

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The swift tank columns of Marshal Rommel have advanced sixteen miles further in their blitzkrieg through the American lines. This morning's communique from Tunisia brought the grim word that a crushing juggernaut of seventy Mark-6 tanks had rolled twelve miles from the hole they punched in the ^{American} ~~United States~~ defenses ^{at} ~~in the~~ Kasserine Pass. They were then ~~dangerously~~ dangerously close to Thala, which is the anchor post of the vital Allied line in northern Tunisia. Thala is held by the British. Tonight's communique reads that Rommel's fifty-seven ton tanks are now within four miles of Thala.

However, there is one word of consolation.

~~officer~~ spokesman at Allied headquarters declare^s that the situation is under control. Nevertheless, there is no denying that the Nazi Field Marshal's rolling monsters offer a grave threat to the whole British, French and American line in northern Tunisia.

The story today was not entirely one of retreat. American troops were ordered by their generals to stand at all costs. ^{And} They not only held their lines at several points, but ^{they} hammered back two attacks by the supporting Nazi divisions. The Germans rolled to within four miles of Thala because our side has, as yet, no equipment that ~~we~~ can stand up to those new fifty-seven ton Mark-6s, ^{which} ~~these~~ are really land battleships, each manned by a crew of five, armed with an eighty-eight millimeter cannon and two 30-calibre machine guns. They can take almost any shells that can be ~~thrust~~ ^{hurled} against them from the front.

The only way to smash them is from the side. Rommel uses these battle-wagons in a flying wedge formation, preceded by smaller tanks running interference.

Military observers tell us the whole operation is a gamble on Rommel's part. ^{and that he} He is counting on this ~~rumbling~~ ^{wreck} terrific blitzkrieg attack to ~~spill~~ ^{wreck} the Allied communication lines in northern Tunisia and, if possible, ~~to~~ undermine the entire line before the advancing British Eighth Army under General ~~Bernard~~ Montgomery arrives on the scene.

Desperate fighting is now going on. American and French reinforcements are coming up, and there is hope that the line can be held before the Rommel spearhead can cut the vital railroad that runs from Tebessa to northeast Tunisia, four miles beyond Thala.

RUSSIA

The Russians have some ~~spectacular~~ good news but they are not telling ~~us~~ ~~much of~~ it tonight, ^{They are} ~~just~~ saving it for tomorrow. ^{For} Tomorrow is a Red letter day

in Soviet Russia, the Twenty-Fifth Birthday of the Red Army. ^{So} ~~And~~ they are holding back some new triumphs over the Nazis to ^{release as a part of} ~~help pep up~~ their celebration.

However, the Nazis ^{are putting one over on} ~~in this respect are playing them~~ ~~them - by~~ a dirty trick. They ~~are~~ spreading the news that the Soviet high command is holding back. ^{Yes,} It was a Radio

broadcast from Berlin that reported another breakthrough by the Red Army on the Dnieper River front. They have ~~XXXX~~ crashed through the line at Zaporozhe, ~~That is~~ at the southern end of the big bend of the Don River and only twenty-five miles to the south of Dnieperpetrovsk.

After virtually admitting a new defeat, the Nazis then try to minimize it. They say that the

German generals have taken counter-measures, ^{which} ~~but they~~ have not yet taken full effect.

Of this break-through towards Zaporozhe, the Soviet high command says nothing. And the only explanation is that they are saving the announcement for tomorrow. There is a report in London, which came by way of Stockholm, that the Nazis are already preparing to evacuate not only ~~Rxx~~ Dneperpetrovsk but also all of Estonia ^{on the eastern} ~~and the~~ shores of the Baltic. Many ~~xxx~~ of the stories that come by ~~xxx~~ way of Stockholm have been ^{decidedly} ~~to say the least~~, premature. But, when the Germans themselves admit it, there is no reason to doubt that the Red Army has broken through again on the Dnieper.

