

AFRICA

P.J. - Sunoco. Wed., Dec. 9, 1942. 9

The news from Africa is a <sup>shade</sup> ~~little~~ more encouraging today, about that Tunisian tank battle that has been on for two days near Tebourba. There has been a counter-attack by American armored units and British infantry. The Nazis were forced back, and today the British and Americans consolidated the positions they had won.

So heavy was the fighting that both sides appear to be temporarily exhausted. The latest official War Department communique reads: "Activity in forward areas yesterday was limited to patrol."

According to official reports, the Germans lost twenty tanks in Sunday's battle, including some of their latest models.

However, there are few details; and no over-all picture of operations in that triangle formed by Mateur, Djedeida and Tebourba.

By way of Madrid comes word that the Axis has been able to reinforce its positions both at Tunis and Bizerte in the last forty-eight hours. Madrid reports

that the Nazis have just landed more medium tanks, heavy artillery and eighty-eight millimeter guns at Bizerte.

The word from Madrid is that what has happened so far in Tunisia is only a sample of the fighting to come. And that the real show will begin when Lieutenant-General Anderson, commanding the British First Army, has all the men, guns and tanks he considers necessary for an all-out offensive.

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According to Radio Morocco, further Allied counter-attacks are now being carried out, with the Nazi formations violently shelled by Allied heavy cannon. And with Allied planes bombing Bizerte and Tunis.

DAVIS FOLLOW AFRICA

Here is an ~~interesting~~ sidelight on affairs in Africa. <sup>It comes</sup> from Elmer Davis, Director of the Office of War Information. A newspaperman asked <sup>Davis</sup> ~~him~~ today what about the reports that Admiral Darlan has barred American and British broadcasters from Radio Morocco at Rabat? Davis replied that he was not sure this was true, at any rate he had no official information to that effect. However, he did say ~~that~~ the reports carried by Radio Morocco are of doubtful reliability, <sup>and that</sup> his own office has been broadcasting from Algiers, not Morocco.

<sup>he said</sup> Many questions <sup>^</sup> he was not able to answer because, ~~he said~~, both the military and political situation in North Africa still are not clear. Then he was asked about the complaint of British and American correspondents that they had been unable to get adequate reports on ~~the~~ operations in Africa.

The obvious answer to that, said Davis, is that all communication lines are jammed by official reports.

A reporter then asked: "But why does most of the news come from London rather than ~~the United States?~~ <sup>our own</sup> American services?"

Davis replied that he could <sup>not</sup> answer that one.

RUSSIA


Not much definite news from Russia today.

The Moscow reports have a familiar sound. That the Soviet army has smashed more German positions southwest of Stalingrad. Also with the Russians hammering at the Rzhev front. According to Soviet accounts, Hitler has ordered his armies around Rzhev and Stalingrad to hold on or die right there. The Russians say that the Nazis have even assigned special troops to shoot any soldier who attempts to surrender.

The Russians also say the Germans are ~~so~~ short of warplanes, so short that they are now using mail planes, training ships and passenger transport liners along the Russian ~~fr~~ front. That story is from the RED STAR, the newspaper of the Soviet Army.

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Incidentally, I heard today an expert opinion that the RED STAR reports are singularly accurate, the most accurate appearing in military papers of any belligerent country. So said Larry LeSueur who for the last year has been a correspondent in Moscow. ~~Exxy~~  
Larry saw the collapse of France, and since then has been

on several battlefronts. At a luncheon of the Overseas Press Club he gave us a grim picture of present-day Russia. That the Russians can hold out indefinitely is a mistake, he said. He told us that life in Moscow is dismal beyond words. With all artificial light and gas cut off, when a worker returns home from the factory in the afternoon, all he can do is brew tea in a



samovar, eat some black bread, and go to bed, <sup>for</sup> ~~because~~ there is nothing else to do.

The picture of war has changed vastly in the last year, said Larry LeSueur. When the Russians retired in front of the Nazi war machine, keeping their army intact, they thought they were doing the right thing. They now regret it. They wish they had held on at all costs <sup>clung to such</sup> ~~to several~~ strong places <sup>as</sup> ~~including~~ Rzhev, which they are now desperately trying to recapture. ~~So far every attempt to take Rzhev has failed.~~ The more recent war technique is being exemplified at Stalingrad. There is where the carefully prepared Russian defense methods were brought into play, most successfully. The consequence has been that the attacking Nazis have been bled white. That is the idea of the new technique: stand off the attackers until they are bled white. LeSueur pointed

out that on a smaller scale, ~~xxxxxxx~~ that is what is going on now in Tunisia, <sup>with the Nazis giving us a taste of it;</sup> also in New Guinea, where the Japs are holding out against <sup>the</sup> Americans and Australians.

