

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, JUNE 29, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Mersa Matruh is gone, and there is no longer any doubt about it. The Nazis hold the railroad, Britain's ^{*Eighth Army*} ~~General Ritchie~~ is on the retreat, and Rommel is but eighty miles from the gates of Alexandria. The Nazis even claim that the British are evacuating civilians and destroying all installations at their great naval base, ^{*the city*} first built by Alexander the Great.

The speed of Rommel's hammerhead blows has been utterly bewildering. ^{*7*} The fall of Mersa Matruh is reported to us just eight days after the capitulation

of Tobruk. The strategy of Marshal Rommel is quite obvious now. First of all, we heard that his desert tank columns, led by swarms of bombers, had by-passed

the main British base at Matruh. Now we learn that he forced the British desert defenses, encircled Matruh, and battered his way to the coast cutting the railroad to Alexandria. The British meanwhile were reporting only that wild battles were being fought south and southeast of Matruh. But American Correspondent Richard McMillan of the United Press filed a dispatch Sunday ^{stating} that the Axis Afrika Korps had pushed through the British defenses, and were driving to a point on the coast fifteen miles east of Matruh. ^{and} In the interim, the Nazis had captured the town of Galawa. ^W All ~~the~~ day Sunday Rommel's columns were advancing in swirling dust storms.

At Matrush, Rommel brought up his mechanized forces and those formidable self-propelling eighty-eight millimeter cannon. With these he cut down the British ^{and blasted} ~~and carved~~ his way into the sea base.

The news is all the more disheartening because after the fall of Tobruk we were told that it was at Mersa Matruh that the British would make their big stand. British observers reminded everybody that two years ago, Sir Archibald Wavell was forced back that far but stood before Mersa Matruh, stopped the Italians and drove them way back into Libya.

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What ^{has} happened ^{is} ~~was~~ just the opposite ~~of those~~ ~~consoling hopes~~. Apparently there was only a slight defense at Mersa Matruh. This is indicated by the fact that the Nazis claim to have captured only six thousand prisoners. The surrender of the place was not officially acknowledged. But the Cairo censor allowed dispatches to come ~~xxxxx~~ through reporting that the British had abandoned it, because the Eighth Army was not strong enough to dare the chances of a pitched battle.

We learn what is to us the rather surprising news that Rommel's columns outnumber General Ritchie's Army. Yet the Nazis and Italians have only a hundred thousand men. The unofficial explanation offered is that Rommel has larger and better tanks. And every dispatch mentions those eighty-eight millimeter cannon, motorized cannon capable of being driven at great speed.

It is assumed that Ritchie will try to make a stand at El Daba. That is only eighty miles away from Alexandria.

The word from Cairo is that British Commander-in-Chief Auchinleck has ordered a defense in depth, hoping to stop the on-rushing columns of Marshal Rommel by exhausting them. Auchinleck has reinforced Ritchie's army, but not enough to enable him to stand up toe to toe and slug it out with the Nazis.

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In London, the reaction ~~of~~ to this defeat, the second within eight days, has been staggering.

Reports from the banks of the Thames bring word that

it will make things tough for Prime Minister Winston

Churchill. *He will now have to face* He has to stand up in the House of Commons

and *perhaps meet* ~~meet one of~~ the most critical debates *of his career* in the entire

TP war. The fall of Tobruk aroused *the* a clamor that *Churchill* he should

at least give up the job of Minister of Defense. The

fall of Matruh will *undoubtedly* swell the numbers of his critics.

TP ~~most seriously,~~ *it seems* Churchill is determined not to give up

the Defense Ministry. London tonight is hoping that

the swift British withdrawal from Matruh will be

followed by an effective stand in the desert. Some

military ~~criticisms~~ *criticis* are expressing the

wishful thought that Rommel may have over-extended

himself, ~~xxxxxx~~ stretched his lines of supply too thin.

Tempers are high in London tonight; ^{and} ~~They~~ are reflected in an editorial of the LONDON TIMES, "the old thunderer," ^{which} ~~It~~ says: "Public opinion is prepared for uphill fighting in the present stage of the war, but not for ~~fixxx~~ faults and deficiencies, that it believes to have been preventable." The TIMES goes on to demand a complete and authoritative answer to specific questions. It wants to know why British troops, with all the resources of Britain and America, should have to take the field with equipment inferior to that of the enemy.

RUSSIA

Rommel's capture of Mersa Matruh is all the more significant, because it comes at the same time as Hitler's Russian offensive in the Kursk sector. No doubt about it, the Fuehrer is making good his threat of an all-out effort to get the Caucasian oilfields before winter comes. The Nazis are pressing on the entire eighteen hundred mile Russian line.

