

RUSSIA

L.S. - Sunoco - Tues., Sept. 22/42.

*Continued*

The surprising word from Stalingrad is - that the Nazis have been driven back at points. Moscow states that in one district of the city, the Germans have been smashed into retreat for a distance of a mile and a quarter. This occurred in the most ferocious kind of fighting that war can produce - violent battling in a

*the city, street by street, house by house. The Ger. attacks on the perimeter outside to have been stopped.*

A grim picture of this is painted in a Moscow newspaper. It states that in Stalingrad the battle is being fought under the most dismal conditions imaginable. Most of the city is in ruins or on fire from the eternal rain of German air bombs and artillery shells. A cold September wind is sweeping from the north, and it blows the smoke of battle far across the Steppes.

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The troops <sup>fighting</sup> ~~battling~~ for the city are drenched by frequent rains - the chill autumn rains of Russia. The din is incessant, the blasting of guns and the roar of Nazi planes overhead.

The ~~is~~ heavy mass of <sup>enemy</sup> ~~Nazi~~ air power has not

gone unscathed. Moscow states today that seven hundred German planes have been shot down on the Russian front in the past two weeks.

*battle picture*  
The ~~account~~ includes one odd detail. The

enemy air squadrons are not the only things overhead. Flocks of cranes go winging through the sky - those typical Russian cranes that migrate southward in the autumn to escape the Russian winter.

Today the Soviet press made its first outspoken statement about a second front. And <sup>*this*</sup> ~~it~~ must be considered as virtually an official declaration - since no newspaper in Russia prints anything contrary to the opinion and desire of the Soviet Government.

47  
The Moscow English language newspaper <sup>*publishes*</sup> ~~prints~~ an article that criticizes ~~xx~~ sharply the British and American failure to invade the Nazi-occupied continent and take the pressure off the Russians. Britain and

America are called - "mere bystanders." The phraseology is as follows:- "The huge armies of Britain and the United States," says the Soviet newspaper, "are still mere bystanders in the titanic struggle now being waged on the Soviet front." And it continues ~~xxx~~ <sup>with</sup> this cryptic yet significant statement:- "We know <sup>it says</sup> there are politicians who still cherish their old hopes."

Which would seem to refer to charges made by Communists in England and over here, charges that the second front delay is the doing of <sup>influential</sup> people who are inately hostile to the Soviets.

FINLAND

There is a rumor in London that Soviet Russia is about to ask the United States to declare war on Finland. They say that Moscow wants this so that the United Nations will present a solid front against all the countries that are fighting against Russia. The London newspaper, DAILY SKETCH, states that Soviet officials <sup>will</sup> have expressed the demand to Wendell Willkie, who is now in Moscow - Willkie to be asked to convey the request to President Roosevelt.

Along this line, the British give us an interpretation of the recent statement by the Finnish Minister in Washington - who said that Finland wants to get out of the war whenever it can get a United Nations guarantee against aggression. The London version is that this statement was made with the intention of forestalling the Soviet demand for a United Nations declaration of war.

MADAGASCAR

In Madagascar, British columns are pushing close to the capital city of that big island. The Vichy French defenders are blocking roads, dynamiting bridges, destroying things in general in the path of the <sup>oncoming</sup> British. ~~advance.~~ London says that this is being done by <sup>a few</sup> ~~a few~~ dupes; ~~of a few~~ French officials in Madagascar, who are currying favor with ~~the~~ Vichy, ~~Government in France.~~ <sup>FF</sup> From Vichy itself there is a dispatch saying that what it calls - "a violent battle" is going on twenty miles northwest of the Madagascar capital.

Secretary Frank Knox stated today that the Japs may be expected to launch a large scale attempt to recapture the Solomon Islands that we have taken from them. "A big push," said the Secretary, in describing the kind of enemy operation that the Navy anticipates. So a major battle in the south Pacific area seems to be a likelihood.

49  
This afternoon's Navy bulletin tells of the bombing of a Jap cruiser off Guadalcanal in the Solomon <sup>S.</sup> ~~Islands~~. The blow was struck by planes of the Navy and Marine Corps, and they were dive bombers. The Navy pilots and the sky flying Marines swooped down on the Jap cruiser in that dizzy maneuver - dive bombing. And they hit the enemy ship, smashed it up quite a bit. ~~It~~ This makes a total of twenty-three Jap vessels either sunk or damaged since the Marines launched their offensive in the Solomons and captured



several islands there. And seven of the ships bombed had been cruisers.

The Navy bulletin also tells of a big American air raid against a Jap occupied island in the New Georgia archipelago - two hundred and fifteen miles northwest of Guadalcanal. The place is a war center for the enemy, and was smashed up by flying fortresses, the big boys had hit so hard. This is the third time they have blasted that particular Japanese base in two weeks.