Larry LeSueur said further that the Russians are not hugely excited by what is going on in North Africa. For it will not prevent the Germans from doing what they did last winter - resting up, holding on to their lines with a minimum of active fighting men <sup>while they</sup> ~~and repairing~~ their mechanical equipment.

Another speaker at the Overseas ~~Press Club~~ Luncheon was John Henry of ~~the~~ International News Service who was with the flagship of the American <sup>Armada that moved on North-</sup> ~~fleet that went on the expedition to~~ Africa. He gave us the surprising news that the naval engagement off Casablanca had been a far more important affair than we had been given to understand hitherto. Actually, there were more ships involved, more shots fired, than



*in the Spanish American War,*  
at the Battle of Santiago, The flagship on which

John Henry was reporting came under direct fire of

the French <sup>*ultra*</sup> modern battleship, the JEAN BART. The

Frenchmen's fire was becoming so accurate that they

~~actually~~ had the American flagship straddled.

Whereupon Admiral Giffen gave the ~~xxx~~ order:

"Play ball; give them all you've got."

*John* <sup>*A. S.*</sup> Henry said the most exciting four minutes of  
his life was when a French submarine launched four  
torpedoes at the American flagship. When he heard the  
warning shout he threw himself on deck. The navigating  
officer and the executive officer, between them,  
maneuvered the American flagship with such ~~incredible~~  
skill ~~and adroitness~~ that the four torpedoes passed  
harmlessly by. ~~xxxxxx~~ But a marine declared that one  
of ~~them~~ passed so close ~~that~~ he could have written his  
name on it.

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## AIR RAIDS

At this moment another British Royal Air Force raid is probably being ~~executed~~ <sup>carried out</sup> on Turin. This is not official but we have a report that an air raid alarm was sounded in Zurich, Switzerland. <sup>and</sup> That is usually an indication that ~~the~~ British ~~Blenheims and Wellingtons~~ <sup>bombers</sup> and ~~Spitfires~~ are once more on their way across Axis Europe, bound either for northern Italy or southwest Germany.

That <sup>'</sup>is what happened last night when the R.A.F. made its tremendous attack on the already devastated city of Turin. The snow-~~capped Alps~~ <sup>covered landscape</sup> for miles around ~~were~~ <sup>was</sup> still illuminated tonight by the fires that the R.A.F. lit at Turin last night. ~~They would give the raiders excellent illumination to polish off the work.~~

~~It is reported that~~ The planes in last night's raid took an hour to ~~pass a given point~~ <sup>aim drop their deadly cargoes methodically & without haste.</sup> ~~and~~ They dropped

their heaviest bombs, on ~~Mussolini's war production~~

~~center~~ <sup>those</sup> block-busters of two tons and ~~even~~ four tons

~~each.~~ <sup>each.</sup> ~~There were Lancasters, Halifaxes, Wellingtons~~ <sup>The British air armada has</sup>

~~and Sterlings in that raid.~~ They expected to find

anti-aircraft opposition, <sup>for</sup> ~~Duce~~ Mussolini had promised

to bring ~~ack-ack~~ batteries from Germany to ~~xxxxxx~~

defend the big manufacturing centers. But he had ~~not~~.

~~kept his word.~~ <sup>and</sup> The British crews found only half a dozen searchlights playing on them, only a few guns.

And at that, the aim of the Italian gunners was poor.

GUEST

L.T.:- I have just heard a report about Labor and War Production in Britain that so impressed me that I have invited Virgil Pinkley, European Manager for the United Press, to make a part of his report to you. He has come home from seventy thousand miles of travel, to forty-three ~~ix~~ foreign countries. Virgil Pinkley, tell us about British labor; what they are doing over there.

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MR. P.:- To achieve maximum production and win the war in the shortest possible time, British Labor, Management, and the Government have gotten together as a team. They have decided to bury all rights and privileges and set aside all petty jealousies for the duration so that Maximum production may be achieved.

Labor has agreed that every man and woman shall work in his or her present position for the duration. Yes, and Labor has agreed that every man and woman shall work in some industries for at least forty-eight hours a week; and, in others for fifty-four or fifty-six hours a week.

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That is, before overtime is paid.

