

L. J. Sunoco - Friday, July 31, 1942

RUSSIA

The news of the Russian war is favorable for the Soviets at the north of the Great bend of the River Don; and ~~is~~ unfavorable to the south of <sup>vital</sup> that loop made by <sup>that</sup> ~~the~~ river. In the northern sector the Red Army reports the beating back of heavy German attacks in day-long battles, one assault after another repelled with heavy losses.

47  
The Russians tell of smashing a Nazi battering ram. This is described as a mass of tanks and infantry hurling itself forward by sheer weight of men and metal -- a direct pounding something like a medieval battering ram crashing open the gates of a castle. The Nazi assault was made in a critical sector at the north of the big bend of the Don, the battering ram aimed at the all-important city of Stalingrad on the Volga. The attempt failed -- with the Soviets ~~mixx~~ doing a bit of battering or ramming on their own account.

To the south of the Great bend the Russian forces have again retired. Moscow speaks of the Germans being in overwhelming force -- an outnumbering preponderance of men and guns. The Russians admit that they have made a withdrawal to the south of the town of Bataisk. This place is fifteen miles south of German-held Rostov. The Soviet

retreat as described would not be very great -- but the Germans claim huge advances.

Berlin states that its war machine has driven one hundred and twelve miles south of the Don -- that deep into the caucasus.

*In fact*

The Germans claim that Russian resistance is broken in that sector.

If their story be true, they are pushing rapidly to the nearest of the Caucasus oil wells.

## YUGOSLAVIA

The news about guerrilla warfare in Yugoslavia ~~paints~~ paints an ever larger picture of the tough time the Axis conquerers are having. A statement from London today declares that the patriot army of General Mikhailovitch has ~~been~~ become so formidable that it has been able to capture a strategic port on the Dalmatian Coast. The serb guerrillas <sup>have</sup> seized the town <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>still</sup> hold it.

At another point they raided a <sup>v</sup>valuable ~~xxx~~ bauxite mine -- bauxite being the all-important ore of aluminum. They defeated a garrison of ~~Italian~~ Italians, and wrecked the mine.

There's even a rumor that the Serbian Guerrilla Army is getting war planes. The United States is said to have negotiated a Lend-lease agreement with the Yugoslavia Government in London, and as a result General Mikhailovitch is acquiring bomber squadrons to help him in his guerrilla fight. This account is supported by word that the Axis rulers of cities in <sup>a</sup>Croatia have ordered air ~~raid~~ raid shelters to be constructed.

All of which certainly does point to something new in guerrilla warfare -- irregular bands equipped with squadrons of bombing planes.

AIR BATTLE

49  
There was a thrilling air battle along the coast of the English Channel today. British bombers flew over to attack the Nazis on the ground -- a formation of Boston light bombers, American made planes. They were escorted by British fighters. German <sup>pursuit</sup> ~~fighting~~ <sup>ships</sup> ~~planes~~ took off to intercept them and the sky was full of whirling planes, diving and zooming in the acrobatics of air battle. The R.A.F. shot down eleven of the enemy, and lost eight fighters of their own -- spitfires. All of the bombers returned safely, after having dropped high explosives on their targets.

## GANDHI

Out in India Mahatma Gandhi uttered a refusal today -- Gandhi has been doing a lot of refusing of late. He was asked about a plan that has been proposed <sup>to</sup> settle the question of India -- and avert the campaign of non-violence and non-cooperation that the Indian Nationalist party has decreed.

It has been suggested that the United States, China and Soviet Russia should pledge the independence of India after the war -- should guarantee the promise that Great Britain is willing to ~~it~~ give. This formal assurance by the United Nations should satisfy the Indian Nationalist leaders. <sup>So</sup> ~~---~~ it is argued. They should take it and call off their ~~xxxx~~ campaign of passive resistance -- which is scheduled to begin early in August.

Today the question was put to Gandhi, and he said -- no. He asserted that the question of the United Nations guarantee does not figure in the plans of the Indian Nationalist party. They want freedom right away

The Mathatma argues that his attitude is not based on any mistrust of ~~Great Britain's~~ Great Britain's promise of independence after the war. He says that the question is -- freedom right away.

And this he explains in the following ~~an~~ soothing words: "India as an independent power wants, if at all possible, ~~to play a independent power wants, if at all possible,~~ to play a decisive part, in ~~the~~ favor of the Allies," says he.

