

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I'm broadcasting from an Army Air Force school tonight. A somewhat hush-hush school where Colonel Loring Pickering and his staff train special picked men of the Air Force to do certain vital jobs at the front and behind the lines. This school is at Pawling, New York, in the fine buildings of the Pawling Boys School. The Colonel and his staff and the Air Force men under him, are crowded around me in the Pawling School auditorium. And some of these fellows will be on their way in a day or two to the front, from which our first item comes tonight.

SICILY

Allied troops today captured ~~R~~andazzo, and that sounds like a decisive event in the termination of the Sicilian Campaign.

The village of Randazzo ^{is} ~~lies~~ on the northern slope of Mt. Etna, ~~ordinarily a small and sleepy place where peasants had~~ ^{had} ~~vineyards~~ ^{that flourished in the rich volcanic soil.} ~~In the war, Randazzo~~ assumed an importance as a road junction, the Germans using it as the central pivot of their Mt. Etna line. Its fall ^{today} ~~unhinges~~ the line, and gives the allies an open-way downhill to Alcantara Valley, a flat, clear corridor to the sea.

American troops entered Randazzo only a few hours ago, after battling their way toward that place for five days. They had hard going, up steep lava slopes. where the Germans had deeply dug machine guns and mortar positions - and these put up a fierce resistance. The Americans approached Randazzo from the West, while the British Eighth Army drove up from the South. This concerted ^{ing} ~~encircled~~ move was decisive and the Germans got out.

On the north coast, the Americans have driven within ~~for~~ thirty-five miles of Messina, the large city at the ultimate end of the Sicilian tip. The American north coast advance was,

of course, aided by that brilliant amphibious operation, the
successful landing that our forces made ⁱⁿ outflanking
the enemy. Today we have some more facts about that amphibious
operation number two - and a desperate adventure it was. The first
one was made by surprise, and had that advantage, and the second one,
however, was designed to outflank Cape D'Orlando, a vital Nazi
position, and surprise could not be expected. ~~The Germans would~~

~~be on guard there. So when the Americans swarmed ashore with
their tanks and light guns, they knew they'd be up against tough
opposition. And the opposition materialized with such power
that the American Major General in command was afraid for a while
that the whole thing might be a failure.~~

The Americans got ashore with little resistance, but
that was only a delusion. The Germans were lying back waiting
and as our men swarmed on to the beach, they were met with a
savage fire from concealed positions inland. Then the Germans
wheeled out tanks and artillery and delivered three
fierce counter-attacks. That was when the American commander
was afraid the whole thing might turn into a minor disaster. But

his troops beat off the assaults in ~~desperate~~^{frantic} fighting, battling their way ~~in~~ inland. They were still in a desperate position, but they were not doing the job all alone. Simultaneously, American forces on the other side of Cape D'Orlando were launching a drive, fighting their way inland around the Cape to join forces. And they did. They smashed on for four miles, and then formed a junction with the landing party. When this happened, the American commander felt his fears go away. ^{For} the joining of forces spelled success.

The Nazis are evacuating ~~forces~~^{their troops} across the three mile strait between the tip of Sicily and the Italian peninsula. The key point of evacuation is the harbor of Messina, which has been blasted by bombs for weeks. And the air assaults ~~are~~ ^{now} mounting to a climac^x_A as the Germans try to get away. The Nazi escape goes on at night, while American light naval forces dash in to attack. Nevertheless, it is believed that a considerable portion of the Nazi Garrison at the tip of ~~Sicily~~ Sicily ~~may~~ escape. British observers think fifty percent of them may be evacuated, but ^{that} they'll have to abandon all their heavy equipment - can't get it across.

To date the Allies have captured a hundred and thirty thousand prisoners, and new batches are coming in all the time. One prisoner reported today was a high ranking Italian General, who was captured while he was trying to escape on a donkey. I suppose the General's dignity was hurt not a little, not so much because he was made a prisoner - but because of the donkey.

AIR WAR

Tonight we have a climax of news about the war in the air - Rome bombed again, Berlin hit, heavy raids launched against ^{the} two great ^{industrial} cities of Northern Italy - Turin and Milan. In other words, both Axis capitals ~~had~~ blasted, and three of the greatest targets of Italy violently assaulted.

The meaning of the Italian angle is evident - a climactic renewal of the bombing, a shattering ~~new~~ message to the ^{Italians,} ^{to} helping their government make up its mind. After the fall of Mussolini, the bombing of Italy died down, obviously in the hope that the new Badoglio government would promptly ~~we~~ yield to the Allies. The threat was made then that if Italy did not surrender, the country would be devastated by air attack from end to end. Since then, the new government at Rome, having abolished fascism, has nevertheless held off for one reason or another. So now the Allied command is saying it with bombs.

