

L.I - Sunoco. Thursday, June 26, 1941.

News about the Nazi-Soviet battle is in a strange state. Today the ~~the~~ focus of interest was almost entirely on the question of an official bulletin by the Nazi high command. Would it be issued? And what would it say? Totalitarian censorship on both sides has kept the war news down to a minimum - save for rumors. And even these have begun ~~to~~ to play out.

On Tuesday, we had ~~an~~ an intimation from Berlin that the military statement about German victories would be made on Wednesday, yesterday, Berlin stated jubilantly that the informative Army communique would ~~be~~ be handed out today, and would give definite word about what the Nazi spokesmen called - ~~some~~ almost incredible successes. Today came and went - and yet no startling revelation.

Of course, the German High Command did issue a report, but it was brief and said next to nothing - as in the case of similar announcements on previous days. Today's communique, from Hitler's headquarters at the battlefront, merely stated in a general way that the blitzkrieg machine was advancing successfully and that huge victories against the Red Army were indicated. That's the word - ix indicated. The

triumph is still a promise. What's the meaning of the delay?

It must mean that the huge success against the Red Army, which Berlin has been anticipating, has been delayed. This supposition would seem to be supported by stories the Nazis give us of a stubborn Soviet resistance, Red Army units in some cases fighting to the death.

Germany claims complete aviation control at the battlefield, and tells how Stuka Dive Bombers destroyed columns of Soviet transport. It is admitted, however, that Red Army planes are raiding German objectives, and Turkey gives us a rumor of Soviet parachute troops landed in large number in the area of the Rumanian oil wells - that vital oil supply for Germany.

From Moscow there are few definite claims. The Soviets tell of Nazi drives being halted in one clash or another, places recaptured, advancing Nazi tanks cut off from their main forces. Moscow insists that the Red Army is holding the line, except perhaps in the Northern area of Vilna. But even there the Soviet news is that a Nazi advance has been checked.

From the few vague indications that we have from all sources, it would appear that the Red Army is holding the most strongly in the south - leading to the Ukraine.

~~There is no~~ There, the Germans and Rumanians are attacking.

The principal blitzkrieg advance would seem to be in the North, from Central Poland to the Baltic states. There are some ~~ju~~ hints that Hitler's mechanized legions are thrusting a wedge in that area, possibly in the direction of the important

city of ~~Minsk~~ Minsk. If this be true, the German plan of campaign might be something like this - a break through in the North, in an attempt to swing South for an enveloping movement against the Soviet forces in the Ukraine.

One vital question in this Nazi-Communist war is - Soviet transport. That has always been a weak factor with Russian armies. How well will it stand ^{up} ~~p~~ now in the terrific drain of battle? Nazi strategy invariably is to strike at communications behind the line. So the transport system of the Red Army may be the deciding factor.

WAR

Here is just about the most astonishing bit of phraseology that I have seen in more than ten years on the

air. It is ~~A~~ United Press dispatch ~~and~~ reads as follows~~R~~

follows:- "Washington, June twenty-sixth. ~~Authoritative~~

Authoritative quarters said tonight that quote "only an

act of God"unquote can save the hard fighting Russian Army

from being ~~conquered~~ conquered. Now that is amazing -- imagine

God saving the Red Army.

The British are still ~~mak~~ taking full advantage of the German preoccupation with the war in the East. Once again today we have stories of heavy R.A.F. raids against Nazi centers in France and Germany. Bombing, blasting, hitting as hard as they can. The huge bulk of the Hitler Air Force is busy in the battle with the Red Army. The R.A.F. has command of the air in its own sphere of action, and is not missing the opportunity.

Germany today announces the sinking of an auxiliary cruiser - a converted merchantman which is said to have destroyed a huge lot of British merchant tonnage. The raider was caught by the British cruiser Cornwall, ^{and} sent to the bottom. The bulletin adds that the pocket-battleship Admiral Scheer has returned to port after a raid in which it raised havoc with British shipping.