So that's the latest from the little brown man in a loin cloth, who for years has been so curious a figure -- arousing some ridicule and a good deal of respect among the peoples of the west.

*And now*  
~~Now the~~ Gandhi becomes an increasingly perplexing problem, if not a dangerous menace.

BAMBOO CANNON

151  
There's a lot of talk about secret weapons these days, and here's an account of something strange and novel which is said to be in action in the Philippines -- a bamboo cannon. ~~We have the story from a Philippine officer,~~ Colonel Carlos Romulo, who was aide de camp to General MacArthur in the Bataan campaign.

~~Colonel Romulo~~ has been on a recent secret mission for MacArthur, and reporting on this he states that ~~Philippine~~ Philippine guerrillas recaptured three northern provinces of the Island of Luzon from the Japs. The guerrillas swept down in such force that they chased the Japs right out -- though it is not certain whether the Philippine Irregulars still control the three ~~provinces~~ provinces.

They are mighty short of ammunition those guerrillas, and so they have to do a good deal of ingenious <sup>ation</sup> improvisation. One weapon they are using with good effect against the Japs is a cylinder of bamboo, ~~about the size of a cannon barrel.~~ It is a kind of cannon, but it really does not shoot anything, ~~neither shells nor gun powder.~~ The Filipinos put machine <sup>oil</sup> oil in the bamboo tubes, and have a way of firing the peculiar cannon in such fashion that a stream of flame shoots out with a tremendous noise. ~~It~~ Sounds like a cannon.

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With this bamboo artillery one Phillipine guerrilla band captured a town. They sneaked close to the enemy position and opened a violent fire of bamboo. The Japs thought it was a whole battery of cannon in action~~k~~, and took it on the run.



ALEUTIANS

Here is a late statement about the situations in the Aleutians:- How many Japs are in the islands that they have seized? Not more than ten thousand, <sup>50</sup> said a Navy spokesman late this afternoon.

He also spoke of reports that enemy forces were in the Pribilof Islands -- north of the Aleutians. The Navy has no evidence of the truth of this - no reason to believe that there are any Japs in the Pribilof <sup>5.</sup> islands.

MIAMI

The Army is taking new precautions along the Coast of Florida -- on guard against any further landing of Nazi spies and saboteurs. This afternoon Brigadier-General Evans, Commander of the Florida sector, announced that armed military patrols had been increased on both the east and west coasts -- and beaches are forbidden to civilians at night. In fact he intimated that guards along the Florida coast might shoot first and ask questions afterwards. Daytime, however, is okay.

SABOTEURS

53  
Today's action by the Supreme Court presents an element of novelty and drama quite in keeping with the dramatic importance of the case of the Nazi saboteurs. A decision by the highest tribunal consists traditionally of two things -- the verdict itself and an opinion discussing the constitutional meanings of the judgment handed down. They go together -- nearly always. Today, however, we were given one thing, the verdict -- but not the other. The full opinion is withheld -- to be given later. And this is without precedent in recent times.

The verdict itself upholds the Government one hundred percent. It states that the Military Commission trying the saboteurs is ~~not~~ Constitutional. The President had the wartime power to appoint it. The Nazi Secret agents are being tried with full Constitutional legality, and the Writ of Habeas Corpus is denied. So that disposes of the immediate issue of the saboteurs and the Military Commission.

So  
The Commission will pass judgment upon them.

54  
But there is more to it all than the mere verdict. There are sweeping implications that concern the power of the President in the war. These will be expressed in the full opinion of the

court -- which is to be given later, *in*

~~This is to be~~ a document of large scope, apparently -- something that takes time. The Court speaks of it in these words -- "a full opinion which necessarily will require a considerable period of time for its preparation."

In other words, the Court hands down its decision quickly -- with a promptness that is called for in the case of the trial of saboteurs. This done, the Court will exercise mature deliberation in laying down Constitutional principles with regard to the Presidential powers in wartime. <sup>P</sup> The History of the Supreme Court presents a sequence of important opinions. The court for a ~~century~~ century and a half ~~w~~ has issued state papers of the highest rank in the development of Constitutional law -- and the full opinion which is to be given in ~~the~~ the case of the saboteurs may very well be one of these. <sup>P</sup> The Nazi agents will, meanwhile go to their judgment -- while the larger constitutional principles brought up by their sabotage attempt are being deferred by the Supreme Court.

