

RUSSIA

There seems to be no letup in the speed of the Russian advance. Early this afternoon, Moscow reported that the Red army, pushing ahead from Kiev, had reached a point within less than thirty miles of the old Polish border, a hundred and twenty miles west of Kiev. The Nazi radio came near admitting that the entire eastern front was crumbling. It announced frankly that no fewer than five sectors of the German line were being hammered on a huge scale. Although General Vatutin's columns have run into the first snow of the winter, even that does not seem to have slowed them up. The Moscow paper PRAVDA told the Germans not to take any consolation from the snow, because it would soon be their shroud.

North of Kiev, the Russians are moving to surround Gomerl, and that is one of the most important key points north of Kiev. Out of Gomel radiate all the rail lines leading to Warsaw and the Baltic states.

From Berlin we have it that Soviet forces have smashed their way into the town of Rezhitza twenty-eight miles west of Gomel. The Germans claim that the Russians will be there only temporarily. But, if they do hold onto it, then they'll be able to cut the road from Gomel to Warsaw.

This evening, Moscow announced proudly that the Soviet spearheads had captured another ~~xxxx~~ important place, the railroad station of Demichi, thirty-five miles west of Gomel and seven miles west of Rezhitza. Which seems to make the capture of Rezhitza definite. By the taking of that railway station, the Russians left the Germans with only one railroad line running out of Gomel, the line running northwest to the Baltic states.

The recapture of Demichi by the Russians brings the fighting back to the edge of the Pripet Marshes, the scene of so much historic fighting in the last war.

The Reds are also attacking with fourteen rifle divisions and ten tank brigades west of Smolensk.

~~Other columns are pushing the Germans west of Jitomir. And, incidentally, the Germans have now for the first time acknowledged that the Russians have taken Jitomir.~~

33
The Leningrad radio broadcast an appeal today which appears to foreshadow exciting movements in that neighborhood. The ~~ix~~ director of the Moscow-Leningrad railroad told the workers on that line that they are on the eve of important events and that it's of the utmost necessity for them to be prepared for action. Then he used these words:-
"Be ready to transport trains with troops and supplies to the fronts".

ITALY

In Italy

The Germans are finding their hands full not only on the battlefield but throughout northern ~~Italy~~ *part of the peninsula*.

After the armistice, the Italians released hundreds of American and British prisoners of war. These men

were fully armed, and ~~they~~ have joined the Italian

guerillas who are ~~partisans~~ fighting behind the lines. A dispatch from

Switzerland reports that the ~~they~~ ^{se} have seriously hampered

the German communication lines between the Brenner Pass

and the valley of the Po River. ^{TP} These *guerillas* ~~partisans~~ are

commanded by an Italian general, a hero of the last

war, *an anti Fascist* ~~an opponent of the Fascists~~ who fled when the

Germans took Rome.

The ^{se} British and American soldiers have blown up bridges, power stations, and viaducts. Being fully armed, they are well enough equipped to be able to attack German motor convoys. Fighting side by side with them are Austrian ex-Nazis.

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Berlin reports that the Germans have been so
harrassed that they have proclaimed a state of siege
in Milan and other industrial cities of Lombardy. *And,*
They have seized hostages and shot them, but, *without*
it doing
~~has not done~~ any good. ^{TP} The puppet government of
Benito Mussolini has published urgent appeals in
Milanese newspapers, demanding that Italian ~~citizens~~
citizens should refuse food, shelter and arms to these
guerillas. And that has not done any good either,
~~partisans~~

○
From the battlefront in the south, the most
exciting news is the German attempt to break the line
of the ^{U.S.} ~~United States~~ Fifth Army. First line shock troops
of the Twenty-Ninth German Panzer Division counter-
attacked three times. These were fresh troops who had
been sent to the rear for a rest and reorganization.
But as General Clark's columns cut further into the
mountains north of I^Sernia and threatened to outflank

the Germans, Rommel was obliged to recall that ^{the} Panzer division and throw it into the battle. Everyone of the counter-attacks was repulsed with heavy loss.

There has been sharp criticism in the London papers of the slow progress of the Allied armies.

~~His~~ Spokesmen ~~of the Allied armies~~ at headquarters ^{in Italy, replied} ~~replied to~~ that criticism ~~that it~~ is based on ignorance and misunderstanding. The critics in the first place do not understand the basic handicaps under which the British and American troops are fighting in Italy. And they also know nothing about the grand strategy of the Allied high command ^{which} ~~are~~ naturally ~~that~~ ^{they want to conceal from} ~~must be tipped off to~~ the Germans.

