


L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1942

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Last night the Berlin announcer, speaking in Russian, stated that Red Army artillery was bombarding the outskirts of Kharkov -- the key city for which the tremendous battle is raging. This statement of Soviet success was a vivid contradiction of the war bulletins in German, which told of Soviet attacks thrown back, the offensive defeated, why the contradiction between what Berlin said in Russian and in German?

Tonight, we have the same sort of discrepancy. The Berlin Russian language broadcast states: "Even if the Soviets succeed, at immense cost, in taking Kharkov this will neither represent an important break-through nor endanger German positions." Which certainly sounds like an attempt to discount the fall of Kharkov. Expecting the Red Army to capture that most important city, they minimize the



event in advance - saying that it does ^{not} mean so much.

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On the other hand, the information given out in German is quite different. It states that all Red Army attacks have been repelled and that the German war machine has now "regained the initiative". ~~(This regaining of the initiative is phrased in another way in a later statement. "The Soviet offensive," it says, "has passed its climax - and now it is our turn".)~~

In other words, the Nazis talking in Russian say one thing and talking in German they say another. Why the double talk? On the Soviet side, there is no double talk at all - single talk, no contradictions. Moscow tells us that the Red Army is now nearing ~~what~~ what Moscow calls - "its immediate goal".
And one would surmise that to mean - the City of Kharkow. ^{TP} The Red Army reports the smashing of a Nazi counter-attack. They have captured more German positions and are driving on. The Russians describe the German ~~resistant~~ resistance in these two words - "seriously deteriorated". Easier going for the Soviets - after having smashed through a whole series of German defensive

~~pos~~ positions. This is the eleventh day of Marshal Timoshenko's violent offensive against Kharkov, and Moscow declares jubilantly that they have crushed Hitler's hope ~~to~~ of any successful large scale blitzkrieg drive in Russia.

To the north, in the Leningrad area, Berlin admits that a powerful Soviet drive crashed ~~thru~~ through the German front. But Berlin ~~is~~ claims that the breath-_hthrough was only temporary and that two [✓]Soviet divisions were hurled back.

MEXICO

Mexico is ready to declare a nationwide state of emergency. And this will be the first step toward a declaration of war against the Axis. We have this in a dispatch from Mexico City, where there is an ~~increase~~ increase of popular indignation because of the sinking of a Mexican ship last week. Protests have been sent to the Axis powers, but no attention has been paid to these. Hence the likelihood of a declaration of emergency as a preclude to a declaration of war.

All this is made ^{the} more likely by the sinking of a second Mexican ship - the survivors landing today. An oil tanker ~~was~~ torpedoed off Miami - ~~ex~~ exactly one week after that first sinking which has brought Mexico to the brink of war with the Axis.

TREASON

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One of darkest words in the history of the law is - treason. Today the Attorney General of the United States asked for the first indictment for treason during the present war. The penalty may be -death.

The treason indictment stems out of the escape of German aviators from a prison camp in Canada. Two got away. One was captured promptly at Niagara Falls, and sent back to the prison camp. The other was Peter Krug, a Lieutenant of the German Air Force, ^{who} ~~was~~ was shot down in an air battle over the English Channel.

He got into the United States, rowing across the ~~Niagara~~ ^{Detroit} River in a boat. And he travelled all the way to San Antonio, Texas. His intention was to get into Mexico, go on to South America and eventually back to Germany. He was captured at San Antonio, and the F.B.I. discovered that he had been given help in his flight almost across the United States.

They accuse a Detroit restaurant keeper by the name of Max Stephan. ~~He is~~ ^{an} American citizen of German birth. He served in the Kaiser's army, ^{came here,} ~~in the last war, came to this country,~~

and was naturalized in Nineteen ~~Thirt~~y-Five. They say he helped German War Pilot Krug, knowing who he was. In April, with the United States at war with Nazi Germany.

This the Attorney General charges, constitutes treason. The statute on treason reads: "Whoever, owing allegiance to the United States, levies war against them or adheres to their enemies, giving them aid and comfort within the United States or elsewhere, is guilty of treason." And the penalty is a minimum of five years of imprisonment and a maximum of death.

OPTIMISM

Last night's warning against over-optimism is repeated today - with President Roosevelt ~~isxi~~ issuing the words of caution. He stated^s the opinion, also along the line of what we heard last night, that we face the prospect of a long war - an awfully long war.

The President told his press conference today that public opinion has been going up and down, too much up and too much down, responding in an exaggerated way to events that look big at the moment, but which actually have no vast ~~import~~ importance.

He made the comment that we Americans are inclined to make over-statement^s, and to over-state ~~thingsxxxxxx~~ things is a mistake. He said the men of the news can help the war situation by not building up minor events into major developments.

The President was asked whether bad news should be passed by the censors as well as good news. He said - yes. Of course we should not give out any war tidings that might aid the enemy. But, with that qualification understood, bad news should be passed by the censors just as much as good news.

So said the President.

After warning against over-optimism, he repeated his confidence that ultimately we will win the war.

WAGES

The building trade unions have signed an agreement to stabilize wages on government construction jobs. This stabilizing formula, put into effect today, does not constitute a rigid freezing of wages. From July First onward, the pay rates shall remain the same, for a period of one year. In other words for building trade workers employed by the government no raises after July First for a year.

However, there are several exceptions: Workers may get raises in cases where the July wage rates are out of line. Or, if local conditions should change. Or if there should be any abnormal change. In other words, no absolute freeze. Wages to remain the same for a year -- unless and except.