FINLAND

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Finland is definitely in the war tonight. That, ~~of~~
~~course~~, has been indicated all along, but now it's official.
Today the Moscow radio broadcast the following words: "The
rulers of Finland have begun military action against our
country." It added that Nazi German planes flying from
Finland bases had made an air raid against Kronstadt, ~~That's~~
the big naval base off Leningrad. The Soviet radio used
familiar Communist terminology in describing what it called
"the bandit activities of Finnish militarists." These
complained Moscow, are in violation of the peace treaty between
the Stalin Government and Finland -- that Pact which was made
after the Red Army attack on Finland winter before last. The
Soviets, of course, broke a treaty then.

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In Helsinki ~~the~~ ^{the} President ~~Byti~~ of Finland today spoke
what virtually amounted to a declaration of war in these words:-
"Pressure from the East," said he, is always threatening us.
And it is to destroy this eternal menace that we now embark
upon our defensive battle". So the President of Finland informed
his country. He ~~is~~ expressed the Finnish attitude by declaring
that Finland's opportunity was now -- now that the Nazi

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blitzkrieg machine is driving against the Red Army. "Under these circumstances," said he, "the Soviet Union cannot array against us the ~~overwhelming~~ overwhelming superiority which the last time made our defensive struggle so desperate. Now, he continued, "the Soviet Union is involved in a battle where the odds are equal and where the success of our own defensive war is certain.

So there we have Finland in the War, that little northern republic which earned the sympathy and admiration of the world with its bitter fight not so long ago. Finland takes the Nazi-Communist battle as an opportunity for getting back the vital and strategic territory which the Soviets took. (And possibly Finland aims to get more. Maybe the Finns hope to acquire some further territory along its borders.)

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

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Today at St. Paul, Minnesota, was held the final session of the ~~Nineteenth~~ Ninth Eucharistic Congress of the Catholic Church. Eighty thousand of the faithful, marching eight abreast, formed a two-mile procession that lasted for four hours. The closing benediction, ending the Congress, was delivered to a kneeling throng estimated at three hundred thousand.

The central event today was a broadcast to the Eucharistic Congress by Pope Pius the Twelfth. This had been awaited eagerly, because it was known that the Pontiff in Rome would soon speak a message to the world on the subject of the war between Nazi Germany and Communist Russia. This morning, however, there was a news dispatch from Rome stating that Pope Pius would make an address to the world on Sunday. "All-important", said the news bulletin, which added that the Sunday message ~~was~~ ^{is} expected to be a declaration on the position of the Catholic Church toward the Nazi-Soviet conflict.

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In today's broadcast from Rome, Pope Pius spoke a phrase that might apply as well to Hitler as to Stalin, He said "there is a current of black paganism which is stronger than the current of the Mississippi" ^{he} and added, "only heroic men and women will escape this flood."

PRICES

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The government is going to establish a ceiling for prices of rubber tires and tubes. This was announced by price control administrator Leon Henderson today. He stated that early next week an order will be issued whereby the price of rubber tires and tubes will not be permitted to increase. The price level to be maintained will be that which existed on June Seventeenth.

This follows a statement made by price ~~admin~~ administrator Henderson last night - an announcement that automobile prices will be prevented from increasing -- a ceiling put on the prices of motor cars. This, said Leon Henderson, will come as a result of action by the Chrysler ~~Co~~ Company. An increase in the price of cars made by that concern was announced. The control office asked that the price increase be cancelled, but the company failed to do so. Today a spokesman of the Chrysler Corporation in Detroit said that because of the increase in manufacturing ~~and~~ costs, the company cannot accede to the request to cancel the announced increase of prices. The company disclaims the charge that it is refusing to cooperate, and insists that its prices have ~~to~~ got to go up because of the way ~~that~~ costs have gone up.

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If you should happen to be near a window while listening to the radio just now, you might take a look out at the sky and perhaps you will see some clouds -- bright, fleecy, drifting clouds. You should gaze at them with an increased respect.

~~Because~~ Today we were told that the beautiful billowing clouds contain one of the most deadly and destructive substances on ~~earth -~~ *or in the sky.*
~~earth,~~ Burning, corrosive, sulphuric acid. *So there's* ~~There's~~
vitriol in them thar clouds.