Rome was hit by an All-American Air-mada, in a daylight raid today. The official communique states the specific targets were the same as in the previous bombing of Rome - the first one. They were - the San Lorenzo and Littorio ~~Rik~~ Railway yards, which

are of number one importance to the railway system in Rome and to the entire Italian railway system. In fact once again the bombers were ordered to aim precisely at military targets and avoid hitting religious and cultural monuments.

Reports from ~~Switzer~~ Switzerland state that both ^{Rome} railway yards were heavily damaged, as they had been before. A big railway station was wrecked by a direct hit, and a number of people were killed. Bombs fell in the center of the city on the Tiber, says the Swiss account. They were incendiaries, and some of the fire missiles landed only two hundred yards from the Royal Palace, the Quirinal. They say the Palace was not damaged, but another famous building nearby was set afire. This was the Barberini Palace, which has been transformed into an Officers Club.

Milan and Turin were assailed by British bombers. It was a night raid, with R.A.F. pilots flying through bright moonlight. Rear ~~is~~ gunners report that as they flew away from Milan, they could see enormous clouds of smoke and flame, with fire reflected on the clouds at the eighteen thousand foot level.

Switzerland ~~reports~~ reports that the raid caused enormous

~~the~~ damage to great chemical and airplane factories at Milan, *and*
that ~~the~~ railroad yards were devastated. *In fact* *(Milan railway*
~~The big~~ *station*
was hit and wrecked. Today, passenger and ~~fix~~ freight trains
failed to arrive at the Swiss border according to schedule,
which would indicate that the ~~the~~ railroad at Milan was hit so
badly that it was put out of commission.

Switzerland also states that the famous Cathedral of
Milan was damaged. One of the Cathedral spires is said to
have crashed, though not from a direct hit. The concussion from
an exploding bomb some distance away was so great that it ~~it~~
~~was~~ knocked over a spire of *that glorious* the Cathedral of Milan.

And Today the big industrial city *of Northern Italy* was burning, while
soldiers aided firemen *were* trying to check the rage of flames.

Such was the explosive message delivered by the Allies
to the now no longer Fascist Italy, which nevertheless ~~was~~ has
failed to surrender. The bomb lesson was emphasized by showers
~~in~~ of leaflets - the British ~~h~~ dropping a rain of pamphlets on
bomb-blasted Milan. These *present* arguments not against the Badoglio
government, but against the Nazis and the German-Italian alliance.

They read: "Mussolini has gone but the Nazi war continues!

One tyranny has ended! suppress the other," So the ^{leaflets} ~~institutions~~ advised the Italians.

As for The bombing of Berlin, by the R.A.F. based on England, *that*

may well be the beginning of a series of blows against the German ⁱⁿ

capital. It had been said that, after the terrifying destruction

where according to reports 1/2 the population of Hamburg, Berlin would be next on the list - a target for

bombing day after day, an objective to be wiped out, like

Hamburg.

~~There is one curious contradiction today. Switzerland reports that an American Liberator bomber made a forced landing in its territory, and the Swiss dispatch adds that the giant warplane had been one of an American Squadron that had raided the city of Augsburg in southern Germany. American aviation headquarters in London, however, makes no mention of any raid staged today against Augsburg.~~

was wiped out; that

In Russia the Red Army has opened still another big offensive, its third summer drive. This ^{one} ~~has been~~ launched on the Moscow front north of Bryansk. The latest from Moscow states

^{there} that Red Army shock troops have driven forward far enough to cut the railroad south of Bryansk, and have captured one hundred towns and villages.

(Every day it seems to be another 20 or 30 or a 100 towns & villages)
On the front at Kharkov the latest is that Soviet

troops now are within one mile of the ^{city} on the northeast. *in fact*

The Red Army is closing in on Kharkov along a sixty mile front, which almost encircles the city. The ~~ga~~ Germans now have ~~an~~ ^{only a} *narrow escape route to* ~~the southwest~~ ^{the southwest.}

Moscow indicates that the final assault is now on - the closing of a monster trap at Kharkov, ^{Kharkov} ~~which is called~~ the Pittsburgh of Russia.

CONFERENCE

Speculations concerning the Roosevelt-Churchill Conference were ~~more~~ concentrated today on the statement made by the official Soviet News Agency. Just what does the Russian declaration mean? What is to be read between the lines? The statement bears upon the fact, so prominently noted, that Stalin is not at the conferences of the President and the Prime Minister, nor is any Soviet representative. The Moscow declaration tells us that the Soviet was not invited, and gives the reason: "Because of the nature of the conference," says Moscow.

This, of course, would seem to point to an angle that has previously been discussed - the war in the ~~South~~ Pacific, Japan. President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill will naturally confabulate a great deal on ways to hit the Jap enemy, and Soviet Russia is not at war with Japan. Hence, Stalin takes no part in the talks.

