

RUSSIA

L. J. Sunoco - Thurs. August 6, 1942

Comman

In the Russian war news, for weeks the story has been dominated by that number one geographical factor, the great bend of the Don. This is again the case today. So let's *review* ~~renew~~ the picture! - An immense area of flat plains, with the Don making a great bend to the East before flowing into the Black Sea.

Further ~~on~~ to the East is Stalingrad, Russia's industrial Pittsburgh, [^] on the all-important River Volga.

Then south of the river loop the great plains continue until they ^{approach the foothills} ~~come to the mountains~~ of the Caucasus, the great oil area.

[^] The two primary objectives of the German war machine are Stalingrad on the Volga to the East, and the ^{oil} mountains ~~and~~ with the oil fields, to the south.

Of recent days the big Nazi advances have been to the south. Having conquered the territory inside of the loop of the Don, they struck southward across the River and drove with rapid sweeping advances. These continued today. The Soviets admit that the Hitler war machine has pushed further on toward the mountains and the oil fields.

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The Germans ~~ix~~ claim the capture of an important railway center and picture their forces as having reached the Kuban River on the broad front -- and they say they have crossed the river. Axis radio sources intimate that the Nazis are now fighting at the approaches nearest to the oil field, ~~Maikop~~

Even more alarming, perhaps, is the fact that the Germans are striking toward their other objective -- to the East of the bend of the 'Don, Stalingrad and the Volga. Their eastern push is ^{now} threatening to outflank Stalingrad. However, the latest from Moscow states that relentless Soviet resistance has checked the Germans at that point -- has halted the drive against Stalingrad.

IX

In this sector the Red Army is fighting the harder because of the importance of ~~Russia's~~ Russia's Pittsburgh in Red Army history -- and the history of Stalin. In the ~~six~~ civil war ~~here~~ between the Reds and the Whites, when Lenin was founding the Soviet regime, the city was called Tsaritsin. It was a vital center for the Red Army, which was just being tempered in the trial of civil war. The new Soviets were

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threatened with utter defeat unless they held Tsaritsin against the Whites. Stalin ~~xx~~ went to the city, organized the resistance and won out. That was ~~xxxx~~ one of the first triumphs of his career, and Tsaritsin was later named after him, Stalingrad. So to the Red Army and Stalin there is an historic meaning to the city that they are defending.

The most ominous accounts of ^{the} war in Russia come from London. Today British commentators noted the opinion that in the ~~xxxx~~ Caucasus the usual stubbornness of Soviet defense is missing. The Red Army troops are not ~~xxxxxxx~~ standing with their usual relentless resolve. And the London commentators see a dark hint in a statement made today by Soviet Army newspaper -- Red Star. "It is clear," states Red Star, "that the sternest methods must be used to maintain discipline on this front". Meaning -- the Caucasus front. So it may be that cracking discipline might ^{be} account for the retreats.

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A later London story declares that the Russians are unable to stand up against the overwhelming odds of tanks and air power that the Germans are putting into the battle. The

British broadcast, speaking of the Soviet resistance in the Caucasus used these words: "continues to deteriorate".

And from Moscow we have an ~~un~~ unpromising bit of comment. A Soviet military expert states that the German successes can be attributed to -- air superiority. He says that whenever large masses of planes and work them in close the Nazis concentrate [^] cooperation with tanks and [^] infantry, they succeed in breaking the Russian lines.

London has some belief that the long German advances may be explained by Russian ~~xxx~~ strategy. It may be that Soviet Marshal Timoshenko is ~~is~~ conducting a planned retreat - in ~~pre~~ preparation for a counter-stroke. And word today was that the Red Army was bringing up its reserves -- reserves of troops and equipment that it is supposed to ~~xxxxx~~ have.

RUBBER

Today President Roosevelt wrote a veto, and announced the formation of a new committee -- all on the ticklish subject of rubber.

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The veto was applied to a congressional bill providing for a separate agency to deal with synthetic rubber made from alcohol -- as distinct from petroleum rubber. Alcohol, in turn, is made from such things as grain -- farm products -- which put the business in the realm of farm economics, farm prices. The agricultural group in Congress was all for it, and, to assist alcohol-rubber they put through a bill for a separate federal agency to handle it.

