

P.L. - Sunoco. Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1943.

RUSSIA

Concerning Russia, the Nazis continued to acknowledge their peril on the Eastern front. Radio Berlin today admitted a Soviet spearhead had reached Belgorod after penetrating the elastic defense of the German line. The Berlin high Command did not admit having given up Belgorod but claimed fighting still was going on in the streets. However, there is no reason today to doubt yesterday's communique by the Soviet High Command that Belgorod is in Russian hands once more.

The Germans make no attempt to conceal the peril of their garrison in Kharkov. The Russian pincers are coming closer and closer together, and it won't be long before that great ~~xxxx~~ industrial centre will be completely surrounded. ~~The Nazis evidently anticipate for they predicted that large forces of Russian reserves would be thrown into the battle.~~

Looking south, Rostov has not fallen yet, but it surely looks as though it won't be long now. The Red Army is pounding the ^{city} ~~place~~ with heavy artillery and another column is pressing on Kramatorsk, north of Rostov. The movement against that place is triangular, with Rostov, and Mariupol at the three apexes of the triangle. If the Russians cut their way through to maripol, the nazi garrison *forces at*

of Rostov ^{and} ~~of~~ Novotchersk will be completely cut off. Mariupol is on the north shore of the Sea of Azov, west of Rostov. It faces Yeisk on the south shore, where the Russians are now firmly established.

A Russian tank division is driving down the north bank of the Don River. It broke through several german mechanized counter-attacks and is advancing steadily on Rostov. ^{TP} In the meantime, colonel-General Golikovs army is driving northward from Kursk, aiming evidently at Orel, one of the strongest of all ^{German-held cities in} ~~german hedge-hopping fortifications~~ in Russia.

ADD RUSSIA

Here is a later bulletin from the High Command at Moscow.

One Red Army is now within twenty-two miles of Kharkov. The Soviet

forces are closing in on that great city of the Ukraine in one

huge arc of steel. In their advance the Red Forces ^{have just} captured two

more russian towns, the two strongest outposts that the Nazis

had constructed for the defense of Kharkov. One is to the south ~~east~~ ^{east},

~~east~~, the other to the northeast. The jubilant dispatch from

Moscow describes the German defenses as "tottering and sagging."

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* ALEXANDER.

48
All the dice are loaded in our favor, meaning the African dice. That comes from ~~some~~ General Sir Harold ~~Bliss~~. Alexander, Commander in Chief of the British Forces in the Middle East. We do not need any miracle to turn the Mareth line, in Tunisia. ~~He means~~ ^{And he says} that forty miles stretch of defenses which the French built there at the same time they constructed the Maginot Line in France. The Germans under Marshal Rommel have it now, with some Italians, and are holding it against us,

77 ^{And it's} ~~as if it's~~ like the Maginot Line in more ways than one. It was confidently believed to be as impregnable as the Maginot Line. General Alexander intimates that it is exactly that -- just as impregnable as

the Maginot Line, and ~~you may~~ ^(we all) remember ^(how long that line) that line ~~did not~~ ^{ed.} last ~~long~~.

The Middle East commander added that the times ^{is} at hand ^{when they will be} ~~are~~ concentrating

all African warfare into the battle in Tunisia. The bad weather should be over by the end of March. The British Eighth Army is out of the desert and entering regions of clay soil. He added that the Mareth Line, like the Maginot Line, was constructed before military experts had begun to think in terms of mobile armoured forces.

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"How long the battle of Tunisia will last, " said Alexander, "will depend on how soon the Allies can stop the Nazis from getting supplies."

2nd Alexander

And he added these words, "I am very hopeful."

Montgomery's Eighth Army has ^{now} wiped out every vestige of Axis forces east of Tunisia; cleaned them out of Egypt, Libya, ^{and} Tripolitania.

† Alexander declared that the British successes had been equally shared by the three services - land, sea and air - and by the United States Air Forces.

AFRICA.

In fact tonight

All of the British Eighth Army is now in Tunisia. The last units of General Montgomery's Imperials ^{having} ~~has~~ crossed the Border from Tripolitania. ~~It is holding positions on the central and southern line still held by the Axis.~~ The Axis radios report that General Montgomery has begun to attack on a large scale. But that report is not confirmed by Allied Headquarters.