A story from Switzerland tells of a spectacular raid made by British and American bombers in northern Italy, ~~they~~ ^{ing} attacked two towns, one of which is the principal center for making parachutes

for the Germans, ^{and} ~~and~~ the other ~~is~~ full of munition factories. The explosions were heard clearly on the Swiss side of the border. The raids were made by successive waves of Allied planes, ^{that} ~~which~~ destroyed all the factories in the neighborhood and also blew up the railroad yards.

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~~The Turkish radio reports a heavy raid on Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria. A force of a hundred and thirty planes were over Sofia for an hour and three-quarters and dropped more than two hundred bombs.~~

LERO

On the island of Lero, in the Dodecanese, the tide of battle is again going in favor of the British, who for a while were fighting with their backs to the wall - fighting from rock to rock.

~~The German invaders were determined to capture the island at any ^{cost} ~~expense~~, in order to have something to crow about. Maybe. But, the defenders were just as determined to throw them back.~~

Tonight we hear that the British are winning, regaining ground and pushing the Germans into the sea.

~~The Allied high command is making ^{an} ~~a concerted~~ effort to strengthen the defenses in the Dodecanese, ^{R. A. F.} ~~Royal Air Force~~ planes have dropped parachutists on the island of Samos - paratroopers of a famous do-or-die brigade.~~

LEBANON

The troubles in Lebanon ^{are being} ~~have been~~ blamed squarely upon General ~~Charles~~ DeGaulle and the French National Committee. It was they who ordered the arrest of the Independent Party leaders in that strip of the Syriaⁿ seacoast which ~~meets~~ the country of Tyre and Sidon, ~~the~~ homeland of the ancient Phoenicians, ~~the~~ birthplace of our alphabet.

It ~~is~~ the French High Commissioner in ~~Beirut~~ Beirut who ^{puts the} ~~blame~~ ~~on~~ General DeGaulle. He declares that he warned the French National Committee against arresting the Independent leaders of Lebanon. Nevertheless, General DeGaulle ordered him to go ahead ^{and} ~~to~~ arrest the President, the Prime Minister and the other leaders of the Lebanese.

The governments of Egypt and Iraq have strongly protested those arrests, and today the British Government followed suit. The British have demanded that the French National Committee restore order in ~~the~~ Lebanon. ^{TR} Between the lines of the message was a

distinct implication that if the French Committee can't handle it, then the British will. ~~The British have also protested against the action of the French in arresting the leaders of the Lebanon Independence movement.~~

~~The latest from ~~Lebanon~~ is that things are quiet for the moment ~~but with seething underneath.~~~~

PACIFIC

In the war in the Pacific, ^{apparently} nothing much happened at Bougainville today, but U. S. Patrol Bombers blasted a Japanese light cruiser and a large merchant vessel in the harbor of Rabaul. ~~This was~~

The tenth air raid of the month on ~~the~~ ^{the} great Jap stronghold on New Britain. The merchant vessel was part of a five ship convoy sailing from Rabaul toward Bougainville. The Navy report says nothing about ~~what~~ ~~happened to~~ the other ships ~~in~~ in the convoy.

^{Recently}
~~Not long ago~~ Admiral ~~Chester~~ Nimitz, Commander In Chief of the Pacific Fleet, announced that the time had come to attack and that from now on he proposed to give the Jap no rest anywhere. In line with that promise Liberator bombers of the U. S. Seventh Air Force ~~in~~ raided enemy installations on an island called ^{Batio} ~~Betto~~. ~~This is~~ ^a part of the Tarawa Atoll Group in the Gilberts. ~~It was~~ The fourth time our Army bombers have raided that group. The heavy bomber force actually raided Batio twice within a few hours.

They started several large fires near the runways
on the Jap airfield. They ran into heavy ~~sch-son~~ ^{anti-aircraft}
defense, but there were no casualties, no damage to
any of the American planes. ^{with} The enemy ^{putting} ~~put~~ up no
aerial defense whatsoever.

AUSTRALIA

The Australians are to have a new Governor General some time next year. King George the Sixth has appointed his brother, ~~HERBERT~~ The Duke of Gloucester to represent him in the Commonwealth Down Under. The Duke of Gloucester is third in succession to the Throne of England.

It will be several months before he begins his new duties. The present Governor General is Lord Gowrie and his term of office has been extended until July Nineteen Forty-four.

RELIEF

Now that the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration ^{UNRRA} has been organized, comes the question of footing the bills. President Roosevelt started the ball rolling today with a message to Congress, asking for ^{an enabling act} ~~bill~~ to authorize an appropriation of money. He does not ~~yet~~ say exactly how much. That will not be revealed until after the United Nations Relief Conference at Atlantic City is over.

~~To answer the first question that will occur to~~

~~most people, we~~ ^{TP wrap up} of the United States are not expected to pay the whole check. ~~The President estimates that a small fraction of the national income of all the States contributing will be enough to meet it. So, at least,~~
~~Mr. Roosevelt hopes?~~ The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, he adds, will be able to make only a beginning in aiding the victims of war.