And the <sup>news</sup>~~ness~~ tells of war in the sky -

American medium bombers hitting the Japs in Burma.

The raid was launched from India, and struck all the

way to the enemy war center at Bhamo. That is way up

*a 1000 miles up the Irrawaddy,*  
in northern Burma, ~~a river port,~~ I remember ~~Rxxxxxx~~

*there some*  
Bhamo, having visited ~~the place a few years back,~~ *as*

*my way into the Hindayas.*  
I remember it as ~~an immensely~~ *vastly* picturesque ~~place,~~

flaming with color, where <sup>the</sup> Chinese caravans met the <sup>carrying tea,</sup>  
river and rail traffic <sup>coming up from Rangoon and</sup> through Burma. A sort of  
Mandalay. It was then the  
jumping off place, <sup>for</sup> the wilds of southern China, <sup>Yunnan</sup>  
one of the outposts of the world.

And on the other side of the <sup>globe</sup> ~~world~~ we have  
news of a British raid against Nazi objectives in  
France - ~~and it was a~~ daylight bombing. One pilot  
says he saw the insides of a power plant blown through  
the roof by the explosion of a bomb.



## SINKINGS

The Navy Department revealed today that two American cargo ships were sunk in the Mediterranean last month. This occurred in the course of the great convoy battle which the British reported at the time - the one in which the ~~BRIT~~ British Aircraft EAGLE was ~~sunk~~ *lost*.

Today's Navy bulletin paints a vivid picture of the almost incredible ordeal of the attack through which the convoy had to pass. Four days of running the gauntlet, all the way from Gibraltar to Malta. On the first day, shortly after the convoy passed through the Straits of Gibraltar, the ships were assailed by Axis submarines. <sup>*But*</sup> The cargo vessels, with their warship protection, got through without injury.

The next day, the submarines were joined by <sup>*Carrier*</sup> dive bombers. And now the EAGLE was ~~sunk~~, bombed and torpedoed and sent to the bottom. But the merchant

vessels again came through unscathed. On the morning of the third day, altitude bombing was added to the submarine and dive bomber assault. A British tanker was hit and severely damaged. In the afternoon, torpedo planes joined in, ~~the assault~~, and scored several hits. That night, motor torpedo boats roared to the attack, and one of them scored a hit on the first of the American cargo <sup>ships</sup> ~~vessels~~ to be sunk. The torpedo tore open the vessel's port side, and the ship burst into flames. Survivors were picked up.

The second American merchantman eluded the torpedos from both the boats and the submarines. In doing so, however, it became separated from the convoy and later was hit by a torpedo. The ship was so badly damaged that the crew sank it with a time bomb.

On the fourth day, the convoy reached Malta -  
after <sup>enduring</sup> ~~sustaining~~ one of the most violent and sustained attacks on record.

INFLATION

X

The Senate today voted on the bill to permit the President to fix farm prices at parity - either parity or the highest price of any commodity during this year until September Fifteenth. Of the two alternatives, whichever is the higher will be the ceiling. <sup>TP</sup> So, that meets the President's demand.

However, there is a twister in it all - this in the form of an amendment that is to come up ~~on~~ Ceiling parity; - but, what is parity? The amendment provides for recomputation of that figure, another kind of calculation of parity. This will include labor costs to the farmer, the rate of wages that he has to pay.

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R ~~The present parity figure is arrived at by complicated reckonings with a number of factors, but these factors do not include the farmers' labor cost. So the farm-  
-blee is demanding that there be a new computation of  
-party and put the agricultural wages in.~~

(Earlier today, a Senate Committee approved of this by a vote of fourteen to one, and now the amendment will be taken on the floor of the Senate.) and The powerful farm bloc will back it vigorously. For example, Senator Willis of Indiana stated that unless the labor-cost-~~ix~~ amendment is adopted - "the farmer, in hundreds of thousands of instances, is finished," said he.

The Administration is opposed - on the ground that the parity figure will be boosted if you put farm labor costs in. Thereby elevating the ceiling and increasing the prices - promoting instead of checking inflation, argues the Administration.

## LEGION

The new national commander of the American Legion  
*today*  
^ spoke some downright words. Colonel Roane Waring of  
Memphis, just elected, put the state of affairs in these  
words:- "We have had lots of speeches and lots of  
parades - but we have not yet buckled down to the  
actual winning of this war." ~~said he.~~

INVENTORS

54 { And now let us ~~note~~ that, one hundred thousand is a large figure - and one hundred thousand inventions represents a huge lot of mechanical ingenuity and figuring things out.

