

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

On the Libyan desert tonight, the British are going
~~all-out~~ ^{— striving for} for a quick victory. They've brought up ~~quick~~ ^{speedy} tank
reinforcements for a strong attack on the Germans and Italians at
Sidi Rezegh. ~~At the same time,~~ ^{And} New Zealand infantry ^{have} fought their
way westward from Gambut to join the main British and South African
battleline near Sidi ~~Rezegh.~~ ^{Rezegh.} And the Anzac defenders of Tobruk
broke through the Axis lines to take part in the main engagement.

Meanwhile, a strong Nazi-Fascist tank column cut through
the British lines on the Egyptian frontier and began raising havoc
on ~~the~~ Egyptian territory. But it was quickly attacked by a strong
squadron of the Royal Air Force, backed up by artillery and mobile
troops. A British broadcast reported that this Axis column had been
mowed down, ^{had} lost one-third of its tanks, and ^{had been} ~~was~~ driven back into
Libya. ~~But a military spokesman at Cairo said it was being hunted~~
~~down and might get away.~~

At the same time, South African tank units, backed up by mechanized infantry from India, ~~had~~ pushed ahead as far as a place called Augila, ^{some} two hundred miles ^{far across the desert} west of the Egyptian frontier, captured an Italian oasis with many prisoners, ~~and was sweeping~~ ^{and is now ~~stacking~~} ~~hunting and clanking on~~ ^{ahead} toward the Gulf of Sidra.

But all this is the British side of the story. The Nazis ^{insist} ~~declare~~ that the British ^{boast of having} ~~claim to have~~ command of the air over the desert, is all wrong, that ^{in fact} the Nazi air arm has driven the Royal Air Force back, and that General Rommel in command of the German-Africa corps, ^S ~~had~~ encircled the British and ^{is} ~~was~~ making ever larger and larger captures of prisoners and war material.

^{It looks like both sides think they are winning, instead they may be vast confusion,}
Then there's a dispatch from Rome, that the British forces

to the south of Rezegh have been annihilated, six thousand British troops captured including a general officer, together with American reporters. The British, on the contrary, say that this Italian report is out of the question, because it's doubtful that there were as many as six thousand troops on both sides involved in that particular battle south of Rezegh. The military spokesman in Berlin ^{says it's} ~~said it was~~ good news to hear that American reporters ^{have} ~~had~~ been captured by the

Nazis. Implying that they have a special purgatory for American reporters. In considering these Axis reports, it's worth noting that the Nazi high command keeps a strict silence about the battle in Libya. The Berlin statements simply come from semi-official sources.

Anyway you look at it, the news from Africa is confusing. The first reports were that a huge British army was sweeping all before it. Then came the unexpected halt in the British advance at Sidi Rezegh. And in spite of the large resources said to be at the disposal of the British, including planes and tanks from the United States, the Axis divisions appear to have been holding them back. Of course, the Germans can bring reinforcements by air from Crete, but hardly heavy tanks, or even light tanks in large numbers.

On the Russian front, things look worse than ever for the Red Army. Radio Moscow admits that the Nazis have broken through near Stalinogorsk, east of Tula. In fact the Reds say the Germans have brought up further reinforcements of infantry and tanks in that sector, and have broken through with a hundred and thirty tanks. The Reds are fighting for all they're worth to hold the Germans back, but the Nazis claim tonight to be within nineteen miles

of Moscow. The Reds admit that the Nazi advance has been smashing along the main line southwest of the capital; while at Klin in the north, the situation is tense and confused.

If both Leningrad and Moscow can hold out against the present ferocious Nazi drive, then the lines in the north and the center of Russia can be stabilized for the winter.

ATROCITY

Atrocity propoganda stories have hitherto been comparatively rare in this war. ^{But the} ~~The~~ Soviet Government today made public a note that it had address^{ed} to all friendly nations, ^{a note} which recalls the propoganda of the last war. In ^{the} ~~that~~ note Foreign Commissar Molotov charges that German Army commanders are ~~systematically~~ systematically torturing and slaughtering Russian prisoners. (~~Molotova says further that the Nazi soldiers are taking the warm uniforms off Russian prisoners and wearing them themselves, likewise giving them little or no food.~~)

Molotova declares the Nazis are trying a mass extermination of Soviet war prisoners, and that the Nazi troops are committing systematic ~~and~~ mass outrages upon the Russian civilian population. In a number of camps, he adds, and he names one of them, Soviet prisoners were given nothing but the carcasses of dead horses to eat. Molotov similarly makes the charge that prisoners from the Red Army are tortured with red hot irons, their eyes gouged out, their ears and noses cut off, their fingers hacked off, tied to tanks and torn to pieces.

LITVINOV

Maxim Litvinov is once more on his way to the United States to take up his job as Soviet Ambassador to Washington. ~~He is coming~~ ~~the opposite way from that taken by our own Ambassador Steinhardt.~~ Litvinov and his wife left Baghdad ^{aboard} by a British military plane ^{bound} for Singapore, ~~and will come eastward~~ ^{they} across the Pacific by ^{Pan} American Clipper.

