

L.T. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Sept. 23, 1941.

In Russia, a stupendous battle is raging east of Kiev, and this giant conflict is exceptional - on one particular point. We are given a pretty clear idea of what is going on. Hitherto, in this war waged behind the heaviest of censorship, we've been kept pretty much in the dark about the strategy of the clash of arms - had no real picture of the battle. But now, Berlin, London and Moscow alike flash information that enables us to form an idea of what's happening.

~~The military operations at the present moment are a final step of the huge encirclement which Berlin announced in~~  
Last week Berlin announced its victory news last week, the closing of an immense trap which was immediately followed by the capture of the City of Kiev. Tonight to the east of Kiev, a great part of Marshal Budenny's southern Soviet army lies encircled, ~~desperately trying to fight its way way.~~ London states that the Red Army commander was able to extricate part of his forces from the German pincers movement, but the remainder was surrounded by the driving columns of the blitz.

Today's London dispatch calls it - the Kiev-Poltava

pocket. And that gives us an idea of the magnitude of the trap - the encirclement extending all the way from Kiev to Poltava.

The distance between those places is two hundred miles.

Several days ago, Berlin announced that the encircled area was as big as the state of New Jersey, and London today would seem to

confirm that. Berlin ~~today~~ jubilantly describes the flanking operation as the greatest in history, the greatest area and the greatest number of men and masses of material <sup>ever</sup> surrounded.

Bigger than any of the previous traps the blitzkrieg has sprung in this war. Berlin claims that three hundred and eighty thousand prisoners have been taken already, and that the Red Army will have lost a million - by the time the battle of encirclement is over.

That battle is raging in full fury tonight, with the Germans driving into the pocket, seeking to cut the trapped forces into smaller groups and eliminate them one by one. The Nazi aim is to hold the encirclement and capture the trapped enemies, put them out of action, as soon as possible. The surrounded Russian soldiers are resisting bitterly, and Moscow is making <sup>a</sup> tremendous

attempt to relieve them.

London today tells us of a new drive to the north of Marshal Budenny's desperate army, by the huge Red war power of Marshal Timoshenko, who for weeks has been battering at the Germans in Smolensk, facing Moscow. But now Timoshenko has turned, ~~his back~~, shifted his battalions and is hurling them southward. In that way he's hitting at the northern edge of the Kiev-Poltava pocket. London is precise enough to give us the point at which the spearhead of the Soviet counter-attack is being thrust. It's at a place called Glukhov, which is a hundred and ten miles southeast of Smolensk and midway on a line from Bryansk to Kharkov. These names don't mean so much merely to mention, but a glance at the map will show that Timoshenko's smash is designed to break through the northern line of German encirclement.

<sup>TP</sup> London says that the counter-attack is driving through successfully, and if it should keep on succeeding - it would crash open a way for Budenny's hosts to escape. Repeatedly, this war has produced the phenomenon of an attempt to break a Nazi encirclement, but not one has made good thus far. No trapped force has been

relieved. And it remains to be seen how the present attempt will fare.

To the north, the Leningrad area, Moscow tells of - "three lost armies." Berlin claimed some days ago that these had been eliminated - armies that they had surrounded in the area of Lake Ilmen, a hundred and forty miles south of Moscow. But now the Red Army dispatch claims that the three lost armies are not only still fighting, but are threatening to flank the line of the blitz before Leningrad. The three lost armies were never completely trapped, says Moscow, and are battering the Germans with much success. They've inflicted fifty thousand casualties, we are told, and have suffered thirty thousand casualties of their own.

Moscow hears that Bulgaria has mobilized four hundred thousand men and that the Germans are rapidly putting the country in a state of readiness for war against Soviet Russia. Or - for a move against Turkey. Or both. A state of war between the Soviets and Bulgaria is described as a likely possibility at an early date.

In London, the Soviet Ambassador made an urgent appeal. He began by declaring that Hitler has lost three million men - or about

one-third of the German army. "The original Hitler plan has been upset," proclaimed Stalin's Ambassador Maisky.

50  
"The blitzkrieg has failed miserably." Nevertheless, the Red Army needs instant help, and a lot of it. The Soviet Ambassador gave warning that you can't count on the weather - you can't depend on that famous Russian Winter. "Many amateur strategists," he said, "talk glibly about the weather, and about General Winter and General Mud. That kind of complacency," he argued, "is very dangerous. With modern technique of war," he explained, "these factors have been considerably minimized." Then Ambassador Maisky made an epigram. "Perhaps by now General Winter has been reduced to a colonel, and General Mud to a major or a lieutenant."