London today gives the comment that the absence of the Soviets is being misinterpreted and given an exaggerated significance. People have been surmising that Stalin is deliberately keeping clear of Allied war and post-war plans. London refers to the fact that

neither the American nor the British government has stated that Stalin was invited, although President Roosevelt said that he would have been cordially welcome. We are told that Moscow was informed in advance about the conferences and the scope of the discussion - with Stalin undoubtedly made aware that the Pacific war would be a ~~very~~ prominent theme.

From Washington, in fact, we have today the surprise that the conflict with Japan is the main thing. (Some observers in the national capital think that new war plans for Europe do not enter the picture prominently. They think that strategies ~~for~~^{for} victory in Europe have already been worked out at previous Churchill-Roosevelt meetings, and that now the Presidential -Prime Ministerial focus has shifted to the Pacific.)

PACIFIC

From both war fronts in the Pacific, the word is - rain. And ~~we~~^{we} know what that means in the tropics - the teeming flood^d that makes you think the sky has opened and the ocean is pouring down.

On New Georgia Island, the weather has grounded the American Air Force, and the tropical deluge has turned the jungle into a vast waterlogged swamp. In spite of this, American troops are slogging forward, pushing against the remnant of Japs who escaped from the Munda Air Base, when it was captured.

In the other sector of the Pacific war, New Guinea, the flood of equatorial rain has almost stopped the fighting on the ground. Australian and American troops face strongly fortified enemy positions which would be difficult to capture in the best of weather. With the rain streaming down from overhead and with water sometimes knee deep in the jungle the allied advance ^{in New} ~~has~~ *Guinea has* been slowed ~~to~~ to a standstill - ground fighting limited to skirmishes and occasional bursts of artillery fire.

Here is the story of a war pilot who thought he was an Eddie Rickenbacker, but only got a lot of worry out of it - a nightmare of uneasy anxiety. He is First Lieutenant Harold Segal, an ace of air battle in the Solomons. Today's news tells of his latest ^{fight} ~~fight~~ in the sky, in which he shot down his seventh Zero. ~~Segal~~ Asked about that exploit, Lieutenant Segal countered with the story of a previous adventure - the time he thought he was Rickenbacker.

He was shot down by a Zero. Japanese bullets ripped the oil line of his plane, and he plunged into the sea. He hit the water in a cloud of spray, but was able to get out and into his lifeboat. The wind blew him drifting on the ocean, and after a while what should come along - but a bird. It was a big bird and it flapped down and sat on Segal's knee.

That was what reminded him of Rickenbacker - who, with his companions, drifted in a harrowing ordeal on the Pacific, and who tells how a seagull ^a lighted on his ^{head} ~~shoulder~~. They used it for food, which saved their lives.

Segal remembered that, and now he relates: "I said to myself, it 'Rick had nothing on me', and grabbed the bird by the

throat - intending to hold him captive in case I needed food. "But" the Lieutenant continues, "I used too much strength and the bird went limp. I worked a long time on that bird, trying to revive him - but he was dead".

Whereupon a great trouble of mind came upon the ~~pilot~~ pilot drifting on the Pacific. "I'd have given anything to bring the bird back to life," he ~~is~~ relates. ~~Why? What was he worrying about?~~ ~~Segal explains it this way: "I couldn't get the story of the ancient Mariner out of my mind".~~ And he adds: "I was sure the bird was an albatross".

The Lieutenant's thoughts went back to school days, back to that favorite classroom poem, ^{"The Rhyme} ~~the story~~ of the Ancient Mariner," which tells how unlucky it is to ^{kill} kill an Albatross. He recalled how the Ancient Mariner confesses in tones of horror: "With my cross-bow I shot the Albatross".

All of which leads to that famous line about the ~~immense~~ terror of thirst on the ocean: "Water, water, everywhere - nor ~~any~~ ^{any} a drop to drink". (The last time I referred to the ^{at} line I ~~misquoted it,~~ ^{as many in my} ~~and did the radio audience give me the dickens.~~ ^{informed me,}

~~but this time it's correct - I hope).~~

~~In any case, that was what haunted the mind of the
American ^{ace} pilot drifting in his rubber boat on the ocean. I
suppose that in a time like that, a man's imagination is distracted.~~

~~Anyway, Lieutenant ^{H.S.} Eugene Segal of the United States Army Air Force~~

~~The American ^{ace} tells us that in his ordeal as a castaway, he was bedeviled by
the fear that he had killed an Albatross - as the ancient mariner
had done.~~

However, the Lieutenant did ^{not} have such frightfully
bad, luck. ^{For he} ~~he~~ was picked up in due time, so, it couldn't have been
an Albatross.

And now Hugh James in N.Y.