

INVASION

R.T. - Sunoco. Mon., Nov. 9, 1942.

10

~~The whole picture of the European theatre of war has changed over the weekend.~~ The United States invasion of north Africa so far is a complete success, ~~almost miraculous.~~ General Eisenhower's advance guard ^{is rolling} ~~is moving~~ towards Tunis at break-neck speed. At this moment, a constant stream of American reinforcements is being landed at Algier^{es} and other points on the north coast of Africa. ^{Now} ~~It is~~ landing in the teeth of desperate attacks from Nazi dive bombers. One contingent is even going ashore at Philippeville, which is only a hundred miles ^{this side} ~~west~~ of the Frontier of Tunisia.

President Roosevelt has sent a message to

Sidi Moncef Pasha, Bey of Tunis, through Admiral Esteva,

the French Resident General. To the Bey of Tunis, ^{the} ~~the~~

^{American President}

~~Roosevelt~~ said:- "The indomitable and massive American

armed forces which I am ^{dispatching} ~~dispatching~~ to north Africa in

collaboration with the forces of France, will cooperate

with you in the defense of your country. They and their Allies hope for the great privilege of passing through Tunisia, thus enabling them to accomplish their mission."

He said further: "Your people are victimized by the organized rapacity of the Germans and Italians, which has stripped the Tunisian population of the barest necessities of life."

~~To Admiral Esteva, the President said:- "Your own loyal efforts, my dear Admiral, to stem the tide of Axis infiltration in north Africa, are often in my thoughts." And he continued: "I have determined to support French and Tunisian resistance by the dispatch to north Africa of powerful armed forces."~~

The capture of Algiers, practically without bloodshed, has ~~been a masterstroke.~~ It put the American army in a commanding position. ^{Far} Our ^{now} forces have superb

military roads built by the French leading all the way to the city of Tunis and ^{to} the naval base of Bizerta.

Once they are in Tunis, they'll have other ^{splendid} roads along the coast as far as the frontier of Italian Tripolitania.

But the most immediate objective ~~&~~ of General Eisenhower is Bizerta, ^{the} strong French naval and air base which

will put our planes within easy striking distance of Sicily, Naples and all southern Italy. It will also

afford a strong naval base for our warships. TP Radio Vichy

was overheard ^{today} complaining that Algiers has fallen by treachery and that French flyers had refused to attack American convoys.

~~American forces are also spreading westward.~~

^{A late war}
~~A late War~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Department communique reports that

our regiments have penetrated a considerable distance to the rear of Oran on both sides of ^{that} city. Three out of four airfields in the Oran region are already

in American hands. The French resisted ~~them~~ stiffly at several points and ~~here~~ there were casualties.

The force ^{capturing} ~~assigned to capture~~ Oran is under the command of Major General Lloyd Fredendall. He reports that we took more than two thousand prisoners. ^{(TP News} ~~Reports~~ of American success ^{around Oran} came first from Axis radios.)

In Morocco, on the Atlantic coast, we had tougher going, but even there French resistance is melting.

Vichy reported at first that American troops, which had landed near Rabat, the ^{Moroccan} French capital, had been driven off. But a still later broadcast from Vichy admitted that the Americans under the command of Major ^{General} Patton had surrounded the strong harbor and air base at

~~xxxxxxx~~ Casablanca. They also landed fresh forces at half a dozen points in Morocco including Agadir, Mogador and Mahdia. Vichy admitted that all these places were on the verge of capitulating, if indeed

they are not already in our hands.

From French sources we also learned that a naval battle was fought off Casablanca. Allied warships were bombarding the port heavily; ^{and French warships} ~~French warships~~ ^{engaged them.} ~~engaged them and suffered heavy losses.~~ The official German news agency announced that the French fleet withdrew after suffering heavy losses. American dive bombers landed hits on ^{the} ~~a big~~ thirty-five thousand ton French battleship ^{Jean Bart} and four French submarines.

There is no definite news yet about the main French fleet, based at Toulon, ^{which} ~~it~~ includes three battleships. There has been speculation that Hitler would order it ~~to be~~ scuttled. There is also heavy betting that it will join the Axis forces. ^{TP} The Rome Radio made a naive admission in a broadcast to Bulgaria. The announcer said: "In many places in Africa, there is confusion."

DARLAN

One of the questions unanswered in the many stories today is the whereabouts of Admiral Darlan, Commander-in-Chief of all the armed forces of Vichy France. It is believed that our General Eisenhower may have captured him when he took Algieres. In fact, the suggestion comes from an Axis radio broadcast.