He made the reminder that Soviet Russia has lost a great part of its industrial establishment, and that the Nazi invasion may conquer still more. "Therefore," said he, "it's up to Great Britain and the United States." They must, in his words, "step into the breach." They must do so with huge amounts of war materials - right away. ~~He told how the Red Army needs the cooperation of the freedom-loving nations, and spoke of the fate~~

of humanity. He made a special appeal to the United States,

*saying:—*

~~He said~~ "There has never been between America and the Soviet

Union any fundamental contradiction of interests. Our relations,"

he declared, "have always rested on the good neighbor principle."

In other words, things have always been palsy-walsy between

America and the Soviets.

LEND-LEASE

At today's congressional hearing on Lend-Lease, the first theme on the program was -- aid to the Soviets. A sub-committee of the House is considering the President's request for a second Lend-Lease appropriation - six billion dollars more. And the first witness today was Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Lend-Lease Administrator. He spoke of a move to write into the bill a provision that none of the money shall be used as aid to the Soviets - he argued against it. The Administration right now is giving help to the Red Army in its fight against Nazi Germany - but by other means than Lend-Lease. By direct loans of money, for example. Stettinius went on to say that if the new bill were to rule out Lend-Lease aid to the Soviets, it would tie the hands of the Administration - which wants to keep its hands perfectly free.

52  
The second witness was Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard, <sup>who</sup> ~~He~~ spoke of - aid to Britain. This - in the way of food, particularly. He said ~~that~~ <sup>have to</sup> America would <sup>^</sup> send one billion dollars' worth of food to the British Isles within five months, or Great Britain will lose the war. He told of the shortage in Britain, and added:- "The deficit has to be made up from this

country and Canada unless the British are to lose to Nazi Germany," said he. Canada is exporting all the foodstuffs that can be <sup>sent,</sup> ~~canned,~~ and so it's up to us to ~~ship~~ chip in with one billion dollars' worth in the next five months.



PINK STAR

Berlin today justified the sinking of the PINK STAR - that American owned ship under the Panamanian flag, which was torpedoed off Iceland. It was the first ship of that kind to be sunk since the President's order to shoot on sight.

53  
Berlin's justification was made with the qualification that Berlin really doesn't know anything about the PINK STAR. The Nazi Government has not been informed by any U-boat of an attack on any such craft, so we are told. An official Nazi spokesman declared today, however, that it was possible the PINK STAR was among other vessels sunk recently in U-boat assaults on convoys in Iceland<sup>ic</sup> waters. Yesterday, Berlin announced the sinking of thirteen merchantmen off Iceland. If the PINK STAR was one of these, said <sup>the</sup> Nazi spokesman today - its destruction was entirely justified. Because it happened in waters which Hitler has proclaimed to be a war zone.

All of which will certainly make no appeal to the American State Department since President Roosevelt <sup>has</sup> specifically refused to recognize that species of blockade zone which the Nazis have proclaimed.

ROOSEVELT

Here's the latest on the situation in the Atlantic.

President Roosevelt has just stated that the United States is probably going to arm its merchant vessels, - put guns on them to beat off Nazi attack. He revealed that the PINK STAR was armed, carried a gun. (He added that he didn't know how many other ships under the Panamanian flag were similarly equipped for defense.)

In saying that the United States is heading toward the arming of its merchant ships, the President indicated that there would be a move to change the Neutrality Law. ~~That law~~ <sup>which</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ forbids the arming of merchant vessels flying the American flag.

54

## NEUTRALITY

Secretary of the Navy Knox today called for a repeal of the Neutrality Law, and for an elimination of restrictions on sending American troops to fight abroad. He wants to remove the rule that there shall be no A.E.F. The Secretary made his ~~statements~~ statements at the launching of the new American battleship MASSACHUSETTS, a magnificent seventy-five million dollar giant. The MASSACHUSETTS slid down to the sea today at the old port of Quincy, amid all appropriate ceremony. ~~The giant was constructed~~ seven months ahead of schedule. Busy building - which was promptly continued. One minute and twenty-three seconds after the launching, the keel of a new ten thousand ton cruiser was laid on the shipbuilding ways which the MASSACHUSETTS had just vacated.

## MOVIES

Here is the story of what happened to Alice Faye and a dress she bought. The testimony developed in connection with a witness who had appeared earlier in the Washington Movie war propaganda investigation - Jimmy Fidler, the Hollywood radio commentator who holds forth on the doings of movieland, and whose wife speared Errol Flynn in the ear with a fork. Fidler ~~says~~ appearing before the Committee some days ago, testified that Hollywood movie producers had tried to purchase favorable comment on his program - through what this had to do with war propaganda wasn't any too clear.