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The President's ~~obj~~ objection to this was well expressed in his veto message today. He concentrated on the fact that *the* synthetic rubber problem is handled by the War Production Board, and to establish a separate agency for alcohol-rubber would divide the authority.

The committee the President has appointed will study the entire synthetic rubber program. There has been plenty of criticism about the way the rubber situation has been handled.

First we failed to lay in supplies of natural rubber before the Japs conquered the rubber tree areas of Eastern ~~Aix~~ Asia, and since there has been much confusion about synthetic rubber.

There have been demands that the whole thing should be investigated.

And now the President appoints a three man board to do the investigating.

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The board is headed by Bernard Baruch, the veteran economist who ran the Woodrow ~~Wilson~~ war industries board during the previous war. The other two members are Dr. Conant, President of Harvard; and Dr. Compton, President of ~~the~~ Massachusetts Institute of Technology, ^a ~~he is the~~ famous scientist, *in fact a Nobel prize winner.*

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Bernard Baruch stated today that the committee has already made its plans and gone into action. He stated they won't hold public hearings. Why not? "Because," replied Bernard Baruch, "There will be eight hundred thousand people who will want to solve the rubber situation." No public hearings -- so it sounds like secret hearings. But no, not at all.

"I would not call these hearings secret," said Baruhh, "They will be private." So there is a difference -- between secret and private.

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Meanwhile we hear that a new Federal Agency may be established to deal with that other most necessary material -- steel. This follows the sensational revelations about the operations in the black market in steel. Meaning --violation of priorities. Today the War Rroduction Board stated that a new group may be established to exercise complete jurisdiction over the national steel supply.

QUEEN

Today was a busy one for a sixty-one year old woman, quiet and placid of manner, simply dressed -- rather old fashioned.

Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands addressed a joint session of Congress in Washington. This was according to the precedent set by other heads of nations recently in the United States -- Queen Wilhelmina being the first woman sovereign to address the Congress. She told the joint session that her kingdoms ~~and~~ aims are to recover its lost territories, the East Indies colonies seized by the Japs, and to join in post-war plans to prevent future wars.

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~~In~~ The Congressional ceremony complete, the queen next received a present. What kind of gift? A warship. This occurred at the Washington Navy yard along with a joint radio broadcast given by her majesty of ^{the Netherlands} ~~Holland~~ and President Roosevelt. The President pointed out the brave work that Dutch warships are ^d going, and thereupon presented the queen a lend-lease submarine chaser. And she proceeded to christen the vessel, giving it her own name,-- Queen Wilhelmina.

UNIONS

A sharp row has developed between the American Federation of Labor and the C.I.O. -- just as negotiations are about to begin for a reunion of those two labor organizations.

The trouble arises over the appointment of a committee of ~~American~~ ^{from this country} union leaders to discuss war cooperation with British labor.

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A.F. of L. President William Green is naming the Committee and he is making it one hundred percent A.F. of L. -- appointing no C.I.O. members. This was denounced yesterday in bitter fashion by C.I.O. President Philip Murray. He stated that the British Union leadership wanted the A.F. of L. to invite the C.I.O. to take part in the war cooperation talks. But A.F. of L. President Green turned thumbs down on that idea.

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Today Green reaffirmed his stand, saying that he will ~~appointing~~ appoint only Federation men. He explained that British labor recognizes the A.F. of L. as representing American Labor.

What effect will this row have on the negotiations to end the long conflict between the two factions of labor? Green said today that he thought it would have no effect at all -- negotiations to begin according to schedule in spite of the argument.

SPY TRIAL

Of late we have had reason to be aware that this nation has the benefit of some mighty efficient intelligence service -- by the F.B.I., for example, today we have a new illustration of this at the Hartford, Connecticut, spy trial. That's the case in which a Lutheran minister of Philadelphia faces charges of espionage -- the Reverend Kurt Molzahn.

He is accused of having collaborated with the former leader of the German-American Bund -- Kunze, big boss of the Bundists, who has pled guilty to charges of espionage. A witness today was Kunze's father. He is a church organist. Kunze senior was the organist at the church of the Reverend Kurt Molzahn, the defendant on trial.