But there are now three spearheads, Kursk, Kharkov and Sevastopol. Moscow admits that they have made some progress. But the Russians claim ~~that~~ their enemies have failed to accomplish any major breach in their lines. ^{TP} The defenders of Sevastopol have beaten back attack after attack. In one sector their desperate onslaughts were thrown back by the marines of the Black Sea fleet. The Nazi tactics here have been to crash the Russian line in first one sector and then the other; never give them a rest.

The Nazis declare that they are now in the heart of the strongest innermost fortifications of Sevastopol.

FRANCE

~~Laval's~~ France, is in a state of ^{ferment,} ~~more and more~~
~~We hear today that~~
~~serious unrest.~~ It has grown so that, the Nazi

authorities have deported no fewer than eight thousand

persons from Lorraine; ~~They are being~~ deported ~~to~~ ^{them to}

Poland. Hitler's gauleiter in ^{Lorraine,} ~~that region,~~ explains

~~that~~ this is a punishment, a punishment of parents

because their sons fled to unoccupied France to avoid

being impressed into the German army or into labor

service for the Nazis.

More and more damage is reported in various
parts of France. Telephone and telegraph wires, ^{and} railroad
signal equipment ~~have been~~ destroyed. A railroad ~~was~~

blown up with dynamite. In reprisal, ~~for this,~~ the

Nazi military commander of Flanders has arrested and

~~and -~~
deported fifty hostages. If the guilty persons are

not arrested by July First, fifty more will be

deported.

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BISHOP

A dispatch from Stockholm gives us a picture of Hitler being defied in his own capital, defied by a Bishop. Yesterday was a festival for Roman Catholics in Berlin, the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the building of the Church of St. Hedwig. The sermon was delivered by the Bishop of Berlin, the Right Reverend Konrad von Preysing. As his name indicates, he is of as ancient and blue-blooded ancestry as any general-field-marshal in Hitler's Army. Nevertheless, preaching in the heart of the Prussian power, Bishop von Preysing used these words:- "The right which is rooted in God cannot be replaced by the right rooted in the state." And he added, "It is a fatal mistake to believe that the state is the highest revelation of Divinity." ^{And} That amounts to a direct defiance of the essence of the Nazi credo.

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That ^{is} dispatch ~~that~~ ^{and it} came through Stockholm brought further news that as Bishop von Preysing left the Church,

he was cheered by the crowd, which cried out, "Three
heils for our Bishop and three heils for the Pope!"
No heil for Hitler.

In the Netherlands, the Nazi occupation
authorities are making a deliberate drive to win the
Hollanders away from their own churches. They are
organizing a new sect called "The Order of Christ's
Witnesses." They announce that this will provide a
church for Christians who, they declare, have been
alienated by existing churches which are possessed
by a holy spirit that rejects the new national and ~~social~~
social order.

NAVY

Another successful raid by ~~sailors~~^{soldier} pilots of Uncle Sam! The Navy today gave out news of an attack carried out last Saturday on the Japanese at Wake Island. ~~It was the~~^{aw} first attack ~~we made~~ on Wake since February Twenty-Fourth, the day when a naval task force raided the island.

On that day our forces destroyed two enemy patrol boats, and three large seaplanes, besides damaging a lot of shore installations.

Unofficially, naval officers told newspapermen that they believe last Saturday's raid was more of a reconnaissance and nuisance affair, than a serious attack. At any rate, it came off according to schedule. Our bombers damaged the Jap airfields on Wake and destroyed other shore installations. ~~They all~~^{all planes} returned safely. Only one American bomber suffered minor damage. Enemy anti-aircraft and fighter defense was weak, said the Navy.

A later dispatch, which comes from Honolulu, declares that this attack on Wake, although it is described as a nuisance raid, has crippled the island as a base for air operations, at least temporarily. Incidentally, although the announcement was made by the Navy, the planes that carried out the operation were Army bombers.

CHINA

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From the Chinese ~~at least~~ we get news of a victory, "a crushing victory", they call it. Japanese troops are on the run, they say, in the Shansi-Honan sector. There the Chinese expelled the Japs from ~~the~~ Linhsien, an important invasion base. ^{TP} They also report to have ~~ing~~ killed ~~fifty~~ ^{five} thousand Japanese in bloody battles on the southeast slope of the Taihang Mountains. ^{TP} On all sectors, ^{in China,} the Mikado's armies are encountering ~~colossal~~ ^{guerilla} resistance.