Moreover, British Labor has had a bill passed which provides that all of the rights and privileges possessed by Labor at the beginning of the war shall be returned within eighteen months after its conclusion -- if the Trade Union leaders so request. British Labor also has sponsored another piece of legislation which provides that any man or woman soldiering on the job, coming late without due cause, or being absent without sufficient reason, may be fined four hundred dollars or ~~the~~ three months' imprisonment, or both. This, a bill sponsored by Labor itself.

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L.T.:- And what were you telling us about wages over there?

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MR. P.:- Well, the average wage received by war workers in Britain, men and women, including overtime, is twenty dollars a week. Experts in the shipbuilding yards, aircraft factories and the like may make as high as

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twenty-seven to thirty dollars a week.

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L.T.:- And what about management?

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MR. P.:- Management has given labor a far greater voice in the operation of industry than ever before. Management has its profits strictly regulated, and any exceeding those of Nineteen thirty-eight, a pre-war year, are taken one hundred percent by the Government in taxes. Management also has built large day nurseries where working mothers can leave their children. Management is providing gratis meals for about one million children in these nurseries. And, Management has ~~xxxx~~ built hostels in which many men and women are housed and fed, comfortably and well for reasonable prices.

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L.T.:- We are beginning to hear more and more about what women are doing in Britain.

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MR. P. In one of the large factories I visited in

the West of the country, over three thousand women are employed. Some of these women operate huge cranes fifty and sixty feet above blast furnaces in temperatures ranging up to one hundred and ten degrees. They pick up large pots containing sixty to ninety tons of molten steel ~~xxx~~ just as deftly as they would handle a pan of potatoes in their kitchens. Other women were operating three thousand ton stamp presses.

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L.T.: How long -- what hours do the women work?

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MR. P. I asked about that, and one woman explained that there was a shortage of steel being made by this factory for the production of ~~xxxxxxg~~ tank guns -- badly needed in Russia and Africa. Therefore a temporary shift was being worked and had been worked for six weeks -- of eighty-four hours a week.

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L.T.: Which sounds to me as though we over here haven't really started to pull our full weight. We can't match what you tell us about the British.

SOLOMONS

The Navy today gave us news of another naval fight in the Solomons. A Japanese task force started an attempt to land men and supplies on Guadalcanal.

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For several weeks the Japs have been unable to reinforce their men beleaguered there, <sup>These</sup> ~~and they~~ have been in a desperate plight <sup>as we heard last week from</sup> ~~according to reports of~~ Secretary Knox.

<sup>latest</sup>  
The enemy task force included about ten cruisers and destroyers escorting transport and supply ships. <sup>Our naval forces</sup> ~~Our side~~ dashed out to meet them, with dive bombers and torpedo planes from Henderson Field. <sup>And</sup>  
They raised hob with the <sup>2</sup> ~~1~~ Jap flotilla, ~~and sent it to the rightabouts,~~ prevented it from landing either men or supplies.

It was a ~~xxxxx~~ short, sharp battle. When it was over, the Japs had a cruiser hit by <sup>a pair of</sup> ~~two~~ thousand- <sup>a</sup> ~~one~~ thousand <sup>^</sup> pound bombs; another cruiser hit by <sup>a</sup> ~~one~~ thousand <sup>^</sup> pound bombs.



bomb, <sup>and</sup> a third warship, either cruiser or destroyer, hit by two torpedoes. Moreover, another ship, either a cruiser or ~~xxx~~ destroyer, was possibly hit by two torpedoes, but of this there is no certainty.

Reconnaissance planes went out the next day and discovered that one of the damaged Jap vessels had sunk. Three others were in flames and were still helpless near the scene of the previous day's action.

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Aside from all this, a United States fighter plane knocked down a bag of ten float-type Japanese planes.

Aside from the sinking of another Japanese warship, and the apparently fatal damage to three others, the important fact in that engagement is that another Japanese attempt to reinforce their men on Guadalcanal has ~~been foiled.~~ <sup>Failed.</sup> In other words, our

~~forces down there have made good Secretary Knox's claim that we have the enemy force on Guadalcanal isolated.~~

CANADA -

A political rumpus broke loose in Canada today. ~~This happened~~ <sup>at</sup> Winnipeg, where the Conservative Party is holding its convention. Arthur Meighan is retiring as leader of the Conservative Party and in his farewell speech he made some acid remarks about the control of the MacKenzie-King government over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Unless the government's radio monopoly is broken, said Meighan, Fascism is in Canada to stay. He said further: "Parliamentary government in this Dominion is but a memory."

And now Hugh James.

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