This is all the more curious, for it seems amazing that Darlan should thus have been taken by surprise. ~~The expedition ~~xx~~ has for a long time been no secret ~~to~~ by either the Germans or the Italians~~

^ You may recall that last Friday we heard ~~stories~~ from Spain about Allied ~~La Linea in Spain~~ of the huge concentration of warships, transports and planes near ~~at~~ Gibraltar. Considering the colossal scope of the preparations, the destination of our expeditionary forces was at least suspected by the Axis high command weeks ago. Hence the tour of inspection that Darlan made of all French ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

positions in Africa including Dakar. Hence also his declaration of last week that the French garrisons were ready for any thing.

It is even reported that

~~If he is at Algieres, the presumption is that~~

he dictated the request for an armistice and the surrender of the French African capital, although it was done nominally by General Juin, in command of the French Vichy forces in Algeria.

One guess is that General Eisenhower invited Admiral Darlan to get on the band wagon and throw in his lot with the Allies. Speculation goes that if he is in American hands, Eisenhower may ^{be giving} ~~have given~~ him time to make up his mind. Hence the lack of definite news about him.

~~On the other hand, it seems highly improbable~~

~~that Darlan, would even consider such a step. He~~

has been violently anti-British, a leader in the

movement to cooperate with Hitler. Also, it is known

that he has placed anti-British officers in command

at all key positions. However, ^{Darlan also} ~~he~~ hates Pierre Laval,

^{who displaced him in the} ~~who put his nose out of joint in the last shift of the~~

Pétain government a few months ago.

INVASION - 6

TP Here is confirming word
that

General Henri Giraud, who escaped from a
Nazi prison last spring, ^{is taking over} ~~will be in~~ command of all
Free French forces in Africa.

~~One point was made clear today. The American
occupation of Algeria and Morocco has already wiped out
Dakar as a threat to the Western Hemisphere. Even
without Tunisia, and it is obviously sure to fall before
long, the Vichy French forces at Dakar will be completely
isolated.~~

PLANES

~~Not the least exciting of the news is the official report that~~ American planes ^{under the} ~~under the~~ command of ~~Brigadier~~-General Jimmy Doolittle, are already operating from French airports in north Africa. ~~They~~ ~~are~~ Supporting the nut-cracker movement of American land and sea forces. A spokesman at Allied headquarters in London said that the landing fields were among the first places to be seized. Within a ~~very~~ short time our planes were using them, taking off on combat flights.

At the same time we hear that hundreds of American bombers are landing on African shores. ~~They~~ ~~were~~ Protecting the landing of additional troops. *And* They ~~also~~ took part in the great naval engagement off Casablanca.

There are at least twenty-five well built air bases not only along the coast of Algeria but also

along the littoral of Morocco. They are at intervals of a hundred and fifty miles, and will give General Doolittle's air squadrons complete coverage. Among other things, they will enable long range bombers and fighters to operate ^{against} Italian bases. They will also put an end to the long trials of the sorely harrassed defenders of the island of Malta. And they will protect all Allied shipping in the Mediterranean.

~~(Check up Doolittle's story)~~

DOOLITTLE - FOLLOW PLANES

The fact that ^{the} American air forces ~~in the~~
~~great African operation~~ are commanded by Brigadier
General James H. Doolittle brings to ^{another} a climax an
amazing career that has been so full of climaxes.
You might have thought that the Doolittle bombing of
Japan would have provided a full supply of glory
for the old-time speed and stunt flier who ~~had~~ made
a reputation in ~~the~~ years gone by.

I remember how on this program I said that it
was surprising and heartening that so magnificent an
assignment as the air raid on Tokyo should have been
given to one of the veterans who had done great deeds
in the era when aviation was in the making. Jimmy
Doolittle -- ~~who was~~ ^{to fly} who first ~~flew~~ across the United States
in less than a day, who three times set new trans-
continental speed records, who was the first to do
an outside loop, who made the first blind flight, and
who made headlines as a winner of air races.

I may remark here, by way of parenthesis,

that I've been told by military authorities in Washington that the heroism of the Doolittle bombing of Japan was even greater than the public knows. We think of it as one of the most brilliant of exploits, but we don't know the half of it. When the time comes for the military secrecy to be lifted, and the story of the Tokyo air raid to be told in full, we will be thrilled by new angles of breathless valor.