All this is disclosed by Professor A. C. Bemis of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in a report to the American Association for the advancement of science, meeting at Durham, *at the Univ. of N. Hamp.*
New Hampshire, *m.I.T.* For three years, the Professor has been studying the clouds at the famous observatory atop lofty Mt. Washington. He has been filtering and analyzing the clouds, and he has found in them traces of sulphuric acid. Where does it come from? From decaying vegetable matter, says the Professor. And he adds: That it's the particles of sulphuric acid in the clouds which causes the formation of rain drops/. *at last.* So there we have an explanation of rain, Sulphuric acid arising from decaying ~~vegetable~~ vegetable matter goes up into the ~~skies~~ clouds, and

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then causes the moisture to turn into drizzling showers or a
torrential downpour.

PLANE

An aviator had a thrill today, and it may be that he's getting the dickens tonight - for recklessness. Onlookers at Niagara Falls were startled when a smart silvery ^{monoplane} ~~monoplane~~ came speeding down the Niagara River, and swooped down right ~~in~~ into the swirling spray just below whirlpool rapids. [#] A few feet above the raging water, the pilot straightened out and went whizzing under the spans of the Whirlpool Rapids Bridge, a railroad bridge, and Rainbow Bridge. Then he skirted Horseshoe Cataract, zoomed up into the sky and vanished. Officials who saw the dizzy stunt think it was a fighting plane of the Canadian Air Force that had people ~~in~~ ^{today} gasping at Niagara Falls.

ARMY

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Here's a question that a lot of us have been asking. Just how many men are in the new expanded Army? Today the war Department gives us an official answer, and it's a peacetime record. The number of officers and enlisted men right now comes to a grand total of ~~1~~ one million, four hundred and forty-one thousand, and ~~4~~ five hundred.

Private

There are a number of stories going around about rich and important young men who have gone into the army as private soldiers. And here's about the best one yet. Until recently, William McChesney Martin, Jr., was president of the New York Stock Exchange at a salary of forty thousand dollars a year. He joined up, and went through the trials and tribulations of a rookie. Trial and tribulation number one for any rookie is, of course, the top sergeant.

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William McChesney Martin, Jr. told today of a top kick, as tough as they have them in the army. The former president of the New York Stock Exchange was having some trouble in executing the maneuvers in close-order drill. The sergeant, who didn't know anything about him, burst forth with a thundering bellow:- "I've seen a lot of stupid people", he said, "But you're the worst. It's a lucky thing you got in the army," observed the top kick wrathfully, "Because you'd never make a living anywhere else.". The former forty thousand dollars a year executive took it meekly. He didn't explain that before joining up he really had been making a living wage.

PINEAPPLE

Here's Army news from Newark, New Jersey. It tells us that Tom Britton, a truck driver, will soon be on his way to see Lolita Kahanahoi at the town of Wailulu, on the island of Oahu, in Hawaii. Sounds like tropical romance - hardly like military information, but it is. A truck driver today enlisted in ^{the} ~~the~~ Army.

Six months ago Tom Britton, who drove a truck in Newark, bought a pineapple. When Tom started to eat the lush tropical fruit he found ~~it~~ in it a note. This missive said - "would the finder please write to Lolita Kahanahoi at the town of Wailulu, on the island of Oahu, in Hawaii." Tom the truck driver has a sentimental soul. So ^{Tom} wrote to Lolita Kahanahoi at the town of Wailulu, on the island of Oahu, in Hawaii. And he got a letter in return. Lolita Kahanahoi enclosed her photograph. Tom the truck driver found it agreeable to gaze upon -- made him think of coral beaches, palm trees and the moonlight, and girls in grass skirts, but how could he get to Hawaii? Being a truck driver, he was no millionaire.

He sighed in perplexity, until at length he found

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an answer. Uncle Sam has soldiers in Hawaii. So today Tom enlisted, asking to be sent ~~to~~ for service in Hawaii -- and hoping the Army would grant his romantic plea. And the Army did. Colonel Joseph Fletcher, the recruiting officer, told Tom the truck driver that he'd be sent to Hawaii to join a regiment there. Then it would be up to him to see what he ~~could~~ could do about Lolita Kahanahoi at the town of Wailulu, on the island of Oahu, in Hawaii.

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And now Hugh will you pick up
Your ukulele and sing us a song
about palm trees, the Hula hula,
blue water and isles in the sun. Or
Just sing us about Blue Sun-oco!