

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, MAY 10, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The question tonight is:- How long will it take the British and Americans to clean up the Germans now fighting for their lives on Cape Bon Peninsula?

Just how many there are, we don't know, ^{for sure.} The guesses vary

from forty thousand to a hundred thousand. ^{TR} Several

times the rumor has been repeated that the Allied

armies have smashed the defense line that the Nazi

generals built across the western end of the peninsula.

But ~~this~~ is not confirmed. [There still remains a lot of

fierce fighting before the enemy's remnants can be

rounded up or destroyed. And they ~~are~~ still constitute

a formidable force. ^{TR} ~~Frontal~~ ^{Late} reports have it that British

tank columns ^{have} brokeⁿ the enemy's ^{present lines} ~~lines at Hammam~~,

ten miles ~~to the~~ southeast of Tunis, ~~and the advance~~

~~guard of that tank column drove along two miles further east. But the Germans have cannon strongly placed in the hills guarding the coastal plains.~~

The ^{somewhat} unexpected ~~quick~~ collapse of Tunis and

Bizerte still remains a bit bewildering. ^{And} We have reason

to believe that ^{all} it took the British and American

generals by surprise. Whether it also surprised the

enemy's high command ^{that} we do ~~not~~ know. According to one

conjecture, the Nazi commanders planned it that way

in imitation of the strategy of General Douglas MacArthur

in the Philippines, ^{who} ~~You will recall that he~~ made a quick

and unexpected withdrawal in the Batan Peninsula, ^{thus} ~~which~~

^{taking} ~~took~~ the Japs by surprise and enabled ^{it} the long and

grueling defense of Batan. But of course it is

impossible at this stage to tell whether that was

really what happened in Tunisia.

We do know now that the total number of German and

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Italian prisoners taken in Tunisia is more than a hundred thousand. ~~But~~ That is, ~~the total~~ for the entire six months' campaign. ~~They~~ ^{another} also lost in killed or wounded, ^{TP} forty-two thousand. As it is believed that the forces of von Arnim and Rommel combined added up to something like two hundred and fifty thousand, ^{which} ~~they~~ would mean that ^{are still out there} ~~be roughly~~ a hundred thousand ~~to fight a last ditch~~ ^{on that rugged} defense all the way ^{peninsula,} to Cape Bon ^{where} they are beleaguered not only by land but by sea, ^{by} ~~they are being~~ bombarded by land artillery, and the heavy guns of British warships. ~~It is a complete and effective blockade.~~ Many Germans ^{have} tried to escape in small boats and probably a few ^{have made it.} ~~of them did get across~~ ^{But nearly all boats have been} ~~the straits. But most of them were either~~ sunk by Allied planes and warships, ^{have been} or forced back to the beach.

A British destroyer sunk a barge carrying troops, oil and ammunition. A light naval vessel

torpedoed a ship anchored off the east coast of the Cape Bon peninsula. American planes sank a schooner packed with fleeing enemy soldiers. Some of the Germans were even trying to make their getaway on rafts. The Allied planes and naval vessels have bombed the few remaining docks at which evacuation vessels could be loaded. *Every beach and landing place is a death trap.*

There is one irony in this situation. The Germans are in the same predicament as the British were in Belgium just three years ago, May Tenth, Nineteen Forty.

SURRENDER

Somewhere south of Bizerte yesterday, ~~there~~

~~was enacted that any of us would have given a~~

~~good deal to see. First of all, at seven o'clock,~~

three German staff officers walked into the American

lines. They were carrying a white flag, and ^{they} wanted to

know what terms ^{Major General Omar Bradley} ~~the commanding general~~ of the United

States Army forces on that front was offering.

Presently, the Nazi officers returned to their own

lines. With them ^{went} ~~was~~ an American colonel, the chief of staff, a colonel from Denver, Colorado. We are not told

his name, but we are told that when he was only seventeen

years old he was the youngest officer in Uncle Sam's

army. Whatever his name, he did not bother carrying

any white flag. ^{He simply walked unarmed} ~~just walked bare headed~~ into the German

lines.

The German officers took the American colonel

to the tent of a short, middle-aged officer, General

Borowitz, Commander-in-Chief of the Germans in that locality. The American colonel said: "I have the honor to deliver to you the ^{terms}~~terms~~ of my General." And he continued: "The terms are unconditional surrender."