CONSUMER

There ~~were~~ ^{by} grave prophecies in Washington about the grim prospects ahead ^{for} of the average civilian, ~~in the United States.~~ ^{That} If we are going to meet our objectives, the consumer will have to give up many of the things he would like to have. So said Donald Nelson, Chief of War Production, to a Committee of Congressmen. The outlook for the consumer, ^{said} he, ~~cried~~, is very bad.

^R He thinks, however, that we will have enough food and clothing. Also, we ~~do not~~ ^{not} need ~~to~~ be alarmed about shoes. We may not have all the footgear that we would like, ~~to~~ have, ~~and~~ all the kinds we would like to have, but we will have enough for necessities, even if we do not have much for luxury and comforts. ^R Civilians will not be able to build new homes; and they are not having enough rubber for pleasure driving. But Nelson confidently expects we will have enough for essential driving. He does ~~not~~ know exactly how, but, ^{he} ~~just~~ has faith, ^{he says.}

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There will be no new electrical refrigerators
nor as many kinds of stoves as people would like. We
may not even have as large a quantity of agricultural
machinery as we should. But Nelson, ^{today} told the Congressmen
^{that} he believes we will have all the essential things, but
^
very little of anything that is not absolutely essential.

RATIONING FOLLOW CONSUMER

One Congressman was excessively hot under the collar about rationing today. Senator Cotton Ed Smith of the Deep South told his colleagues that, as he put it, "this rationing business is an insult to the intelligence of the American people."

Cotton Ed is annoyed about sugar too. He said that, on the one hand, we are being rationed on the sweet stuff and on the other hand, wholesalers are protesting because all their warehouses are jammed and they have no more storage room. Cotton Ed then began to talk about his trousers. He has not taken the cuffs off; *but says* ~~yet, so~~ he is prepared to be taken before a firing squad at any moment.

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On the subject of gasoline, Senator Vandenberg of Michigan protested against a delay in building pipelines. He objects to division of authority in this matter. What we need, he declared, is concentration.

The Government does not need any more legislation to authorize it to build pipelines. ^{said he. Adding that} The President already has ^{has in fact} the authority and ~~he has~~ delegated that ^e power to Harold Ickes.

But Senator Bailey of North Carolina warned the Senate not to expect any relief for the east coast states in the next four or five months. Oil tankers are out of the question because we have no steel to build them with, and that barge canal across Florida cannot be constructed ^{in under} ~~inside~~ of fifteen months.

Leon Henderson told the Congressmen that fifteen more articles will have to be rationed before long, fifteen in addition to sugar, gasoline, motor cars, tires and typewriters. At this time he is not announcing what those articles are, as he wants to prevent people from rushing to the stores and stocking up on them.

RUBBER

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✓
Rubber collections have been a **great** disappointment. All the campaign had yielded up to Saturday night was a mere two hundred and nineteen thousand tons, far less than anybody expected. Many people said - and they all seem to have been guessing - that there must be a million, even several million tons lying around on dumps, in people's back yards and attics. Instead of that, [^] two hundred and nineteen thousand tons, [^] a pitiful percentage.

In consequence, President Roosevelt has announced that the campaign will be extended for another two weeks - up to midnight, July Tenth. This he did after consulting Secretary Harold Ickes of the Interior and William Boyd, Chairman of the War Council Petroleum Industry.

Ickes was telling this to reporters ^{at} ~~of~~ the [^] White House, when suddenly his eyes lit on an object

on the floor. It was the rubber mat at the entrance to the President's wing of the executive offices.

Ickes exploded and said, "By golly, there's a big one!"

He acted on the spot, walked over, rolled up the heavy rubber mat, and told his driver to put it in the back of his car to be taken to the nearest filling station.

5-8
Somebody quickly tattled on him, ~~and~~ told

Presidential Secretary Steve Early. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Early's reply was that there is no reason why it shouldn't go, and he was sure nobody ~~from~~ ^{at} the White House would object.

If Uncle Sam [^] contributes himself the rubber doormat from his President's front door, why shouldn't others?

Secretary Ickes attributes ~~those poor~~ ^{our scrap} rubber figures to hoarding, not only by the public but by some people in official life.

As it is, Uncle Sam's army will face a
shortage of two hundred and fifty thousand tons ~~by the~~
of rubber by the end of Nineteen Forty-Three. ^{Which} ~~That~~ does ^{at}
~~not~~ mean that soldiers will come along and requisition
the tires of civilians. ^{For, a} large percentage of the tires
on passenger cars would be of little or no use to the
Army.

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And now, Hugh, have
you anything ^{to add} along this line
— about saving rubber, or
gas, or anything?
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