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Drama in court developed today when the witness was confronted with information about a visit that he made to Germany in Nineteen thirty-nine. The Government prosecutor stated that Kunze, Sr., went to Germany on a free trip -- the expenses paid by a Nazi prppaganda agency. Climax of the journey occurred on September first, 1939, the day the Nazis began the war by invading Poland. On that day of historic evil, the elder Kunze entered the

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presence of Hitler. He was one of a group of sightseers from America, who were all taken to see the Nazi Fuehrer.

The church organist was amazed at the amount of ~~information~~ information the prosecutor recited. "I'm surprised where you get all that stuff," he said, and added, "It's pretty accurate."

The prosecutor's report included such details as the kind of food Kunze ate ~~was~~ while in Germany, the hours at which he ~~arose~~ arose in the morning -- and even what exercises he took.

TREASON

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ET

Today at Detroit Federal judge Arthur J. Tuttle, stated:
"The severity of the sentence will teach a lesson to every disloyal
citizen of the United States." The sentence -- which he imposed--
was death for treason.

The man thus condemned as a traitor was Max Stephan, a
Detroit restaurant keeper who helped an escaped Nazi prisoner of
war. A German born American citizen, Stephan gave shelter, money
and other assistance to Lieutenant Hans Peter Krug, who broke out
of prison camp in Canada and fled to the United States. Today
Judge Tuttle sentenced Stephan to be hanged on November thirteenth.

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This is the first Federal conviction for treason since
the whiskey rebellion of Seventeen eighty-one, that strange out-
break of post-Revolutionary War days in western Pennsylvania.
Then pardons were granted -- punishment called off.

~~The present case occurs in Michigan, a state without
Capital punishment. No death sentences are possible under state
law -- only federal law. The treason conviction of the Detroit
restaurant keeper is also under federal law, and would be executed
at the federal penitentiary in Michigan.~~

~~All these circumstances add to the dread severity of the action taken by the Federal Court today.~~ Judge Tuttle stated: "It is, of course, a dreadful thing to take human life. But we must remember that the offense of treason has to do with war, and we must remember that war has to do with death. The life ~~of~~ of this traitor, Max Stephan," he went on, "is less valuable than the lives of our loyal sons that are ~~being~~ being given to the cause of the United States."

The ~~XXXX~~ counsel for the defense announced that an appeal would be taken, ~~The case will go to the Supreme Court of the United States. That is the only recourse left to the convicted traitor -- save intervention by the President.~~

RIOT

Later news today clarified the series of stormy events that created turmoil and battle at Cambridge, Massachusetts early this morning. The town was in pandemonium for an hour and a half while fifteen hundred negroes tangled in a free-for-all among themselves.

The trouble began in the huge dance hall of the Elks building, which was jammed with merrymakers -- negro civilians and soldiers. It seems that a civilian and a soldier got into an argument about a girl, and they started swapping punches. In ~~brief~~ brief moments the whole place was in an uproar. Hundreds of men swinging at each other with fists, chairs, bottles, and razors. The smashing of bottles against the wall was like a bombardment -- and windows were kicked out.

A colored soldier was hurled from a balcony. He fell fifteen feet, head first among the battlers on the main floor. He landed smack on his head, and was trampled underfoot -- before he could get up and start fighting again.

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The pandemonium that emanated from the place brought the cops -- and plenty of them. Seventy-five policemen charged into the building -- plunging into the melee. After a pitched battle

they succeeded in driving the mob out into the streets -- but that only spread the hostilities. The gladiators just kept right on, swinging at each other up and down the block, groups of scrappers going to it all over the place. At least one hundred fights -- were going on at the same time, the police estimate.

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In the central square of Cambridge tear gas had to be used, when rioters tried to rescue fourteen prisoners who were being taken to the hoosegow.

Five hundred belligerents were hustled into street cars and buses and taken to the city limits -- and told to keep going. They were merry-makers who had trooped to Cambridge for the celebration that turned into a minor war.

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And now a major war news item from Hugh.