The American officer then went on to say that the acceptance of the terms meant that the Germans would undertake not to destroy any more of their vehicles, meaning armored cars and tanks. Also that ~~the~~ there would be no ~~attempt~~ attempt to evacuate troops by sea.

And then the American Colonel told Hitler's General that all surrendering Germans would be protected by the rules of International law. He also instructed the German officers to present themselves to General Bradley.

Promptly at noon, a motorcade of German staff cars rolled up to the United States Divisional headquarters. They were big, eight-wheeled command cars used only by Nazi Generals. First among the German ^{officers}

was General Borowitz. With ^{him was a} ~~him was a~~ Major General Krause, Commander of the Hundred-and-Fourth German Artillery. ^{And there as} they stood in front of the American general and his staff, they heard the terms of unconditional surrender read to them again. Bronzed and toughened as they were by months of desert and mountain warfare, ^{we} ~~we~~ ^{hear that} there were tears in the eyes of those hard ^{bitten} ~~bit~~ Nazi generals.

For a while they stood about rather uncomfortably. Neither the Germans nor Americans who stood around looking at them could find anything to say. Finally, a mess sergeant who had been a steward in a Pittsburgh country club, broke up the awkward situation by going up to United States Major General Ernest Harmon and announcing that dinner was ready. ^{And} The American General promptly invited the Germans and their staff to lunch.

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Even as a prisoner of war, the commanding German General stuck to the Nazi ideology. He said to an American correspondent that the United States ^{had} made the biggest mistake in its history in joining with Russia. Of course he didn't say anything about Hitler first joining and then double-crossing Russia. He just talked about the Fuehrer's desire for peace and how he had wanted to have the British on his side.

^{TR} Yes, the captured German General stuck to it, that the chief wish of ~~Adolf~~ Adolf Hitler was to bring peace and equality to the world. It may sound curious to hear of a Nazi General talking about equality, but that's the way he's quoted. And then he went on to say that America will lose in the end, because the Nazis are beating the Russians. ^{TR} Whereupon a Catholic Chaplain, ~~Father~~ Father Martin, told the German Generals that, on the contrary, ^{they,} the Nazis, had already lost the war in Russia. And then the Germans admitted that they didn't really know what had been ~~xx~~ going on in the Eastern front -- how their armies had fared in Russia. They just didn't know.

Later on, a radio announced that there was a general of the German air force with twenty of his staff who wanted to surrender also. An American general gave the order for him to come in. And in he came, looking tired and admitting that he hadn't shaved for

~~two~~ days, ^{and} hadn't slept for ~~two~~ days. All he ^{seemed to} wanted was

a shave, a bath, and a bed. An American reporter ^{I remember} ~~said~~

that ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{as a reporter,} "this was the first time he had ever covered" a

~~surrender. The German~~ ^{surrender. Well, said the German;}

~~replied,~~ "You have nothing on me. This is the first

time I have ever ~~made~~ ^{made one!}"

^{And so it was that}

our soldiers on that part of the front saw the first fulfillment of the promise made by President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill at Casablanca, the vow to bring the Axis to its knees in unconditional surrender. At one stroke, thirty thousand Germans laid down their arms, thirty thousand Nazis, and about one thousand Italians. They not merely

laid their arms down, they smashed them. ~~Incidentally,~~
TP All of which leaves
~~this left~~ quite a problem for the American high command.

For those prisoners ~~now~~ *must now* be fed and housed, and
need they ~~also have to have~~ medical care, ~~for~~ many of them ~~do~~.

~~are wounded~~

But we are not to believe that the enemy gave up tamely. A United Press correspondent uses these words: "Up to midnight Saturday, the Germans fought like madmen. It was a hand to hand encounter, some times hand against tank. *with* The enemy ~~were~~ driven back yard by yard, in the foothills leading to the Mediterranean coast.

PRISONERS FOLLOW SURRENDER

The roads leading out of Tunis tonight were jammed with ^{thous} thousands of Germans and Italians. ~~They~~ ^{But} ~~they~~ ^{no} were ~~no~~ longer ^{the} fierce, heavily armored, ~~a heavy~~ fighting army, ^{of only a few days ago. Now} they carried no rifles, no machine guns, nothing but a few personal belongings. ~~on their backs.~~ ~~They were~~ grimy, unwashed, unshaven, downcast. ~~Yes,~~ ~~they were our~~ prisoners of war.

Among the Americans and British watching them, ~~there were some~~ ^{there were some} hundreds who were ~~was a group~~ as dirty and seedy looking as the prisoners.

