

L.T. SUNOCO - MONDAY, AUGUST 23, 1943

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

About the fall of Kharkov ~~as you probably~~
~~know, it~~ fell yesterday -- there are two different
versions. The news came first from the Berlin radio,
which announced that the Nazi Generals had withdrawn
their troops from the Pittsburgh of the Ukraine, fourth
largest city of Russia. In fact, the Nazi broadcast
made light of the event, said that Kharkov today was
merely a heap of ruins, and that the Germans had
evacuated according to plan -- all in the course
of detaching movements.

The ~~xxx~~ announcement from Moscow came
later; and, it tells us a different story. In fact,
the fall of Kharkov was proclaimed in an order of the
day -- an order from Premier Stalin to his victorious

Red
^

~~Red~~

armies. It was addressed in the most formal and
theatric fashion to three of his generals; and, it said
that troops of the Steppes front, with the active
cooperation of troops from the Voronezh and southwest
fronts, ~~have~~ broken the resistance of the enemy and
~~taken the town of~~ ^{took} Kharkov by storm. ^{TP} Thus, continued
Stalin, the second capital of the Ukraine has been
freed from the yoke of the German Fascist scoundrel.

^{TP} The Soviet Premier then ordered that at nine o'clock
in the evening, Moscow, in the name of the fatherland,
should salute the gallant troops that liberated Kharkov,
^{salute them} with twenty artillery salvos from ~~two~~ hundred and
twenty-four guns. He concluded his order of the day
with the words:- "Death to the German invaders," signed,
Supreme Commander Marshal Stalin."

It is interesting to observe that the Red
Dictator used the words "German invaders." Earlier

in the war, all the official communiques and army bulletins referred to the invaders as Fascists or Hitlerites, never as Germans. ~~But today the nationalist note is quite frequent.~~

The story of Kharkov ^{is one of the epics} ~~in the war has been~~ ^{of the war.} ~~long, bitter one.~~ The city was first captured by the Germans ^{nearly 2 years} ~~twenty-two months~~ ago, in October, Nineteen Forty-One. Then the Red army retook it ^{on} February Sixteenth of this year, ~~But~~ ~~it~~ not ^{for} ~~held it~~ long, ~~for~~ less than a month later, on March Fifteenth, the Nazis were in there again.

Experts tell us that from a military point of view, Kharkov will not be of much use to the Red army --- ^{that is} ~~for~~ for several months. Eight railroads run in and out of the place, but they have long since been rendered useless.

In peacetime, it had a population of

eight hundred and thirty-three thousand. When the Russians retook it last February, they found only three hundred and fifty thousand. But not all of ^{the} ~~them~~ *five hundred thousand* fell to the Germans. The Russians had evacuated three hundred thousand ~~of the~~ people of Kharkov; ^{and had} ~~safely, also~~ *moved* the great tractor and other machinery plants. ^{It still,} According to Foreign Commissar Molotov, a hundred and ten thousand of the inhabitants were taken to Germany and sold as slaves in public markets. Fifteen thousand Jews were slaughtered en masse; and, seventy thousand people died of hunger, during the German occupation.

It ~~does~~ look ^s now as though the Soviet Union had Kharkov back for keeps, at least the place where Kharkov used to be. ^{Anyhow its recapture provides} ~~The event is really,~~ one more ^{to the on-sweeping all-} climax ~~in the hitherto~~ victorious offensive of the Red armies.

And On top of the good news about Kharkov, Moscow announced ^S a new offensive in the rich basin of the Donets River. The objective, *the city of the* ~~of that one is beyond~~ Voroshilovgrad. *Moscow says this* It has been under way three days and *that* ~~has~~ already *great gains have been made.* ~~gone some distance~~ The Red army in the south is now attacking on a line two hundred and seventy-five miles long, ~~It stretches~~ from Lebedin northwest of Kharkov, ~~all the way~~ to the Mius River in the south.

TP The armies advancing on Voroshilovgrad *we hear have* progressed thirty to thirty-five kilometers in ~~these~~ three days, and have taken more than thirty inhabited places, including one important town and railway station. *TP* This new drive threatens the entire German position in the south, ~~even~~ as far as the bridgehead of the Kuban River.

Red army shock troops are also attacking in the north, aiming for Bryansk and Spasdemensk.

ALEUTIANS

Another Aleutian Island is in our hands.

