

L. J. Sunoco. - Friday, July 24, 1942.

RUSSIA

Moscow does not confirm the capture of Rostov by the Nazis. However, the Russian indications are that the enemy forces have battered their way to the gateway of the Caucasus and have penetrated the city. So the Berlin claim of the capture of Rostov is probably true.

The Germans declare that their forces have crossed the River Don to the east of Rostov, have driven past the river line and are thrusting southward into the Caucasus. Berlin, however, remarks that these bridgeheads across the river are of only local importance for the time being -- just preliminary. They say that the large scale move into the Caucasus has not yet begun, -- ~~that~~ will be the next step.

The German comment is that one phase of the campaign has now been concluded, and the next one is yet to begin. The phase just ended had for its purpose the capture of Rostov and the occupation of the great bend of the Don. This latter objective seems to be on its way to completion -- the seizure of the territory described by the great loop of the river.

Just what ~~shape~~ the next phase of the Nazi campaign will be is not clear. The most obvious strategy seems to be a drive directly

eastward across the Don in the direction of the key city of Stalingrad and the River Volga. There the Soviet army is bracing for a supreme defense. Or maybe the Panzer divisions might strike south, and try to by-pass stalingrad. Soviet Marshal Timoshenko is compelled to distribute his forces <sup>ready</sup> for defense at any one of a number of ~~innumerable~~ threatened points. This in itself, <sup>adds</sup> ~~is a~~ <sup>unable</sup> ~~probably~~ <sup>to the</sup> ~~great~~ element of danger for Soviet Russia. Timoshenko ~~probably~~ <sup>can't know</sup> just where the <sup>next</sup> blow will fall. The Russians are facing a desperate crisis and are well aware of it. They are mustering all their men and ~~will~~ all their ~~emerge~~ courage, and they ~~have~~ plenty of both.

EGYPT

48  
In the Battle of Egypt, the principal news today told of British blows struck at the rear positions of the enemy. A late dispatch from Cairo tells <sup>of</sup> that Royal Air Force bombers <sup>ing</sup> smashed a German motor transport column, which was hurrying to the front line to bolster up the forces of <sup>Nazi Field</sup> Marshal Rommel. Everywhere there is intense aviation activity, with American-made planes playing a prominent part.

And British warships are joining in the thunder of war, hurling naval bombardments. The key port of Matruh has been a focus of shell fire. Two thousand ponderous naval shells are said to have been poured ~~ix~~ into that harbor during six ~~me~~ nights of bombardment. And that <sup>s</sup> ~~is~~ is an answer to German claims that the British fleet had <sup>s</sup> ~~had~~ scurried out of the Mediterranean.

Today's emphasis on hitting the enemy lines of communication is a reflection of the fact that nothing decisive has happened along the battleline in Egypt. ~~They~~ The British ~~are still thrusting and punching with mechanized unchanged tactics~~ of battle. They made advances, but Cairo tells us that these

49  
In the South Pacific the air forces of the United Nations are ~~states~~ hitting hard at the new base ~~the~~ the Japs are establishing in New Guinea - at a place called Buna. The American and Australian Air Operations are described as the biggest since the battle of the Coral Sea.

American pilots tell graphic stories of the violence of their bombing assaults. One flier describes how his squadron sighted a Jap convoy ~~xxx~~ consisting of two ten-thousand-ton liners escorted by destroyers. His plane got one *big* transport straight under the bomb sight. "A bomb seemed to go right down the funnel," relates the pilot. "I ~~xx~~ have never seen a more intense explosion. The middle of the ship just seemed to erupt and disappear".

50  
Another American describes what <sup>a</sup> ~~an~~ awful fright he got, nearly scared ~~him~~ to death. He aimed at a lot of Japanese barges, and released his bombs. "I couldn't believe my eyes, When I saw them landing so perfectly", he relates. "An Australian Naval Observer standing beside me fetched me a terrific wallop on the back -- by way of congratulation. I almost died of fright," he says, "I thought a shell had hit ~~me~~".

## TOKYO RAID

Some new facts about General Jimmy Doolittle's raid on Tokyo are revealed by a United Press correspondent who was stationed at Tokyo and who is now on his way home. Correspondent Robert Tl Bellaire says the Japs were caught napping, were taken utterly by surprise.

