
~~which nobody~~ *few* would ~~want~~ *care* to duplicate. Robert Vermillion,  
now in Africa, was at a camp somewhere in Great Britain.

*Suddenly*  
~~One day~~ he heard someone shouting - "Duck! For God's sake  
duck!"

Before he could ~~duck~~ *move*, there was a flash of white  
flame three hundred yards away. He and the twenty men  
with him were too astonished to duck. They watched the  
flame spread along the ground. Then the whole sky  
was lighted with a tremendous ~~illumination~~ *blaze*. The ~~fire~~  
flame turned red and towered hundreds of feet in the sky.  
When the roar of the explosion reached them, Vermillion  
dived into the gravel as a gust of wind lifted his  
coat-tails and stones drove past him at a tremendous pace.

What had happened was the accidental setting off  
of a four thousand ton bomb, a blockbuster. Men and  
women who stood as far as seven hundred yards away

were knocked down by the wind from the blast. Vermillion and those around him escaped only because of an irregularity in the ground on which they were standing. Usually, those blockbusters kill any <sup>one</sup>~~body~~ standing within a radius of three hundred yards.

~~that Rome has become an open city.~~

American  
~~United States~~

and British planes also raided northern France. One American group bombarded the LeBourget airfield near Paris, the airfield where all passenger liners used to land. They dropped bombs at several other points in northern France and shot down at least thirty-seven enemy fighters.

The results of these raids and the observations made while they were carried out have created a distinct impression in London that the strength of the once dreaded German air weapon is wanning, at least in fighter planes.

One Swiss newspaper quotes the report of an eyewitness that in the raids on Hamburg, a hundred and sixty thousand people were killed. The shelters were full of people so terrified that nervous breakdowns are numerous. Some people in despair even left the

shelters and rushed suicidally out. The heat generated by the flames from the blockbuster bombs was so tremendous that the asphalt in the streets melted. People who tried to escape through it were caught and unable to move.

~~Most probably~~ These accounts come from excited people <sup>and may be</sup> ~~who~~ exaggerated. ~~considerably~~. Nevertheless, there seems no doubt that the damage at Hamburg, as at Milan, has been terrific.

## RUSSIA

The soldiers of the Soviet Union tonight are within nine miles of the city of Bryansk. And - the Red armies are advancing on Bryansk from four directions:- north, northeast, east and southeast. After the fall of Karachev, south of Bryansk, they advanced eight miles in twenty-four hours.

The Nazi communiques continue to deny that there have been any Russian successes. Berlin insists that all Red army onslaughts have been repulsed. Nevertheless, they do admit that the Russians have redoubled their efforts to break through; and the place names really tell the tale.

Around Kharkov, the Red army progress continues slowly. The Germans have been sending in masses of reserves; counter-attacking. The Moscow newspaper PRAVDA reports that the battle of the Ukraine has developed on a scale without parallel. It rages over an area of hundreds of square miles, from the neighborhood of Poltava away out to the southwest of Kharkov, all the way up to a place called Spas Demensk.

*And,*  
~~However,~~ in spite of the heavy Germany counter-attacks along the railroad from Kharkov to Poltava, Moscow was claiming this afternoon that the Russians had reached the outskirts of Kharkov and that ~~fi~~ there was fighting in the streets of the northern and northeastern corners of the city.

*As for* the day's advance on Bryansk, ~~one Red army took Zhizdra, an important base to the northeast, and two other key places.~~ Moscow claims ~~that~~ they recaptured ~~of~~ altogether a hundred and thirty towns and villages. ~~on that Bryansk front.~~ The communique mentioned by ~~the~~ name eighteen towns. *And it begins to* ~~At present it~~ looks as though they would take Bryansk before the fall of Kharkov.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt returned to Washington today after his three-day conference with Winston Churchill at Hyde Park. The President will rejoin the British Prime Minister in Quebec later this week. ~~He~~

*For luncheon today he invited*  
~~most important discussion today was with~~ Secretary of State Hull, who denied reports that he would accompany Mr. Roosevelt to Quebec. The President, said <sup>that sec.</sup> Hull,

has been fully advised in every necessary detail <sup>on</sup> of the foreign situation *and there is no need for him to journey to Quebec.*

The most active rumor flying around Washington today was that <sup>Messers.</sup> ~~Mr.~~ Roosevelt and ~~Mr.~~ Churchill, at Quebec, will decide what to do about Marshal Badoglio's

claim that Rome is now an open city.