REGISTRATION

The last registration day will be June Thirtieth. On that date young men of eighteen and nineteen will go on record. Also, those who became twenty since the beginning of the year. The eighteen and nineteen year olds are not liable to ~~be~~ be drafted for military service. ^{However} The ones that have reached twenty since the beginning of the year are subject to the draft.

This next will be the fifth and last registration - completing the listing of American manpower from eighteen to sixty-five. Approximately forty million men have registered on the four previous occasions. This next one, on June thirtieth, is expected to add between two and three million more to the lists.

CHENNAULT - READER'S DIGEST

While we are all singing the praises of Brigadier-General Jimmy Doolittle let's blow the trumpets again for another flying general -- Claire Chennault, of the Flying Tigers.

Doolittle and Chennault have several things in common. In addition to being wizards as fliers, as leaders of men, as tacticians and engineers, both are patriarchs as things go in aviation. Jimmy Doolittle is forty-five, Claire Chennault is fifty-one. Also both are hard of hearing as a result of years of flying in open planes, behind roaring motors.

The reason I am referring to Chennault tonight is this: I have just come across what appears to be authoritative figures on the achievements to date of the American Volunteer Group, the Flying Tigers. That in the ninety days following December Twenty-first they destroyed four hundred and fifty-seven Japanese planes. And Chennault's lads have never had more than forty-four pursuit ships in their outfit, each

plane with ammunition for only one minute's firing each time they took to the air. But, outnumbered twenty to one they destroyed thirty Jap planes for every American A.V.G. plane lost, and ninety-two Jap airmen killed for every Flying Tiger lost.

The Reader's Digest comes out today with a thrilling article on the Flying Tigers, which refers to their achievements in these words: "A record unequalled in any war." And then it describes how it all happened, and tells a lot of things about Claire Chennault, the ex-school teacher from Waterproof, Florida. It is a great story and I could devote my entire broadcast to it.

The story is particularly interesting right now when a lot of rumors are going around about the Flying Tigers. One rumor we have been hearing is that for some mysterious reason they are being broken up and brought home. And then another rumor, that Chennault who had the rank of Captain ✱ in our Air

Service Reserve, and who recently was jumped to a Brigadier-General, that Chennault is being brought home.

Well, after what he has accomplished why not. Why not let the American people have a look at him? And why not let him tell his story? A little lionizing will do no harm. I'll bet that Chennault like Jimmy Doolittle could stand it, without doing him any harm. And, it might do the rest of us, the nation, a lot of good.

Aviation Columnist Al Williams refers to them as the flyers who have aroused the people of this country to greater enthusiasm than any other single group. And many people are asking, why when China is in such a desperate spot, why the Flying Tigers are not given the latest and best equipment and all the reserves they need. We hear they have only about a dozen planes. /Is there jealousy somewhere? When we find men who can perform great deeds let's back

them to the limit! In the meantime, read the article in the Reader's Digest or the American Legion Magazine.

MARITIME DAY

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Everybody likes a celebration - especially when the ceremonies are apt and to the point. And that certainly was the case with the celebration held today - Maritime Day. The major observance was the launching of twenty-seven merchant ships - a fleet of freighters sliding down the ways in various parts of the nation.

Shipbuilding is one of the methods of beating the Nazi submarine campaign - the other way being to sink U-boats. As for the building part of it, the President's program calls for the construction of twenty-three hundred ocean-going merchant vessels by the end of next year-for a total of twenty-three million tons. Our shipbuilding program may be lagging a bit, but it is picking up with a roar of work and launchings.

For example, at Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania, the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Company has a schedule of a tanker a week. The shipbuilding company, which is owned by Sun Oil, has developed a new welding process to replace the older method of riveting. That enables them to turn out tankers much faster.

So there is plenty of sunshine in
~~And we know that the oil tankers are the key type vessel in the~~
~~that Sun schedule - a tanker a week.~~
~~present submarine crisis. So there is plenty of sunshine in that.~~

Can produce a tanker a week.

CARS

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Again we are told that the government may requisition passenger automobiles. It may be necessary to take over cars owned by civilians. This was stated today by Arthur Newhall, rubber chief of the War Production Board - who explained that there is a shortage of transportation in armament production communities, war boom towns. It may be necessary to transfer automobiles to such areas - with the government requisitioning privately owned cars for that purpose.

And once more we hear about a nationwide rationing of gasoline, War Production officials stated today that this is coming as a certainty. A plan for nationwide gasoline rationing is being drawn up by defense transportation director, Joseph Eastman. And it only remains for him to produce a program satisfactory to the War Production Board. Then the ~~and~~ ration card system for gasoline will be extended to the entire country.

In Congress, there was action today to relieve ^{the} oil shortage in the Eastern States. The rivers and harbors committee

of the House of Representatives put its okay on a project to build a pipeline across northern Florida. Also - to improve barge canals in the Atlantic and Gulf areas, and connect these canals with each other to form a continuous system. The Florida pipeline and the barge Canal improvements are calculated to bring a lot of oil to the Eastern States.

At Hartford, Philip Fenn was in court today, charged with having registered falsely for sugar rationing. He registered for both himself and his son, Ferdinand. Later the authorities learned something more about Ferdinand. They might not have been surprised had they found him to be - Ferdinand the Bull. But he was Ferdinand the dog.

In court today, the defendant explained that his pooch is a gay dog and likes a lot of sweets. So, in order to procure sugar for the hound, he registered the kioddle as his son. I suppose he might have gone on and registered a horse as his father and a goat as his uncle, and then all would have been sweet.

And e - L - u - Monday.