American and Canadian troops have occupied a tiny spot on the map of the north Pacific called Segula

~~It is just~~ Twenty miles east of Kiska, ~~which we took~~
~~the week before last.~~

The landing on Segula^{la} was just the same as that on Kiska - unopposed. No Japanese were there, no fighting, no loss of American or Canadian lives.

~~This gives us~~ Another base for the day when we start the big attack on Japan.

CONFERENCE FOLLOW ALEUTIANS

And that subject - (Getting at Japan, was uppermost at Quebec today. The President was in conference at the Old Canadian citadel with his own Secretary of the Navy - also with Secretary Stimson of the War Department, and Chinese Foreign Minister T.V. Soong. All we learn is that the attack on Japan will be launched at the same time as the coming knockout blow against the Germans!

Quebec now teems with representatives of the United Nations - from Britain, China, Australia and the U.S.A.

As for Mr. Churchill today - he was making a triumphal tour of the city. Of this the people of old Quebec had only two hours' notice; but they all turned out to cheer the Prime Minister. Flags were fluttering over all shops and homes and public buildings. Many stores were closed, and the gayly uniformed Mounties

CONFERENCE FOLLOW ALEUTIANS - 2

rode with Churchill as he drove through the streets of what many consider the most picturesque old city of North America.

PACIFIC

Our forces and the Japs have again joined battle somewhere in the southwest Pacific. It looks like the final all-out attack on Salamaua in New Guinea.

Australian and American artillery are bombarding the airdrome from the land, while Allied forces in the sky are bombing the whole sector. ^{TP} American and Australian jungle troops on land have forged ahead two miles more ~~farther~~ ^{have} and taken by storm strategic positions on the hills commanding the ^{Salamaua} airfield. They are now only about a mile south of ^{Salamaua,} ~~the ^{heavily} ~~highly~~ battered town.~~

Meanwhile, seven hundred and fifty miles to the east, ~~United States forces~~ by air, land and sea ^{we} are battling to get control of the central Solomons. ~~away from the Japanese.~~

Tokyo claims that we have suffered a defeat. ~~in that region.~~ A dispatch from the Nipponese official news agency announced ⁵ that a United States task force

~~had~~ tried to ^{make} ~~effect~~ a landing on Kolombangara Island,
and were driven off with heavy loss ^{ed.} ~~by the Japs.~~

Kolombangara is the last stronghold that the Japs hold

in the New Georgia group. The Domei dispatch claims

that Japanese ^{land} batteries ~~on land~~ sank two large American
[with great loss of life] transports, whereupon the rest of the fleet withdrew.

This is not confirmed, our own high command says
nothing about it.

Tokyo also claimed^s that a large Japanese
air force ~~had~~ made a terrific attack two days ago on
our anchorage at Biloa, ^{in the Solomons,} sinking two transports,
damaging three, and destroying fourteen American planes.
That report likewise is not confirmed or even mentioned
by the Allied high command.

CORRECTION

3 One dispatch from the Pacific last week contained a misplaced comma, which caused me to stumble and give credit to the wrong man. You may recall that we had a story about Lieutenant Jack Kennedy, son of Ex-Ambassador Joe Kennedy, who was thrown into the water when a Jap destroyer cut in half the P.T. boat commanded by Lieutenant Kennedy. As the story read, I had the impression that Lieutenant Kennedy had been saved by Machinist's Mate McMahon, a former champion swimmer. Instead of that, it is Lieutenant Jack Kennedy who used to be a champion swimmer at Harvard, and it was he who towed Machinist Mate McMahon three miles to shore.

CHINA

Japanese air fleets are again attacking the heart of fighting China--Chungking. Not much damage, for they were intercepted by Chinese fighter planes. But, the raid is important because it indicates that the Japs are beginning a desperate try to regain control of the skies over China--which would mean wresting control from the Fourteenth U.S. Air Force under Major General Chenault.

Along with this report comes the news that on Saturday Chenault's flyers attacked Hankow, the great Chinese port on the Yangtze River now occupied by the Japs. The attacking planes were U. S. Liberator bombers; and they shot down or damaged fifty-two Jap planes.

MEDITERRANEAN

For five days now, the United ^{Nations} ~~States~~ air fleets in the Mediterranean have been cutting to pieces the Italian railway system in the south of the ^{Appennine} peninsula. Yesterday they burned Salerno, the port at the head of the Gulf of the same name, southeast of Naples. Already they had all but smashed all the rail communication between the north and the south of the Italian boot. On Saturday they shot down twenty-two Axis planes. In yesterday's, the fourth successive raid on Salerno, they beat ^{they} ~~the~~ record by bagging thirty-three Nazi interceptors.