*is unofficial.*

*But that's all*

## BATS

Bad news for the Japanese - the bats are back at Guadalcanal again. The bats have had a rest, and a well earned one, and it has made them all the keener for another go at the subjects of the Son of Heaven.

The bats are a crack dive bomber squadron in the Pacific, whose members earned for it the nickname "Bat<sup>1</sup> out of Hell." The Nips <sup>have</sup> met them several times, but there <sup>were</sup> ~~have been~~ two encounters <sup>for</sup> ~~from~~ which the enemy <sup>has particularly</sup> ~~has~~ good reason to remember the "Bats out of Hell," ~~These~~ <sup>^</sup> were at Midway and Guadalcanal. Their ~~very~~ first action was in the Battle of Midway. It was an experience of both triumph and tragedy. They attacked a great Japanese armada without fighter protection and lost twelve out of thirty pilots. But - they scored three hits on a Jap aircraft carrier, four on a battleship.

A few days ago, six of the original bats took part in the final air raid <sup>ON</sup> ~~of~~ Munda before it was



captured. Everyone of the six wore a Navy Cross, won at Midway. At Munda they sank a destroyer, damaged two others, hitting a transport and a cargo vessel.

Their first visit to Guadalcanal was in the toughest battle of all, when our side was having its hardest going. And now they are back again.

## PACIFIC

One story in today's news from New Guinea sent a thrill through the busy city of Endicott, New York. Some time ago, the students of Union High School there clubbed together and bought an airplane for Uncle Sam. It was christened the "Endicott Special" and sent out to the Fifth U.S. Army Air Force in the Pacific.

A couple of days ago, it went through its first air ~~bat~~ battle as leader of a group of interceptors that took on a Jap formation twenty-five miles west of Lae, in New Guinea. At the controls of the Endicott Special was Captain Grant Dubishire of Williamsburg, Iowa, who was the first to dive into the Jap formation. In fact he took on the three Nipponese leaders, and all three of them went down smoking. The upshot of that air battle was that our airmen destroyed fourteen Jap planes in less than one minute, which must be a near record.

Then, Captain Dubishire in the "Endicott Special", thought the battle was over & when he spotted

a single enemy fighter coming down out of the sun, whereupon the Iowa lad contrived to get on the Jap's tail, and sent him down to join those 14 Jap bombers.

After it was all over, Captain Dubishire said: "You can tell the Endicott kids that she's some baby!" Which may encourage young folks in high schools all over the country to go and do what the Endicotters did.

The rest of the news from New Guinea is that Uncle Same's jungle troops charged enemy positions on a hill christened Roosevelt Ridge, and captured important posts there at the southern approaches to Salamaua; the culmination of a battle that has lasted several days. The U. S. ground forces were well backed up by superior air power, and did a great job, says Sergeant Harold Ayers of Portland, Oregon, who tells us those Jap pill boxes must be seen to be believed. His job was to capture them-- which he did.

## DONATIONS

Airplanes are not the only gifts that our government receives to help the war. Not only American citizens but friends in other countries have sent in all sorts of things including four million, for hundred and twenty-three thousand dollars in cash. Besides the money, the government has also <sup>received presents of</sup> ~~been presented with~~ ambulances, typewriters, rifles, wedding rings, refrigerators, pianos, racing pigeons, and cases of whiskey.

Some of the people who send in cash take pains to specify that it's to be used for buying planes or jeeps. Others just give it to Uncle Sam and leave it to Uncle's discretion, in which case the money is put into the general fund. One cash contribution was as large as twenty-five thousand dollars. *And now Hugh*