He tells how a singler American bomber -- probably the one piloted by Jimmy himself -- flew right over the imperial palace of the Mikado. But it didn't attempt to drop bombs. However the mere fact that a plane flew over the Mikado's palace caused an internal political crisis -- because the Mikado-- Son of Heaven -- was in danger. In fact, the Son of Heaven crawled out of an air raid shelter afterward. The war cabinet led by Premier General Tojo visited the Mikado, and apologized. And there were reports of high army officers committing Hair-kari as penance, because the Mikado was in danger. However Doolittle and his men did not bomb the emperor's palace. They bombed military objectives instead.

CONVICT

Today at Chicago, an offer was<sup>S</sup> turned down -- an offer to eliminate Hitler. A convicted prisoner made the proposal -- saying that if the judge would let him off, he would drop by parachute into Nazi Germany and would thereupon rid the world of the Nazi villain. He had the plan all worked out -- the army to give him some parachute training, then take him to England, fly him over Germany, and drop him. "Then I <sup>will</sup>~~will~~ take care of the rest," he told the judge.

In rejecting the offer, the judge pointed to one of the crimes of which the prisoner had been convicted. He had been engaged in the transportation of stolen property across state lines, and in doing so had impersonated a federal officer, however, the pertinent offense was this -- he had also failed to register for the draft. He was not so anxious to get the number one Nazi then.

Moral -- if you want to eliminate Hitler, join the Army or Navy.

TAXES

52  
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There was a Senate criticism today of the plan to withhold percentages of wages to be applied to the payment of income tax. At a hearing before the Senate Finance Committee, the contention was advanced that, if employers had to deduct money from the wages of workers and hold the money for payment toward the workers' income tax -- it would make the employers do an awful lot of extra bookkeeping. "A tremendous accounting burden," were the words used. Treasury tax expert Randolph Paul replied that he did not think the extra accounting burden would be tremendous. He contended that the increase of bookkeeping on the part of employers would not be very great.

Senator Taft of Ohio employed another line of argument. He said that if percentages of workers' wages were held out next year, this would be in addition to the payments they would be making on incomes earned this year. The effect would be that next year they would be paying taxes at the rate of twenty-four per cent of the first dollar of taxable income. ~~(The treasury expert agreed with this -- the withholding tax added onto next year's tax payments would amount to that minimum figure, twenty-four per cent.)~~

## RUBBER BILL

53  
Today the House of Representatives passed a bill concerning synthetic rubber made from alcohol. Other kinds, for example are made from petroleum. The Congressional bill takes away the control of the alcohol kind of synthetic rubber from the War Production board. Congress calls for the creation of an independent rubber agency, which will have the power to supervise the production of rubber made from alcohol.

The point of all this lies in the fact that alcohol is made from products of the farm, and therefore has a relation to farm prices. The Congressional purpose is to boost the production of rubber from alcohol, so as to benefit the farmer.

The Lower House passed the bill by an overwhelming vote of a hundred and four to eighteen. And the Senate has already passed it. War Production Chief Donald Nelson warns that the measure is, in his words, "Exceedingly dangerous." But the Congressional sponsors of the bill believe that the President will sign it.

## RUBBER

On the technical side of the rubber question, the Ford Motor Company announces a plan whereby the rubber tire problem of Ford employees could be solved. According to a statement issued by Ford Vice-President Sorensen, workers at Ford plants need have no bother about tires.

The story is that Ford chemists have devised a way to treat worn out tires with a coating of a substance called "thiokol." This thiokol is not rubber, nothing like it -- but two pounds of it applied to a tire will give the tire an extra tenth of an inch of thickness. And that will be good for four or five thousand miles of driving in a reasonable moderate way.

The Ford plan is to manufacture this new substance in its regular tire factory, then make it available for all Ford employees. It would work like this:- "The cars of employees would be inspected regularly. Whenever a tire was seen to be wearing out -- the rubber running thin -- company experts would retread

the tire with thiokol.

The Ford Company says its own tire plant can produce enough of the stuff to provide for the essential automobile transport for its more than two hundred thousand employees. The company is now asking the government to approve the plan.

I could use some of that ThioKol on one of my jaloppies' rear tires right now.