The greatest part of the job will have to be done by the

liberated peoples themselves.

Then he explains that what ^{Unwra} ~~the U.N.R.R.A.~~ can do, is ~~to help these peoples~~ ^{the people} to help themselves. They should be helped ~~he says, to~~ regain the strength for the task of rebuilding their destroyed homes, ^{he says, and} their ruined factories, and their plundered farms.

Then he adds that if we do this, we may be able to shorten the length of the war materially, if the peoples who have been freed are enlisted on the side of the armies of the United Nations.

He ~~then~~ points out that a new French army has already been created. And, as we strike towards Berlin, increasing numbers of Sicilians and Italians are falling in step beside the soldiers of the United Nations. Others are building roads and military installations.

~~The President adds that the U.N.R.R.A. is not~~

O.P.A.

A special committee of the House of Representatives today made a blistering report on the O.P.A. The Congressmen accused that office of a list of illegal practices, [^] of trying to control the profits of American industry, and of establishing its own law courts and criminal code.

The Chairman of the Committee is Democratic Congressman Howard ~~W~~ Smith of Virginia. The report acknowledged ^S that rationing and price control are necessary evils in time of war. What the Committee ~~found~~ ^{finds} fault with ~~is~~ the way the O.P.A. is using its powers. In one sentence, the Congressmen declared that "the illegal, absurd, useless and conflicting regulations promulgated by the O.P.A. are creating such great confusion that it is impossible for the average citizen to know how to comply."

The Committee then made the serious charge that the facts presented in the report reveal practices which might lead to the undermining of our basic constitutional provisions for the separation of the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Departments of the Government of the United States.

The Congressmen made the further accusation that the OPA had misinterpreted acts of Congress and set up a system by which citizens are in some instances deprived of their vital rights and liberties, without due process of law, without a right to appeal. That, said the report is indeed a novelty in our jurisprudence. The report further declared that the O.P.A. has a small army of lawyers, inspectors and investigators, amounting to a private police force. Some of its methods violate the constitutional rights of citizens, especially the clause in the Constitution which guarantees us against unlawful search and seizure.

SUBSIDY FOLLOW O.P.A.

While that report was being made public, a committee of Senators listened to an accusation that there are elements in the government which are trying to set up tyranny and dictatorship. The Senate Committee on Agriculture started a series of hearings on the question of subsidies, and the first witness was Joe G. Montague, General Counsel of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association. Montague told the Senators that Stabilization Director Fred Vinson had recently issued an order which he described as the most flagrant example of the use of bribery and blackmail and the desire to regiment the nation completely. It was an order concerned with the prices of beef cattle.

~~The Cattle Raisers' lawyer said further that officials of the O.P.A. had admitted that this order of Fred Vinson's was an effort to circumvent a law passed.~~

BONUSES

A ~~little~~ word of ~~good~~ cheer for people with generous employers. The War Labor Board will permit ~~the~~ employers to pay bonuses providing they are not bigger than ~~the~~ bonuses given last year.

If any boss wants to give "the help" a bigger Christmas present than he did in Nineteen Forty-two he will have to ask the permission of the Regional Board.

~~And how do you like that in this last of the free.~~

LIQUOR

There is going to be a searching investigation into the liquor business at Washington. The Judiciary Committee of the Senate took the matter up today and voted unanimously to conduct an inquiry into the shortage of alcoholic drinks. The Chairman of the Committee, Senator Van Nuys of Indiana, told reporters that they could expect startling developments from this investigation.

MARIGNY

The Government of the Bahamas has extended to the Count Alfred deMarigny a cordial invitation to leave, *— to vamoos — to be on his way.* Included in the invitation is his ~~xxxxxx~~ pal, the Marquis with the ~~long~~ double-barreled name. The text of the invitation was not made public, but it is understood that it was couched in exceedingly polite terms.

The immigration officers of the islands explained that the usual practice is to whisper gently in the ear of the individual whom the authorities do not want. If the whisper is not heeded, the government of the islands then takes official action.

The news of this action by the Government of the Bahamas became public shortly before the time scheduled ~~fr~~ for another wedding ceremony between Alfred and Nancy deMarigny. They had obtained a special

dispensation, and the marriage was to have been solemnized by the Pro-Vicar Apostolic of the Bahamas. That prelate explained that this wedding was to be an ecclesiastical validation of the civil marriage of the Marignys.

When the time came for the wedding, the witnesses were there and the ecclesiastics, but not the high contracting parties. The explanation made public was that the Count deMarigny was not feeling well.

44 And now, ^{George} ~~George~~, how do you feel?