

L.J. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Oct. 5, 1943.

Good Evening Everybody: If my broadcast should happen to have a homespun or any sort of homey quality about it tonight, it will be for a good reason. Because I am broadcasting from my Mother's Front Parlor, with my Mother and Father sitting beside me. Also their grandson, who is in the Army Air Force, and is on leave. Dinner is about "set" in the dining room, at my elbow; and the most distracting thing about all this is that I can smell dinner cooking in the kitchen - which is something Hugh and I can't do in our air-conditioned, stream-lined ~~main~~ studio at Radio City.

I am braodcasting from here at Asbury, on the Jersey Coast, where my father is a doctor, because my mother now finds it difficult ever to get up to join me at Radio City. And I am going to give the highlights of the day's news now, as though I had just come in the door and were telling my Mother a little about what has been happenang in the world in the past few hours.

In the last war, part of the time, until Uncle Sam came in when he transferred to our forces, my Father was connected with a big British Army base hospital, in Southern Italy, at Taranto. So he knows a lot about Italy. More than I do. And, he's following every step of what is going on over in his old stamping

ground - and wishing he were there!

Italy

In Italy the fifth Army announces the capture of a town called Montesarchio (the ch is pronounced k). This represents a forward drive of six miles for the Allied troops that captured the old town of Benevento. The Benevento sector is inland from Naples, and there the Allied advance has thrust a salient -- a salient from which they might swing around and outflank the Germans who have retreated to the north of Naples.

They threaten to cut in behind the line of the Volturno River, where the Germans were believed to be ready to make their next stand north of Naples. Perhaps this threat may explain a dispatch from Algiers, which states that the Nazis are abandoning the line of the Volturno and resuming their retreat toward Rome. However, another war bulletin informs us that enemy resistance is stiffening.

Today's news discloses the capture of two airfields north of Naples, giving our fliers bases further advanced -- this in a war in which air bases close-up are of such immense importance .

On the other side of Italy, on the Adriatic coast, the British have beaten off Nazi counter-attacks at the point where they landed on the coast. The landing forces sweeping ahead of the troops

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pushing along the ground, leap frog tactics along the coast.

The Germans made vigorous counter-attacks, but these have been repelled.

~~It is~~ ^{its} all over in Corsica. We heard last night that the

Germans were out, and now come the official details. Remnants of

enemy troops on that big island got away by sea to the mainland

of Italy. And a bulletin issued by the French army tells Jubilantly

how the French cleared the island completely of enemy forces.

Badoglio.

Today in London an attack was made on the government of Marshall Badoglio in Italy. The blast was printed in the London Times, that always impressive reflection of high British opinion. The Times disapproves of the Badoglio Government because of some people who are included in it. For example, General Ambrosio and General Roatta, both of whom were Chiefs of Staff of the Italian Army - - and therefore closely connected with the Fascist war.

The Times points out, more-over, that General Roatta was Commander of Italian forces in Northern Yugo Slavia, and there had a record for suppression and terrorism. Roatta's name, the British Newspaper goes on, ~~was~~^{is} in a list of War criminals which the Yugo Slav Government ~~has~~ presented to the Allies. "No man is more loathed by the Yugo Slavs", says the London Times.

Air War

The Air War in the European theatre ranges from the Balkans, through Germany, and all the way north to Norway.

In the Mediterranean sector Allied bombers assailed an important Nazi air field in Greece, not far north of Athens. They also hit the town of Argos, described as the oldest city in Greece, and the land of the Hellens has some mighty old ones.

The major target in Germany was Frankfort, ^{again,} the big Nazi rail and industrial center. ^{Hundred of} Tons of bombs hit Frankfort. The loss during this most recent bombing of Germany was comparatively light -- twelve planes.