In Nineteen Forty, the National Inventors Council was formed to promote American inventiveness in behalf of American war power. Today in Washington the Council met to consider the one hundred thousandth invention. It revealed that since Pearl Harbor, ~~xxxx~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ sixty-eight thousand devices had been submitted, seven thousand a month, two hundred and eighty-five a day. ~~P~~ Of the one hundred thousand, forty-five hundred had been deemed worthy of serious consideration.

Hundreds of them have been tested, and many adopted.

For example, the ~~Council~~ <sup>Navy</sup> has accepted a flying suit made buoyant with ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the floss of milkweed.

*and not too successfully. Anyway*  
Previously, kapok was used, ~~but~~ <sub>八</sub> the supplies of that



fibre are <sup>now</sup> controlled by the Japs. So the good old  
American milkweed takes its place.

What is the type of invention most often suggested? The answer is - a net or screen to protect ships against torpedoes. None of these, however, has proved of any service. Torpedo nets and screens have been tried repeatedly, but they are heavy, are unmanageable in a <sup>rough</sup> ~~heavy~~ sea, and interfere with the maneuvering of a ship. ~~The~~ <sup>the</sup> Council suggests that inventors think of something else.

MOVIE DAY

X

Today is free movie day. For once in your life you can go to see the motion pictures without buying a ticket. Instead, you purchase a War Bond.

So the slogan is - buy a bond and see the movies free.

*world*  
This <sup>being</sup> is a contribution made by <sup>the</sup> motion pictures to push the September sales of war securities - another example of what the picture industry is doing to help this nation win the war. All sorts of bond selling campaigns have been launched, and now - free movie day. So get ready to buy your bond, and see the latest feature - also the Newsreel.

Last night at Movietone we worked on a reel that included some vivid scenes of those American tanks named after General Lee. They made a reputation in the desert battles in Egypt, and now we get a brilliant close-up study of them. Another attraction

on free movie day. Streamlined. Without a seam. The General Lees.

## NEEDLEWORK

56  
A lady's needlework contest might not seem to be so important in a time when the greatest of all contests is raging. However, there is an oddity in the winning of a lace and crochet event staged by the Courtland~~t~~ County Fair -- New York.

The first prize for petty point, so finely stitched and intricate, was won by Mrs. Frances Fitz Sanger -- and her age is seventy-six. She has, moreover, another name, -- Lady Sourdough.

4  
Forty odd years ago, today's petty point winner was quite a figure in <sup>the</sup> Alaska of the gold rush. She prospected for gold and panned it, and was United States Recorder of Mining Claims at Council City, north of Nome. And she ran a ~~news~~ newspaper there -- the northernmost of American newspapers. About all of which she has written a book.

Today Lady Sourdough was asked -- had she learned her needlework up in Alaska? She replied - No. She took up the lacey ~~wa~~ art only a year ago. And she

X

could not remember having even touched a needle in  
the days of the gold rush.

*She never even*  
~~suppose her eyes were~~

~~not good enough~~ ~~forty odd years ago.~~

*knitted a sock, in the  
Malamute Saloon, as the wolves  
howled at the Aurora Borealis.*

WIFE

7  
One of the strangest of amnesia stories was told in Hollywood today -- the case of a woman who finds herself married to a man she doesn't know.

Last Friday night Mrs. Gloria Weller Miller, twenty-five years old, was driving along in her car. Some sudden realization came to her, and she saw that she was driving a blue sedan. That surprised her -- because the car that she and her husband owned was gray. She said to herself -- "I wonder where I got this blue car?" *Hub.*

Then she noticed that the scene about her was unfamiliar. A city, but it was not the place where her home was -- not Atascadero, California. Still more puzzled she stopped and asked, and was told that she was in Hollywood. That was two hundred miles from Atascadero.

Realizing that something strange indeed had occurred, she wired her home town and asked for information about herself and her husband, Mr. and Mrs.

Pierce Weller. She was informed that Pierce Weller, a fifty year old retired newspaper editor, had died in November of last year. Sudden death -- his wife finding his body. Then in May, Mrs. Weller had remarried, and become Mrs. Henry Miller of Hollywood.

The baffled woman went to the police and they took her to Henry Miller. She did not recognize him. "I never saw him before in my life," she said today.

Henry Miller told her that he had met her at the horse races in Agua Caliente, Mexico, and they <sup>had</sup> ~~been~~ <sup>and then had lived together, ever since.</sup> married at Las Vegas, Nevada, <sup>^</sup> She recalled nothing of this. Her memory had gone blank with the shock of finding her first husband dead.

Today she exclaimed: "Look at me. I have bleached blond hair, but before -- I had pretty red hair. I don't like myself as a blond."

She says that her second husband, the man ~~whome~~ she does not know, is very sympathetic about it all. He offers to give her a divorce if she <sup>so</sup> desires.

And we can only wonder -- what will she do? <sup>Does</sup> she <sup>so</sup> desire? <sup>And now Hugh.</sup>