Only a few hours ago these Americans and Britons had been prisoners themselves. After they were captured, they were put on a prison ship and sent off to Italy.

But on their way, a force of Allied planes espied the ship, bombed and strafed it with machine-gunning ^{sing} ~~ing~~.

^{For} the Allied fliers did not know ^{that} the vessel carried

their own ~~captives~~ comrades. But the bombing and the

strafing forced the crew to beach the ship, ~~so the~~ ^{and all}

these hundreds of captive Americans and Britons
landed in time to see the great German surrender.

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Don't think all the Axis ~~prisoners~~ prisoners
were downcast. Ah no. Some took it cheerily , as
though much relieved.

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Whether they were Germans or Italians, they
got no sympathy from the inhabitants of Tunis.
Evidently the Tunisians disliked the Italians as much as
the Germans. They said the Nazis did their stealing
on a grand scale, while the Fascisti were classed in
Tunis as petty thieves.

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ADD AFRICA

The fall of Bizerte and Tunis has shown, among other things, that the ~~my~~ much touted invincibility of the Nazis is a myth. At the same time British and American officers are repeating again today that Hitler's soldiers are first-rate fighters, hard and stubborn. And that it will take plenty of doing to beat them on European soil -- when the continent is invaded.

We hear today that the Germans at first seemed over-inclined to stick to a set plan of battle. But in the later stages they showed signs of more resourcefulness and initiative. Also, that they had one thing of vast importance, in their efficient system of signals and communications.

Also, their practice of leaving behind huge numbers of land mines, experts are saying, will offer a serious problem to the Allies when they invade Europe. In the Tunisian campaign they planted these mines by the hundreds of thousands -- mines of all kinds and dimensions. And the belief^{is} that on the

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continent this business of mining everything will
assume vast proportions.

AXIS REACTION

How are the Germans and Italians taking the fall of Tunis and Bizerte? Well, for one thing the Nazis are now said to be courting favor with the Fascists. That is, they are trying to sell Mussolini's people the idea that the crisis ~~is~~ brings all the more need for comradeship between the two peoples. The Nazis, we hear, have ^{toned} ~~increased~~ down their claim of being the master race. That is, in their broadcasts to Italy they are now talking of themselves just as the principal fighters, the main contributors to the common war. And -- the Berlin propagandists are emphasizing the necessity for accord between Germans and Italians.

In Italy, the ~~principal~~ principal Fascist paper in Milan acknowledges, rather mildly, that the war situation has become serious. Then it goes on to announce that the

motto for all Italians now is fight, and fight until final victory.

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The official communique from Radio Rome says that the Italian and German forces ceased resisting only after they had spent all their energy and were left without artillery as well as tanks and ammunition. They gave in to overwhelming masses of enemy forces, so says Radio Rome. The Italian official broadcasting station also acknowledged that massive formations of four-motored Allied planes <sup>have</sup> ~~had~~ caused heavy damage at ~~to~~ Palermo, <sup>and some</sup> ~~but less~~ damage at other places. The Italians claim that twenty-one Allied planes were shot down, eight by Italian pursuit planes, seven by German fighters, six by ~~the~~ anti-aircraft fire.

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The German communique used ^s these words:-

"Only when the last cartridge was spent did our brave soldiers cease their heroic resistance." The Germans

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also claim that they had repulsed heavy Allied attacks on the southern sector of the Tunisian front and inflicted heavy losses on the British and Americans.

CARTHAGE

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One of the thrills for the Americans was a visit to a spot on the Gulf of Tunis east of the City of Tunis itself. Edward Beattie of the United Press sent in a report with these words:- "I am writing on top of a mound which marks the site of the greatest imperial city northwest Africa ever knew."

Ed Beattie was writing in the middle of the remains of Carthage, the place ^{for} whose destruction ~~Rome's~~ old Senator Cato was always clamoring on the floor of the ^{Roman} Senate. Yes, the place from which the galleys used to sail to fight the Roman fleet, the city of fabulous wealth founded by the Phoenicians from Tyre and Sidon. The place ^{for} ~~from~~ which the great Field Marshal Hannibal once fought.

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Carthage in its time has seen wars almost uncountable. It has been destroyed time and again. The American flag now flies in Carthage, side by side

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with ^{those} ~~that~~ of the French and the British. Ed Beattie reports that peace has returned to the once magnificent capital of the Phoenicians. ~~and now the~~

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