~~The most intensive activities in those parts again is in the air. American bombers of all sizes from flying fortress ^{an} down attacked enemy air dromes and enemy positions all along the line. Royal Air Force planes carried out their part in harrassing the germans and Italians. Apparently the rainy season still prevents any major attack on the ground.~~

RAIDS

The Nazis have been retaliating for the air raids made by the Royal Air Force and ^{by Uncle Sam's} ~~the United States~~ Air Force. The Germans ^{have} managed to scrape up enough aircraft for raids ^{on} of Britain in spite of the demands of the Tunisian front and the Russian front. They ^{have just} raided at least eight English towns in broad daylight. They did ^{not} achieve a single thing of military importance but they ^{did} killed ^{a number of} ~~several~~ people and ^{they} left others buried under the debris of destroyed buildings. According to reports from London, the attacks were made without any visible plan, just a lot of haphazard bombings and machine-gunnings.

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CONSPIRACY.

The News has just come out about
~~There was~~ a Nazi conspiracy to make ^{a large scale} an invasion of Brazil. It was to have come off last September, but the authorities got wind of it.

all This came to light today at Porto Alegre, a large seaport in the South and the capital of the State of Rio Grande Do Sul, the southern-
the Brazilian state which
most state of that Republic; ~~It~~ is inhabited quite considerably by people of German origin. Until President Vargas declared war on the Axis, German schools and societies thrived in that state. There were even Nazis in the army. One sergeant wrote to his father in Europe that he had thirty germans in his company who would not hesitate to turn their machineguns on those who failed to follow them.

either, it is
This is no mare's nest, ~~but~~ an official report, ~~It was~~ made public today by the prosecutor of the Military Court at Porto Alegre, ~~He~~ ^{who has}
brought indictments against numerous people of german and italian origin charging them with conspiracy to promote a nazi invasion.

~~The conspiracy was headed by a lieutenant in the Brazilian Army, a lieutenant of german name and three ^{German} Lutheran clergymen. Part of the plan was to induce Brazilian soldiers to desert in case the Nazis invaded the country.~~

GANDHI

Tonight's news from India is that Mohandas Gandhi is fasting again. On the face of things, It is a trifle extraordinary that one man's diet can become international news. ^{But again his fasting} ~~But this fast of~~ Gandhi's is a political move. Gandhi himself is either a holy man, a mahatma, a great teacher or just a hard shrewd politician, depending on which side your sympathies lie. ^{And} ^{plenty of} You will find ^{people} ~~from~~ ^{out in} India, on both sides. Gandhi announced ^s that ^this fast will last three weeks and ~~that it~~ is an appeal to the ^{highest} ~~highest~~ tribunal for justice. The British Government ^{in turn} describes Gandhi's abstention from food as a form of political blackmail.

Gandhi, as you may or may not recall, is interned as a political prisoner. The Government offered to give him conditional freedom while he is fasting, but he declined. He wants unconditional freedom or nothing. But he is in no common jail. The British

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authorities have him in the Palace of His Highness, The Aga Khan ^{at Poona,} ~~at Puna,~~ a magnificent residence ^{in the delightful hill country} ~~back of Bombay,~~

Whichever side you are on, a fast by this extraordinary figure cannot be ignored. ~~If he were to continue it until he died, it would have tremendous political repercussions.~~

Sometime ago Gandhi wrote a letter to the Viceroy, saying that the British Government had wronged an innocent man. The viceroy replied, pointing out that owing to Gandhi's action, Violence had swept india, police officials burned alive, trains wrecked, and property destroyed. "And," added the Viceroy, "I wish I could feel that the heavy responsibility did not rest on you."

One feature of the Gandhi activities that some ^{or us fail to} ~~people do not~~ realize is that he by no means represents all ^{or anywhere near all} the people in Hindustan. In fact, those who disapprove of him most violently are people of his own country, ~~and color.~~

LUCE.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt evidently decided today that the argument between Congressman Clare Luce of Connecticut and Vice-President

Wallace was not a private fight. ^{Whereupon the First Lady} She jumped into it decidedly on the side of the Vice-President. ^{It appears she} ~~She~~ did not care for ^{Congressman} ~~Mrs. Luce's~~ ^{Clare Luce's remarks that Vice-Pres. Wallace's} ~~remark that Wallace's premature~~ declaration of peace aims was, as she put it, "globaloney." Mrs. Luce ^{was} ^{ing} referred to Wallace's demand ^{for} ~~for~~ ^{after-the-war} freedom of the air.

The Vice-President himself issued a reply which did not mention Mrs Luce. He said: "I am sure the Republican Party is not against either freedom of the seas or freedom of the air after the war is over." ^{And} he added : " I am sure the vast bulk of the Republicans do not want to stir up animosity against either our English or Russian allies at the present time."