55 <sup>P</sup> While the Court was handing down its decision upholding the

the Military Commission, the Commission was in session again -- after a recess of three days. Prosecution and defense were making their final statements <sup>to</sup> board of army officer judges. The report is that the prosecution today asked for the death penalty for at least seven of the eight saboteurs. We hear that leniency may have been proposed in the case of one of the Nazi Agents <sup>to</sup> -- George John Dasch, who is reported to have confessed fully and acted as a witness for the Government.

Attorney General Biddle today stated that the Military Commission would decide upon its verdict and transmit this to the President either late tomorrow or Sunday.

## STRIKE

At Detroit a strike was settled late this afternoon -- a labor disturbance that had a paradoxical sound. Grocery store clerks walked out, and that shut down two big war production plants.

(It happened like this) There was a jurisdictional scrap between grocery store unions of the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. that led to a C.I.O. grocery strike. (How did this ~~effect~~ effect war production? What have potatoes and onions to do with the fabrication of armament? Well,) C.I.O. war workers walked out in sympathy with the grocery store strike. And that tied up a general motors plant and a war production factory of the Baldwin Rubber ~~co~~ company.

~~Yes~~ Yes, it was a paradox -- but now the grocery strike has been settled, and so the armament plants can go on producing war supplies.

## CARGO PLANES

Chief of War Production Donald Nelson made a statement today concerning a much discussed plan to build a giant fleet of cargo planes. He referred to the proposal made by Henry Kaiser, West Coast shipbuilder, who says that he will turn out huge transport planes in his shipyards. Mass production of five thousand giant sky craft capable of carrying immense amounts of material.

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There has been a lot of debate about this, with some folks doubting the feasibility of building aircraft in shipyards.

Today Donald Nelson of the W.P.B. stated the following :

"The War Production Board," said he, "Has been keenly aware for some time of the necessity for more and bigger cargo planes."

To this he added that the W.P.B. is much interested in the Kaiser Shipyard Aircraft Building plan. But it depends upon whether such a program could be instituted without disrupting the present schedule of Military aircraft construction. "Which," said the Chief of the W.P.B., "Is our number one war essential." If it is shown that the shipyard idea does not interfere with the Military aircraft ~~program~~ program, Kaiser will get action. "He will get plenty of action," said Donald Nelson.

## WOMEN

In addition to the WAACS we now have the waves. The expression WAAC is made up of the initials of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. And wave stands for Women's Naval Reserve Corps -- though not by way of initials.

57  
Naval officers feel that a nickname should be bestowed upon the feminine unit of the Navy. However, the initials of the Woman's Naval Reserve Corps won't do -- WNRC. How can you pronounce that? *Sounds like a radio station - WNBC.* So the officers said -- call them waves. That sounds nautical, and could stand for "Women appointed for voluntary emergency service." There isn't any such formal title, but never mind. Waves ~~there~~ there are -- and long may they wave, at least for the duration of the war.

The new commander of the Women's Naval Reserve Corps is to be Dr. Mildred McAfee, President of Wellsley. She will have the rank of Lieutenant - Commander, and will be sworn in tomorrow -- *as* ~~the~~ Admiral of the waves.



CHANDLER

News from Kentucky tells of a swimming pool that threatens to get a Senator into hot water -- although the water in the pool is refreshingly cool.

Senator Happy Chandler is running for re-election, and it would appear that one item of the happiness of Happy has been a *blissful* limpid pool perfect for a plunge on a hot Kentucky day. Some charge that the swimming convenience was donated to the Senator by a war contractor. The Chandler opponent in the Senatorial race claims that in the construction of the pool there was a violation of priorities.

One demand is that the Senator remove the metals from his swimming pool and turn them over for use in the war effort. Removing the metals, I suppose, would eliminate the ladder <sup>s,</sup> and <sup>some</sup> the rails. ~~Sox~~ *steel in the reinforced concrete.* ~~if you got into the pool, how would you get out?~~

All of which is creating a lot of political ructions in Kentucky, and it might have an effect on tomorrow's election for Senator, which in turn might alter the Governmental set-up in Washington and perhaps influence the course of the war -- all because of a swimming pool. Who was it that said -- that if Cleopatra's

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nose had been a quarter of an inch longer the whole course of

~~midyetyxsmifxskx~~ history would have been changed?

And now Hugh, I don't  
want to be nosy, but what  
have you on your mind?

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