Today, the previous Fidler testimony was attacked in a statement made by Harry Brand of Twentieth Century Fox. Brand stated that the trouble was because of women's clothes. "He approached me to use my influence with our stars to buy dresses from a gown shop in which he was allegedly interested," testified the Hollywood executive. He declared that Fidler induced movie star Alice Faye to buy a gown from the dress shop in question. And then came the most painful part of the story.

"The first time she wore the dress," declared Brand

"it fell apart - causing her much embarrassment and humiliation."

Well, that does suggest a mortifying scene -- beautiful Alice Faye sallies forth proudly in her new gown, and the dress falls apart - right on Hollywood Boulevard.

But what did it all have to do with war propaganda pictures? The falling apart of a new dress might cause war, but hardly of the international variety. Even the Nazis would hardly launch an invasion because of something like that.

Committee Member Senator McFarland made the following plaintive remark:- "Pretty soon," said he, "we'll find ourselves investigating the gown industry." And thereupon the Senator came sternly to the point. "The pictures are the best evidence," said he. "I think the Committee should see the pictures, not go asking everyone in the United States what they think of them."

And that went right to the heart of the matter. It is admitted that the members of the Committee investigating war propaganda in the movies haven't seen most of the pictures against which the propaganda charge is made. Furthermore, they don't show any wild eagerness to sit through the pictures -- and enjoy the

entertainment. I suppose they'd have to look at about a hundred of them; quite an ordeal. Just make them sit there and look at a hundred or so alleged propaganda pictures, and they'll wish they had never heard of Hollywood, let alone try to investigate it.

## HURRICANE

58

Tonight the wildest fury of the wind is blasting the coast of Texas. A tremendous hurricane blew raging from the gulf - somewhat to the west of the usual path of West Indian hurricanes. It hit just about the middle of the Texas coast, the great storm advancing on a seventy-five mile front. The center of the hurricane this afternoon was at Matagorda Bay, a considerable distance down the line from Galveston. The mouth of the Brazos River is not far off, and the wind piled the ocean into the Brazos, backing up the stream, causing wide areas of flood water. All along the coast tremendous hurricane seas are sweeping inland. The town of Freeport was evacuated by its six thousand inhabitants. Troops from army bases in that area are on the job - patrol and rescue. A great deal of ~~the~~ damage is reported, blasted buildings, flattened trees and ruined crops - as the ~~by~~ hurricane comes out of the Gulf and into Texas.

## HURRICANE

58

Tonight the wildest fury of the wind is blasting the coast of Texas. A tremendous hurricane blew raging from the gulf - somewhat to the west of the usual path of West Indian hurricanes. It hit just about the middle of the Texas coast, the great storm advancing on a seventy-five mile front. The center of the hurricane this afternoon was at Matagorda Bay, a considerable distance down the line from Galveston. The mouth of the Brazos River is not far off, and the wind piled the ocean into the Brazos, backing up the stream, causing wide areas of flood water. All along the coast tremendous hurricane seas are sweeping inland. The town of Freeport was evacuated by its six thousand inhabitants. Troops from army bases in that area are on the job - patrol and rescue. A great deal of ~~the~~ damage is reported, blasted buildings, flattened trees and ruined crops - as the ~~by~~ hurricane comes out of the Gulf and into Texas.



## ROBBERY

There's a particularly low kind of criminal called - the pant's robber. He's the kind of robber who compels a victim to take off his trousers, the idea being - that the victim in such condition of disapparel will not be able to dash down the street and give the alarm. It's a humiliating thing for a citizen to be forced to disrobe in such fashion, but when a bandit is pointing a gun at you - what can you do?

Today - Harold Osen of Boston would undoubtedly have done nothing, would have obeyed. Harold, who is thirty-eight years old, would probably have ~~obeyed~~ <sup>yielded to</sup> the command of the pant's robber - if it hadn't been for one thing. With Harold was the girl friend - and would he remove his trousers in her presence? No - bandit or no bandit. It would have been entirely too embarrassing to Harold - also ~~to~~ to the girl friend. So, instead, he made a lunge at the robber, tackled him. In the ensuing fight, the criminal escaped. Harold sustained some bruises and cut<sup>s</sup> on his face, but his trousers remained firmly in place, much to his relief and that of the girl friend. And here's Hugh James, pants