^{Clare} Mrs Luce had urged that the leaders of this country ought to wait to find out ^{Uncle Joe} Stalin's position before they talked about freedom of the airways. Mrs Roosevelt's reply was that there is no reason to wait until we learned what ~~Josef~~ Stalin is thinking about. And she said: " We cannot see inside people's heads, we have to accept what they say." And she added : " Personally, ●

I think Mr Stalin has said a great deal." And she endorsed Wallace's remarks by saying: "I believe all nations should have free access to the traveled lanes of the world, ^{which would seem to} ~~whether they are land or sea.~~" ^{include sea, land and air.}

Mrs. Luce's maiden speech also had a repercussion in Britain.

There was a long debate in the House of Lords about Great Britain's position in the air after the war. His Grace, The Duke of Sutherland, showed himself quite alarmed over the development of Pan-American Airways. He said ^{the Duke:-} "The organization controlling such a powerful system of transport might perhaps become overpowerful in times of peace." And he added: "I am not in favor of aerial dictatorship whether national or international, for it might be too dangerous."

One thing is certain about Mrs. Luce's debut: not in a long long while has the maiden speech of any new Congressman attracted so much attention. The pulchritudinous Mrs Luce started with one strike against her, for she did not catch the speaker's eye until after a long, difficult and wearying day in the House. In spite of that, almost every representative stayed in his seat to hear her. And that of itself was most unusual. After she sat down, she was complimented by other members, particularly democratic

REACTION.

There is no objection on the part of Labor leaders to president Roosevelt's order, the order for a forty-eight hour week. On the contrary, the top bosses of the union world are all for it. William Green, Head of the American Federation of Labor, ^{today} said through a spokesman that he favored the forty-eight hour week. But he would be against any longer hours unless they were proved absolutely necessary. R.J. Thomas, President of the United Automobile Workers Union, was even more positive. The order, he said, should have been put into effect long ago. The Vice-President of the same union pronounced it a forward step which ought to help labor morale as well as advance war production.

Philip Murray, President of the C.I.O., said nothing for the time being, ^{except that he} wanted to study the order, whatever that means.

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One reaction in Washington was to point out that this order makes war manpower commissioner McNutt one of the most powerful officials in the Administration. And that, they say, is remarkable because only a few months ago he seemed to be on his way out. The President was proposing to make him Secretary of the Interior, which then would have been the equivalent of kicking him upstairs. But now, as Manpower Commissioner, he will have more control

2 reaction.

over the daily lives of ^{all} ~~any~~ of us than anybody else in history,
unless it be stabilization Director James F Byrnes and War Production
Chief Donald Nelson.

The belief in Washington today is that Mr. Roosevelt's order can
be made effective without the necessity of getting tough. However,
if need be, the Government will get tough, ^{so} said people in official
circles. But ^{that} it is doubtful whether there will be any need for
compulsion on either employers or employees.

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GUADACANAL-

Although the campaign of Guadalcanal is over our army in the Solomons still has the job of mopping up. Uncle Sam's men clinched their first big land victory by capturing a large amount of booty, equipment that the once powerful Japanese army on the island had to abandon.

One American column pushed through jungles and mountains to outflank the enemy. They reached a point within one mile of the Jap stronghold on Cape Esperance. It was there that the enemy landed most of their reinforcements and supplies. A second ^{American} ~~united~~ States column advanced along the coast and tightened the pincers on the few Jap stragglers who remain on Guadalcanal. It is not yet officially announced that our men have seized Cape Esperance, but it is considered probably in Washington. ~~The two American columns joined up at a place called Mt Titi, only five miles west of the Cape.~~

Meantime our air forces have executed raids at the enemy air bases at Munda, also on Kolombangara Island and one of the Russel Islands only sixty miles northwest of Guadalcanal. They started a big fire at Munda.

2 Guadalcanal-

From the Salamons

8
Today's dispatches included a little domestic incident which ought to be of interest to house wives. A shipment of canned goods fell into the surf while it was being landed. All the labels were washed from the cans. Things like that are not unknown within the peaceful confines of the home country, somewhat to the dismay of cooks and housekeepers.

You may want to know what did the mess sergeant do with those cans? he did what any house wife would do, he guessed. The result was that one company of doughboys ate ~~2~~ corn for five days in succession.

As a consequence, the Navy has made a new ruling which will probably be enforced in all canning factories. The contents of every can will be either embossed or printed on the can itself.

8 1/2
On the sea there has been what is described as a cat and ~~dog~~ mouse battle. We are not told much about it except that twenty Japanese destroyers from the ^{BuIn area were} ~~BuIn area were~~ steaming full speed for Guadalcanal. On their way they were intercepted by striking formations of the American air forces. The American planes attacked, sank two Japanese destroyers and possibly five others. Three of them were

3rd Guadalcanal

burning fiercely; and, that ^{is} ~~is~~ all we know ^{about it} so far.

9 And now from deep in the heart
of Quebec — s-l-u-t-morrow.