The British House of Commons today heard echoes of the story of the rud^e_^ness offered to Litvinov by a Britisher at Tehran. A question was asked in the House, and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden ~~denied~~ denied there had been any rudeness.

In the House of Lords, Viscount Cranborne made a similar denial. Nobody is going to be disciplined because Litvinov did not get the seat in the plane that had been reserved for him. This gives a denial to the story which has been generally current, that Litvinov and his wife had ~~x~~ been affronted by some characteristic "Colonel Blimp," as the British themselves describe the dull and overbearing type of English officer.

RIBBENTROP

Nazi Foreign Minister Ribbentrop sounded off today.

~~As~~ ^{As} ~~he was~~ [^] host to the representatives of the conquered European countries who had been brought to Berlin to sign the Anti-Comintern Pact, ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~took~~ [^] occasion to defy President Roosevelt and accuse him of being responsible for the war. Then he ~~said~~ ^{went on to say: -} "Whether the United States comes into the war cannot alter the Axis victory. Europe," ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~said further~~ ^{added,} "could now conduct a thirty years' war, if necessary, without incurring any danger."

Ribbentrop denied that the Germans were planning to abolish religion and carve up South America. ~~That, he said, was "all truly~~ ^{He called that} "idiotic nonsense."

As for the possibility of a revolt in Europe, Ribbentrop ~~said~~ ^{said} ~~that also~~ ^{that also} ~~said it~~ ^{said} was absurd. The people of Europe, ~~as~~ he declared, do not want to revolt, but he admitted that they will have to adjust themselves to new conditions. Then he said something that may be significant in view of what's going on in France. "The people of Europe," he ~~said~~ ^{added,} "have united in the conviction that they have nothing to gain from Britain." ~~To which he added,~~ ^{For instance} "France realizes this," he ~~said~~ ^{said}.

All the diplomats in Washington are prophesying that Marshal Petain will sign the Anti-Comintern Pact immediately after his meeting with ~~Adolph Hitler~~ Adolf Hitler.

CROATIA

Our government has learned that the Germans are planning a devastating act to squelch the guerrillas in Yugoslavia. The Nazis propose to raze Belgrade, the capital of the country, ^{nazi it} to the ground; ~~is to~~ launch a bombardment from the air so terrific that not one stone will be left standing on the other. *As Titus did with Jerusalem - long ago.*

This information was released at the White House today.

Secretary ~~Steve~~ Early said it had come from several sources of intelligence, and that the government is convinced the Germans have decided to treat Belgrade just as they did the city of Chabatz.

A reporter asked Early whether President Roosevelt was exposing these plans in the hopes of deterring the Germans, and Early replied, "I wouldn't say so if he did."

Some of the Jugoslavs in Washington are telling that some of the Chetnik guerrillas in Serbia are obtaining their arms from Italian troops who resent the German domination of Croatia.

JAPAN

The latest on the negotiations with the Japanese is that our Government has been suggesting a three months' breathing spell in the Far East. That isn't official, just a grapevine report ~~that~~ *but it* sounds plausible. It is felt at the State Department that three months would give time for a more complete and satisfactory discussion of all the critical questions at issue between us and the Mikado's government.

That three months' breathing spell wouldn't be a one-sided affair: it would include, for the time at least, a let-up in the United States economic blockade of Japan. The Japanese, on their part, would be asked to quit threatening the Burma Road, and to make no aggressive moves either in southeastern Asia or against Russia during those three months. Whether the Japanese will be willing to agree to such a breathing spell is purely guesswork.

In Tokyo, the tension is as acute as ever. Premier General Tojo called the bankers of Japan before him this evening, and asked them to cooperate. *He told them* ~~said~~ their country is faced *with* a crisis without precedent or parallel. *that* Nevertheless, the Government is determined to accomplish what the Japanese consider their mission in Asia. *And* that doesn't sound like any too rosy a promise for a three months' breathing spell.

ADD JAPAN

Late this evening, in fact just a short while ago,

Secretary Hull received Ambassador Nomuro and Special Envoy Kurusu.

Whereupon
~~At this visit,~~ the Secretary formally handed the Japanese a definite plan for settling Far Eastern affairs. The plan, ~~naturally,~~ is not made public in detail. But a spokesman for the State Department said it was a document based on principles that have already been stated by the Secretary.

NAVY

Uncle Sam hasn't been getting enough recruits for his Navy. This is official, from Secretary Knox himself. Because of the torpedoing of the destroyers KEARNEY and REUBEN JAMES. Uncle needs thirteen thousand volunteers a month for his warships. Until recently, they were enlisting at the rate of ten to fourteen thousand a month. But the moment the news of the KEARNEY and REUBEN JAMES broke, the rate dropped down to nine thousand a month. The boys began to think twice and then choose the Army.

Incidentally, Secretary Knox admitted that some thirty of the crew of the REUBEN JAMES were killed by the destroyer's own depth bombs which went off when the ship went down.

Rear Admiral Nimitz, Chief of the Bureau of Navigation, says that by next July the Navy will have to step up its recruiting to fifteen thousand a month, maybe even more, because there'll be so many new warships by that time. The Navy prefers not to use drafted men, but it may be necessary.