In Norwegian waters ~~the~~ air blow was launched from a naval squadron -- with carrier planes smashing German ships. A number of vessels were blasted, including an eight thousand ton tanker.

cut

Denmark

From Denmark comes a report that the Nazis have disarmed the Danish police and have arrested and interned a number of police officials. This -- because of the escape of a thousand Danish Jews to Sweden. The Nazis, having taken full control of Denmark, are applying their usual anti-Semitic terrorism, and ordered the Danish police to check the escape of their Jewish fellow citizens. This they failed to do, and new Nazi measures have been taken against them.

Dodecanese.

And here's one that will interest my Mother and

Father, because it's about another part of the world where they both spent considerable time; and about which they know more than I do.

Dodecanese

The Germans continue their claim that they have virtually captured the Island of Kos in the Eastern Mediterranean -- the Dodecanese. "Mopping up of the last dispersed remnants of the enemy is continuing," states today's Berlin communique. From the Allied side we hear very little save that -- "fighting is still continuing." According to a dispatch from Cairo ~~London~~ ~~are~~ ~~not~~ ~~yet~~ British and American air power have intervened in the conflict for Kos.

The Germans claim to have captured six hundred men of the British garrison and twenty-five hundred pro-Allied Italians -- in their sudden paratrooper descent on the island.

It isn't clear just what strategic elements are involved in the Nazi stroke, but Kos was one of the Italian-held Dodecanese islands which the Italian garrison turned over to the Allies -- much to the annoyance of the Nazis, of course. So maybe the new attack is mostly an expression of that annoyance-- with a view, also, to prestige and propaganda.

Russia.

For the past few days we have had little news from Russia - - after those triumphant weeks of Soviet advance and German retreat. This recent comparative silence is amply explained today by a phrase in a war dispatch that states: "The three months summer offensive appears to be nearing its end."

The halt in the great Soviet drive ^{as I mentioned last night} is to be attributed largely to the weather. The fall rains have begun, and Western Russia is a land of many swamps and bogs, where even the sections that are normally dry are turned into oceans of mud by the rains of Autumn. And everybody knows what mud does to the operation of motorized equipment.

Another factor in the pause of the Soviet advance is the German strength along the sniper. The Nazi war machine having, in its long retreat, retired to that big stream, and now holds ^{ing} powerful positions - - the line of the river, where the defense is bolstered up by the high bluffs along the western bank, which the Germans hold. One surmises that the Red army will have to stay put for some interval of time. It made a mighty long advance and now will have to organize new communications - - for the mustering of heavy forces

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that will be needed to crack the Dneiper line. One wonders whether any strong Soviet effort can be expected until the fall rains are over, and then along will come that Russian winter, which has produced such nightmare conditions of battle - - the winter war.

The only news of Soviet progress today comes from the Central front, north from the line of the Dneiper -- where Red army successes are reported in front of the city of Mogilev, the key stronghold the Germans hold in White Russia. Heavy nazi counter-attacks were beaten back and the Russians expanded their bridgeheads across a broad river twenty-five miles east of Mogilev.

days of fighting and shell fire that he lay motionless in a heap on the ground. His face was like a blank mask. "He was," says the Allied Dispatch, "led off to be fed after days of hunger."

I cite this prisoner story as an accompaniment to another item of news from the Southwest Pacific.

Today, says the United Press, neither the Tokyo radio nor the Japanese news agency, made any reference to the atrocious Japanese killing of an Allied war pilot, as reported by General MacArthur. Japanese propaganda contains a dead silence about that hideous outrage - - the beheading of an Allied Airman according to the Savage code of the Samurai. The story is revealed in a diary taken from the body of an enemy soldier in New Guinea, and indicates vividly the kind of murderous devils we are fighting.

(Add Japs)

President Roosevelt today made comment on the execution of the Allied flier, and said the barberous act was another proof that the Japs are uncivilized. That might seem a mild enough bit of comment on such a brutal crime; but, the President explained that the thing that enrages and humiliates the Japs the most is to say that they lack civilization.