The Berlin radio also admits that a wedge of the Soviet army has driven westward along the coast of the Sea of Azov and widened the corridor north of

Mariupol. The German garrison of Taganrov, thirty-five miles west of Moscow, is now threatened with ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ encirclement.

One of the most vivid accounts of a modern battlefield is given in a dispatch sent by the leading novelist of Soviet Russia. Among other observations, he uses these words: "A ground wind is ~~drifting~~ drifting snow over the corpses on the battlefield, and occasionally sweeping it away to reveal part of them." He goes on: "A pair of nose glasses, which have survived by some miracle, quiver in the wind. The German nose which wore them is obscured by the snow. Straw boots, complex optical instruments, cases of French champagne. The bodies of thousands of Germans, squashed by tanks; ~~chauffeurs' gloves~~ chauffeurs' gloves, a mass of Mercedes, Buick, Renault cars, pictures of Hitler ~~splashed~~ splashed with blood, litter the reddened snow."

The Russian novelist goes on to tell one incident which seems to come out of a film rather than an historic description of war. A Russian lieutenant

made his way through the German lines at Kursk,

disguised as a peasant. *On an intelligence*
~~He went of course to spy up~~
assignment - as a spy.

~~the land. He was one of those men who carry the message~~

in Kursk that
~~to Garcia.~~ He got the information, he was after and went

back with it to his commanding officer. And, when the

Red troops went fighting through the streets of Kursk,

the same lieutenant was with them.

Then there is the tale of the lone Russian captain who captured seventy German tommy gunners at one clip. The Russian was only twenty years old.

He told the novelist-correspondent that he just went up to one of the Germans, clapped him on the shoulder, and said: "Well done, you are surrendering!" It was news to the Nazi gunner and in his bewilderment he put up his hands. Thereupon, the other sixty-nine did likewise.

All this happened in the recent battle of

Kastornoye, which led to the capture of Kursk.^{TP} The cities of Voronezh and Kursk ~~themselves~~ were captured by a thirty-six year old general. *This young general* ~~He~~ is the son of a railroad worker; but, his accomplishments in the war are the direct consequence of his young ambitions. For, while he was at school, he wrote a thesis from which plans were developed that culminated in the development of one of the most formidable tanks used by the Red Army. *So we are told..*

who sends us this report
The writer, also says that for days many of ~~these~~ victorious Russian soldiers were advancing with nothing to eat but dry bread, *— albeit* washed down with French champagne captured from the Germans. *Probably not enough champagne to go round.*

RAIDS

The Royal Air Force has just completed its
fourteenth major raid against Germany this month.

Fourteen big league raids in twenty-one days!

The latest assault was on Bremen, ~~the~~ second biggest
port in Germany. ~~That made~~ ^{the} the hundred and second
raid ~~that~~ Bremen has suffered, ^{the} a hundred and second
since the beginning of the war. But this ^{one} was the
most catastrophic of them all. For last night, the
R.A.F. ~~visited~~ ^{dropped in on} Bremen with more than a hundred of
their two ton block busters. ^H It was the first night
raid on Bremen since last October, and the long lapse
had evidently lulled the defenders of the city into
confidence and forgetfulness. They ~~place was~~ ^{were} taken
completely by surprise. And, for the first time in
the case of a raid of such magnitude, not a single
British plane was lost.

The British Air Ministry as usual does not

tell us how many planes were ~~engaged in the event~~ ^{involved.}

But ~~as they~~ ^{as they} ~~XXXXXX~~ dropped more than a hundred of those 2-ton

blockbusters; ~~we can imagine that it was a number of~~
~~formidable formations~~ ^{partly}. Twenty minutes after the

Britishers appeared over the harbor, the glow of
fires could be seen in the many aircraft factories,
submarine shipyards and other naval installations.