The railroad yards at Salerno were still burning last night when ~~strong fleets of~~ Wellington bombers of the Royal Air Force paid it another visit. They dropped several of their four-ton blockbusters and innumerable smaller bombs, destroying and burning all the freight cars that were crowded on the siding.

The Nazi high command has been forced to call upon its air force reserves to meet the mounting tempo of our raids on Italy. At Allied headquarters it is the belief that the Germans are getting desperate judging from the number of their interceptors that our airmen are now encountering. The Axis interceptor defense over Italy is infinitely stronger than it was over Sicily.

Those thirty-three Nazi planes that were shot down yesterday constitute the third serious defeat that the German fighter fleets have suffered in four days. In those four days, our side has bagged a grand total of a hundred and fourteen Axis planes.

AIR WAR

North of the great German city of Cologne on the Rhine is a smaller city called Leverkusen. It is important to Hitler, highly important. Among ~~the~~ ^{its} munitions plants ~~there~~ was a huge chemical works, making poison gas. We've heard for some time that the Nazis were preparing a supply of the deadly stuff to use when they're in the last ditch.

The town of Leverkusen last night became the target for the latest raid of the Royal Air Force. The weather was thick, foggy, but a large fleet of British and Canadian bombers raced through it and dropped their deadly load on that chemical plant. They ~~dropped~~ ^{threw} more than a hundred thousand incendiaries and a number of four thousand pounders, the blockbusters which the Canadians affectionately call "cookies." They were over the place only half an hour but they dropped a powerful tonnage.

Leverkusen was virtually undefended, only a few night fighters, no searchlights, and ack-ack fire quite feeble. ~~Though the raiding planes were crowded over the target, not a single one of them seemed to be~~ hit. But five bombers were lost, one of them a Canadian.

As the planes were flying back over the English Channel, the pilots could still see a glow of the fires they had lit in the Rhineland in spite of the thick weather. There were fires all over Leverkusen, and the chances are heavy that Hitler's chemical plant was hit. If so, huge clouds of war gas must have been released over the countryside, and the deadly fumes became a weapon against the ^{people} ~~men~~ who ~~would~~ make them.

MINES

Several coal mines that were seized by the government are ^{back} under private control, ~~back~~ in the hands of the people who own them. Secretary Ickes, as Coal Administrator, returned the property of fifty-three more coal companies, which had been taken over by the government last May when the first big coal strike broke out. We are not told exactly how many pits in all were returned, but probably more than a hundred. The assistant to Secretary Ickes used the words "a very, very sizeable tonnage." Among the mines returned was one of the largest in the ~~whole~~ country, that of the Island Coal Company of Huntington, West Virginia.

A story from Washington says that this move leaves John L. Lewis in a quandary. When the mines were seized, he announced that his United Mine Workers would work only for the government. His union some time ago issued a warning that any time the government gave up

its control of the properties, it would end the agreement under which the miners went back to work on July

Twenty-Second.

BALL GAME

The best baseball story of the year ^{so far} comes from Hartford, Connecticut. Among the people of Hartford is a druggist named Sam Hyman, who is forty-four years old. He locked up his store Sunday and went to the ball park where the Hartford club was to play the team from Wilkesbarre, Pennsylvania.

When Sam reached the park, the ~~ball~~ game was about to be called off. None of Hartford's five pitchers had showed up, and Manager Del Bissonette was about to forfeit the game.

Into the club-house rushed Druggist Sam Hyman. Sam used to be a fire-ball pitcher in the Gay Twenties. He worked in the Eastern League for Allentown, Georgetown, Albany. Bissonette recognized him and Sam offered to fill in until one of his pitchers arrived. The manager asked Sam whether he thought he could last two minutes. By that time at least one Hartford thrower

ought to show up. Sam was sure that he could. So Bissonnette sent him in to pitch, expecting to see him knocked out of the ball park.

Forty-four year old Sam got on the mound where the boys from Wilkesbarre thought they were going to have nothing but base hits, triples and homers. The first inning passed without anybody getting a score, but Sam. The Wilkesbarre players thought it was luck. In the second inning it was the same story. By that time the Wilkesbarre fellows began to worry.

The end of it was that forty-four year old Sam not only lasted nine innings, but won the ball game, eight to two. And there is your happy ending.

And now a happy word
from Hugh.