~~Note: Mr. Thomas.~~

~~Eves says kill the Danish story if possible. He finds it is old stuff.~~

(end)

Tax

Word from Washington would seem to indicate that one of the biggest revolts against the Administration is brewing in the House of Representatives -- because of taxes. Congressional opinion is said to be turning violently against the giant taxation program submitted by the Secretary of the Treasury yesterday -- a proposal to boost the nation's tax bill for next year to ten and a half billion dollars. Meaning -- drastic increases of the income tax.

~~Today the House Ways and Means Committee, in its deliberations concerning taxation, showed unmistakable hostility to the Administration's proposal for upping the income tax so much. And we hear that leaders on the floor of the House agree with the Committee. One Congressman today called the giant tax bill foolhardy. And others agreed with Committee Chairman Doughton of North Carolina, who said that the tax burden proposed is more than the people can bear.~~

TP House opinion seems to be veering toward a sales tax. Also toward a demand for Government Economy -- an all-out drive to cut down unnecessary spending in Washington.

~~The sales tax was advocated by a Number One witness before the Ways and Means Committee today. He was M. L. ^S ~~Seidman~~, chairman of the~~

Boston Navy Yard

The Navy has ordered an investigation of charges that war work at the Boston Navy Yard is being handicapped by - - loafing, workers taking it slow and easy on the job. The accusation was made by Michael Kinseller, city counsellor of Boston, who stated that at the Boston Navy Yard there was a prevalent condition of lazying around and lying down on the job.

Today the Navy department ordered the admiral in command to investigate - - and take necessary steps to cure any bad conditions, such as loafing.

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Taxation Committee of the NewYork Board of Trade. He urged a ten percent levy which would produce about six billion dollars.

Speaking of a sales tax he said: "It collects itself daily and about as painlessly as any tax can be collected. Imposing it uiversally, without exemption, would also simplify its administration."

Cost of Living.

President Roosevelt today expressed the belief that the government efforts to reduce the cost of living would succeed. He made the statement in a letter to President William F Green of the A F of L, on the occasion of the sixty-third annual convention of the Labor Federation - - held in Boston. ^{TP} "We anticipate a good deal of success in the rollback of prices which will stabilize and reduce the cost of living and essentials," writes the President.

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BASEBALL I'm afraid my Mother won't be interested in this next one. In fact I doubt that she even knows that the World Series got under way today. But, there a lot of people who are interested, and if I can get in I'll be right there at the Yankee Stadium, for a Baseball couple of innings, tomorrow afternoon.

As all baseball fans know,

It's a mighty common thing for a World Series game to have a goat, and today the goat of the occasion was Max Lanier, the brilliant StLouis left-hander. Not that Lanier pitched a bad game -- seven hits during the seven innings he was in the box. But he made a couple of errors, and these cost the game in dramatic fashion.

The first was one of those garden variety misplays which any pitcher is likely to make. In the fourth inning, with the Yankees at bat, Frankie Crosetti hit to second base, and Lanier ran over to first to take the throw. He dropped the ball and Crosetti was safe. That meant a run, the tying run, for Frankie later went on to score.

The dramatic error came in the sixth inning, with two men on base, and again we see Frankie Crosetti -- he was on second. Lanier was pitching to Joe Gordon, and maybe he was a little nervous. because Flash Gordon in a previous inning had hit a home run. A home-run hitter is likely to make any pitcher a bit jittery. Anyway, Lanier pitched a low ball, which probably was the right strategy -- but it was too low, much too low. The ball hit the home plate and bounced high in the air, over the head of Cooper, the StLouis catcher.

5 8 1/2 Cooper lost it completely. He started running to his left, but

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the ball looped over to his right. By the time he found it, Crosetti, running like the wind, scored all the way from second base.

That was the winning run. It put the Yankees ahead and they later got another, taking the first game of the world series by a score of four to two - on first-class pitching by Spud Chandler.

And now, let's all go to dinner -
and s-l-u-t-m.