^{7P} Bremen is one of the most important centers for
submarine construction in the Reich. It is also the
^{home}
~~place~~ of the biggest Focke-Wulf and dive bomber
factories, to say nothing of oil refiners, jute
factories and grain mills.

At the same time we learn that the Eighth
United States Army Air Force is making ready to step
up its daylight raids to the scale of a thousand
planes at a time.

RATIONING

The rationing tables, the point system, as published today apparently ~~astounded and stunned a good~~ *startled a good* many ~~people in this country~~ *folks*. The comment of British housewives is that the Americans are exceedingly fortunate. American women should not complain, said one British woman, because ~~they can~~ *over here you can at least* get pineapple and fruit juices. There are households in Britain that have not had any fruit juices for more ~~xxx~~ than two years.

TF The British housewife is allowed twenty points for six weeks. *For instance* If she wants half a pound of tongue, she ~~would have~~ *has* to give up sixteen of those twenty points and then probably ~~would not be able to~~ *can't* get it.

There are complaints from Washington and elsewhere that some government officials are taking advantage of food rationing to put over social reform. That charge was made specifically to a group of senators today by the representative of fruit and

vegetable growers ⁱⁿ Florida. The Florida man leveled his criticism particularly at the Farm Security Administration. He described ^{it} as impracticable, bound by red tape, and dripping with social reform.

He stated that the Florida growers need seventeen thousand laborers to cultivate and pick their crops. So far, he declared, the Farm Security Agency ^{had} sent them some two thousand, mostly riffraff. Meanwhile, he added, there are eighteen thousand good workers who ^{— people who are living} want to work, just off the coast, ⁱⁿ the Bahamas. But they are not allowed in.

A similar charge was made in New York by William Fellowes Morgan, former Commissioner of Markets in New York City, ^{who} ~~He~~ is now running a cold storage business. Ex-Commissioner Morgan is convinced, ~~he says,~~ that the food program has an ulterior motive and that is - to change the present system of distribution and

~~He says~~
eliminate the jobber. Washington ~~considers the jobber~~
~~an extra middle man. Ex-Commissioner Morgan made this~~
~~charge in an interview published in the NEW YORK WORLD~~
~~TELEGRAM today.~~ He knows this, he says, because ~~when~~
~~he was Commissioner he came in contact with the~~
~~officials of the Department of Agriculture.~~

~~He said further that Washington officials~~
~~have entirely failed to consult with practical men~~
~~in the food industry before ^{putting} they put their regulations~~
~~to effect. They have messed up the meat situation, also~~
~~he declared, ^{says he,} so that the consumer has lost all~~
~~confidence in government management. Ex-Commissioner~~
~~Morgan is emphatic in his belief that within the~~
~~next six months or a year, ^{Americans} the people in the cities~~
~~are going to start feeling ^{the} a food shortage. You ~~cannot~~~~
~~take men from the farms and expect production,~~
~~he said.~~

INDUSTRY

Lets talk about my radio sponsor now. And this is not a commercial. ^{TP} We have heard

~~It has been observed~~ that the United States has accomplished in one year of war production what it took

the Nazis eight years to do. ^{And there have been expressions} Everybody has been amazed

^{of amazement}

at the speed with which American peace industries have turned over and become war industries. An illustration

of this is afforded ⁱⁿ ~~by~~ the latest annual letter written

by J. Howard Pew as President of the Sun Oil Company

to the stockholders. A petroleum company has to make

particularly difficult and even revolution ^{any} changes

in order to become a war industry. ^{TP} ~~quite~~ aside from

producing oil and gasoline, the ^{Sun} Company owns the

~~Sun Shipbuilding And Drydock Company, with the~~ biggest

commercial shipbuilding plant in the country.