ICKES

The nation's petroleum coordinator, Harold Ickes, <sup>as we all know</sup> ~~is an~~  
<sup>by now, is an</sup>  
^ advocate of turning oil burners in homes into coal burners. The  
coordinator is a man who practices what he preaches, and so he  
started ~~prexx~~ practicing at his farm at Olney, Maryland. He has  
a coal burner in the house, and he went ahead and bought coal grates  
and other equipment. Whereupon the coordinator encountered what  
he calls -- "some mechanical troubles."

The Ickes mind is large and varied, but <sup>he himself admits</sup> it does not include  
much of a talent for mechanics. So the coordinator called in  
engineers, and then started on the job of transforming the  
furnace from oil to coal. This they have failed to accomplish --  
as yet.

At a press conference today, Coordinator Ickes said that  
the transformation from ~~i~~ oil to coal, if ~~and~~ when it happens,  
will cost him more than three hundred and fifty dollars.

I hope the co-ordinator doesn't  
urge us all to spend a like amount.

## SCRAP

At Green Bay, Wisconsin, there is an automobile dealer who is also a farmer. ~~(Years ago he was inspired with an ingenious way of getting rid of old junk cars. As a result, they are now mining a treasure of scrap metal at the bottom of a lake.)~~

His name is Albert Radtke, and his bright idea was this.

As an automobile dealer, he acquired a lot of <sup>derelict</sup> ~~old~~ cars. And you know how in the past it was often a problem -- how to get rid of the <sup>w.</sup> ~~junk lizzies~~. As a farmer, he had spacious acres on which there was a lake. So he disposed of the worn out ~~XXXXX~~ cars by sinking them in the middle of the lake. In that way <sup>no</sup> ~~the~~ unsightly junk ~~did not~~ <sup>ed up his Sylvan Wisconsin</sup> clutter <sup>up the</sup> landscape.

But how did he get them out to the middle of the lake?

That's the ingenious part of it. In winter, when the water was frozen thick, the automobile dealing farmer would tow the decrepid busses out onto the ice. Then he would leave them there. They <sup>junk</sup> would remain on the <sup>surface - out in the exact middle of the</sup> frozen lake until spring came -- those balmy months of mildness and warmth -- and the spring thaw would do the rest. It must have been a sight to see the ice crack -- and the <sup>rows of old</sup> ~~junk~~ cars go plunging to the bottom.

*with literally hundreds*  
~~That~~ That went on for fifteen years, ~~with five~~ hundred  
automobiles going the way of ice and thaw. They are at the bottom  
of the lake now, under fifty feet of water -- a ~~very~~ veritable  
treasure ~~mine~~ *— an underwater mine of valuable junk.* of scrap metal. So now a salvage job has begun --  
although it is not as easy to get them out as it was to get them  
in. No ice and thaw to use this time. The salvagers are doing  
the job with grappling hooks, a cable and a winch, pulling out  
the sunken cars. They are hauling them onto dry land at the rate  
of one every half an hour.

FARLEY

The political tangle in New York was made still more complicated today by the launching of a -- Farley boom. This followed a whole series of rapid developments in the battle between President Roosevelt and Jim Farley, with the Governorship of New York at stake. Jim is for Bennett, and the President is for Mead.

Tammany Hall, the American Labor Party, and a group called the young democrats have come out for the Presidential choice. Farley and Bennett, however, are strongly standing their ground, with the prospect of a free-for-all political battle when the New York State democratic convention is held.

This has led to suppositions that there might be a compromise candidate, and maybe Jim Farley ~~was injected today as~~ <sup>will be that</sup> a compromise. <sup>Some bear today, and</sup> <sup>Jim</sup> That would be odd -- since <sup>he</sup> is the number one personality standing in opposition to the President in the New York State political ~~fight~~ fight.

However that all may be, the New York State democratic committee had a meeting today, and decided that the state convention should be held at Brooklyn -- August nineteenth and twentieth.

58 1/2  
During the proceedings, committee member Jeremiah T. Mahoney spoke up and said: "There has been much talk of candidates during the past two weeks," and he added, "I've had a candidate right along -- Jim Farley." Jeremiah T. Mahoney, who launches the Fraley boom, is a Tammany Hall delegate, and Tammany has already declared for Mead, the President's choice. All of which makes it more complicated.

29  
And now Hugh, <sup>you</sup> tell us something a little less complicated.