KNOX

Here's a ghost story from ^{the} Secretary of the Navy, ~~Knox~~.

^{The Secretary is}
~~Hats~~ indignant. Some newspapers criticized him for magazine articles that have appeared under his name. The newspapers ^{declared} ~~insinuated that~~ he was taking money for exclusive news which ought to have been handed out free to the newspapers. That was what ^{See,} ~~what~~ Knox resented. In the first place, he points out that he had not pocketed any of the money paid by magazines for those articles. Two thousand, two hundred and twenty-five of it he endorsed over to the Naval Relief Society.

A thousand dollar check that he had been paid by the SATURDAY

EVENING POST, he turned back to the magazine staff writer who

^{helped on} ~~ghosted~~ the article and ^{to a} ~~the~~ naval officer who collaborated.

As for exclusive news, he said only one of the magazine articles

had contained any, and that was due to the enterprise of the

^{collaborator} ~~ghost~~ who had done the actual writing of the pieces.

N.A.M.

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The National Association of Manufacturers wants a reduction of two billion dollars in government expenditures. Not in the defense program, but in expenses outside defense. The Chairman of the Government Finance Committee of the Association made a statement today that a reduction of two billion dollars would be felt in every household in the nation. In real dollars, he added, it would mean almost sixty dollars a year to ^{each} ~~the~~ taxpayers in the lower brackets.
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PRICES

The House of Representatives today turned down one price control plan. It was offered by Congressman Gore of Tennessee, and had real teeth in it. The Gore plan would have frozen all wages, prices and rents at their present level, for a period of two years. That was what Bernard Baruch had suggested, the man who was Chairman of the War Industries Board in Nineteen Eighteen. Congressman Gore, a young representative, sponsored this idea as an amendment to the Price Control Bill already drawn up by the Banking Committee of the House, which the young Tennesian contended was weak-kneed, piecemeal and half-hearted. But his colleagues found the Gore plan too stiff for their taste. And today they turned it down by a vote of two hundred and eighteen to sixty-three.

There are still Congressmen who are opposed to any kind of price control. For instance, Representative Rankin of Mississippi said that such legislation would bring totalitarian government to the United States.

The probability now is that the House will pass the bill drawn up by the Banking Committee. It's acknowledged as the administration measure, though many outsiders have criticized it in the same terms as Congressman Gore.

LABOR

Philip Murray, President of the C.I.O., has a new plan for avoiding strikes. He wants President Roosevelt to call a conference of labor, industry and government to work out a voluntary scheme for settling disputes. Compulsory anti-legislation, he said, would endanger the national defense program because it would only arouse resentment.

William Green, President of the A.F. of L., also spoke his mind today. He said his Federation was resolutely and uncompromisingly opposed to all anti-strike laws.

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Congressman Ramspeck of Georgia has drafted a bill which he submitted to the Labor Committee of the House today. The guessing is that this will be the administration bill, as it covers the points agreed upon by the President and by the leaders of Congress in their conference at the White House Monday night. Ramspeck's bill would provide for compulsory mediation and arbitration. Any union that refused to mediate, would for six months be suspended from its privileges under the National Labor Relations Act, the Unemployment Compensation Act, and the Norris-LaGuardia Act. That's the act which forbids federal courts to stop strikes by injunction.

DEFENSE

Juicy testimony at the investigation into graft on defense projects. An auditor told the Senators that at the Wolf Creek Ordnance Plant near Milan, Tennessee, Uncle Sam had paid over fourteen hundred dollars ^{per car} for automobiles that private citizens in the same town could buy for one thousand and fifty-five. The same auditor told the Committee ~~that~~ he had protested against the hiring of too many men for that project, protested that they were unnecessary and meant a loss to the government, Nevertheless, hired they were, just the same.

Then he went on to tell that one man had been ^{given a job} ~~hired~~ as a transportation coordinator at a hundred and twenty-five dollars a week. And he added that ~~there was no reason for the hiring of any such men, because~~ nobody knew what the duties of a transportation coordinator ~~are~~ were.

As another example of queer doings, a project coordinator was taken on at a salary of seven hundred and fifty dollars a month. He was put on the payroll of a contractor but assigned to work under Major Brewer, the Construction Quartermaster. At the same job, a fire inspector was engaged at sixty dollars a week, another as

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police inspector at sixty dollars a week, and a man to do research on historical records also at sixty dollars a week. Nobody knows yet why research on historical records is needed in the construction of an ordnance plant.

Later on, another witness testified that the personnel director on that same project had a brother, a sister-in-law and an uncle on the payroll. And it was rumored that another brother and his father also had their feet in the trough. That same witness, a timekeeper, then astounded the Committee by saying: "My hands are not entirely clean either. My father was working on the job at sixty-five cents an hour. My father's principal job in the boot sterilization department was killing flies."

~~The witness agreed with Senator Truman of Missouri that it was not ethical of him, but he added, "I have been honest and candid with you."~~

9/4
Now Hugh, how about something from you on the subject of works.