Which In Nineteen Forty-One, ~~the ship division~~

employed ninety-nine hundred people. ^{But by} By the end of

^{that number had jumped to} Nineteen Forty-two, ~~there were~~ thirty thousand, ~~on the~~

^{and in spite of the fact that} payroll, ~~and that after~~ five thousand had gone over to

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^{the} armed service^s. In Nineteen Forty-Two, Sun built forty-six big sea-going vessels quite aside from making extensive repairs on others that had been torpedoed. Altogether, ^{it} ~~this~~ ~~xxxxx~~ amounts ^{ed} to the ~~equivalent of~~ ^{of a big} turning out ^a new ship every week.

And, ^{Sun} The Company's own fleet of seventeen tankers was turned over to the government. Seven of ^{which} ~~them~~ were

^{But due} torpedoed, ~~but thanks~~ to the seamanship and gallantry of the ~~ir~~ crews, five of ~~them~~ were salvaged and brought into port and have ^{again} been made seaworthy.

Yes, and When you hear about the superb performances of our ^{American air} ~~flyers of~~ planes, don't forget ^{that} ~~it~~ is due in ^{no} ~~large~~ ^{small degree} ~~measure~~ to the ample supplies of high octane gasoline

that we have. ^{And} It turns out that ninety per cent of all the high octane ^{catalytic} gasoline ~~made by catalytic process~~ was produced by the Houdry process, in the development of which the Sun Oil Company ^{led the way.} ~~had an important share.~~

Also a

A number of Houdry plants are being built and will shortly be in operation for the catalytic production of synthetic rubber.

~~In the same period, Nineteen Forty-Two, Sun paid wages and salaries to the tune of ninety-nine million, seven hundred and sixty-three thousand dollars. Ten per cent of that has been invested in Victory Bonds.~~

TP

All in all, there are more than forty thousand war workers in the Sun Company's army. *And* They aim to make an even bigger showing this year.

TP I'm proud of my sponsors. They are doing a great job.

WASHINGTON

Sergeant Sidney Kingsley of the United States Army celebrated Washington's Birthday by bringing to light some facts not generally known about the Father of our Country. Kingsley says it ^{'s} ~~is~~ a pity that we've made George into a plaster of parris bust to frighten ^{little} children. ~~with~~. He thinks it is unfortunate we know the first President mostly by the well painted but grim portraits of Gilbert ~~Stewart~~. ^{Stewart}. Washington, he ^{insists,} ~~declares,~~ was really a most human fellow, who liked to go fishing, ~~xxx~~ ^{liked fish,} ^{liked the ladies,} liked the theatre and went to see shows whenever he could.

Sidney Kingsley has reason to know more than most of us about George Washington. Aside from being a sergeant in Uncle Sam's Army, he is the author of the play called "The Patriots", which some critics have described as the finest and most moving piece on the American stage today. The principal characters

in it are Jefferson and Washington and Alexander Hamilton. Kingsley spent years of research before he wrote a word of dialogue for "The Patriots." He told me one thing today which I never knew before. During the terrible winter at Valley Forge, Washington encouraged the production of a play by some of the officers and men of his frozen and starving army. What play? One that none of us has ever seen or probably ever will see -- "Addison's Cato."

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I wonder how Addison's Cato would go on Broadway, with say Talulah Bankshead, or Ethel Merman in the lead?

ARITHMETIC

The Nazis have a new grievance against the Russians. ^{That,} They have ~~xxxx~~ been insulted by one of the Soviet school manuals. ^{The insult is in} ~~It is,~~ the first grade text book on arithmetic, teaching little Russians how to add and subtract. To make ^{such} ~~these~~ lessons easier, the text books of other countries use apples, oranges or marbles to illustrate the sum. For instance, if I have six apples and you swipe one, how many have I left? The Soviet ^{text} ~~tax~~ books put the question this way: "If there are ~~xx~~ two ^{Nazis} ~~Fascists~~ and you shoot one, how many are left?"

^{IP} ^{in the Russian arithmetic}
~~And~~ The answer is - "One too many."

There are one too many of us here at this mile, Hugh.
So I'll make way for you.

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