And now Brigadier-General James H. Doolittle commands our air forces in the mighty African offensive that promises such great things ~~for~~^{for} our side of this war. He is one of the greatest of airmen, not only as a breathtaking flier, but also as an aviation engineer, technologist, and strategist. So, with all the cheers for America's great offensive, let's add an extra cheer for the fact that our flying men over there are commanded by Jimmy Doolittle.

STRATEGY

Obviously, our expedition to Africa is the fruit of months of planning and preparation. According to a story that comes from London, it was entirely on the initiative of the United States, a plan first formulated in Washington. It was proposed shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor that plunged us into the war. One of the first contributions of our high command was the argument that the first thing to do was to make a thorough housecleaning in the Mediterranean. ^{TP} Allied resources had to be husbanded carefully since they were needed in so many parts of the globe. It was Americans who pointed out first that a large scale attack on Africa ^{should} ~~could~~ be undertaken long before any invasion of Belgium or France could be even attempted. They also argued that the invasion of Africa would soften up the Axis forces preliminary to ~~an~~ an attack on occupied Europe.

^{Further}
The Americans ~~also~~ pointed out that once the

Allies obtained control of the coast of north Africa, the way would be opened for an attack on Italy. *And, it* would ~~also~~ open up the Suez Canal and ease the strain on Allied shipping.

Once the general staffs of both countries were *on it,* agreed, Britain and the United States threw everything they could spare into the tremendous task of concentrating supplies and men for the expedition.

~~When the full story can be told, it will be tremendous.~~

The object of the invasion is not to take territory. ~~As an economic venture it would be worthless.~~

The idea is to open the door for a new fighting front and create a diversion which will help the Russians.

It is generally accepted that this will force Hitler *to take positive action which will weaken his the Nazi striking power in Russia.* ~~to do something,~~ Possibly he will have to occupy the

rest of France. ~~which will oblige him to withdraw~~

~~troops from the Russian front.~~ And he will probably be

forced to send divisions to Italy. ^{Some estimate} ~~That will weaken his~~
~~hold on western Europe.~~ *that it will take a million Germans*
to hold Italy.

Most important of all, however, is the
number of air bases and naval bases along the ~~Mediterranean~~
Mediterranean that will pass into the hands of the Allies.

As the President put it, the principal aim
is the ~~ixixix~~ elimination of the forces of evil from
north Africa.

HULL

Tonight we have no diplomatic relations with France. This does not mean we are at war with France. There is no question of that at present, said Secretary of State Hull today. Moreover, friendly relations are ~~xxx~~ broken off only with the Vichy Government, not with the French people, as both President Roosevelt and the Secretary of State emphatically pointed out.

The moment Marshal Petain announced the break, Mr. Hull ordered a passport made out for the Vichy Ambassador to Washington, and the passport was taken to the French Embassy by the chief of protocol of the State Department. At the same time, Secretary Hull announced that we are taking into protective custody all the Vichy French merchant vessels now in our ports -- of which there are not many.

Secretary Hull allowed himself to be directly

quoted, which he ^{seldom does,} ~~does only once in a blue moon.~~ The Vichy, ~~Government,~~ he said, had done its utmost to mislead the French people. ~~many months ago.~~ Then he used these words:- "I think not less than ninety-five per cent of the French people understand fully that the Laval government of Vichy has been the most willing puppet of Hitler and Hitler agents. The result is, the French people will be most grateful for our having come to the relief of French Africa, ^{It} ~~which~~ is the first and preliminary step in our plans to come to the relief of all enslaved peoples of Europe including France."

The French Consul at Boston, ~~was the first official connected with the Vichy Government to greet our invasion of French Africa with the equivalent of a cheer.~~ He sent his resignation to the French Ambassador early this morning, ~~and~~ ^Hhe announced that the American expedition was the first step in the liberation of France.

REACTION

The White House reported that President Roosevelt had received messages from all over this hemisphere congratulating him on the invasion of French North Africa. Many of them came from French people in this country. One ~~of them~~, for instance, ^{from} ~~was~~ the French Vice-Consul at San Francisco, another from Eve Curie, daughter of the famous radium scientists. Prime Minister MacKenzie King of Canada, the President of Peru, the President of Nicaragua, prominent people in Chile, ^{and} ^{many more,} sent telegrams.

There was a conference at the White House today ^{to} ^{which} the President summoned his top military advisors: - General ~~George~~ Marshall, Chief of Staff; ~~of the Army,~~ ~~and~~ Admiral ~~Ernest~~ King, Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet; ^{and} ^{the President's} ~~his~~ Admiral Leahy, ^{his} own Chief of Staff. As Leahy left the White House, he said to reporters: "It looks awfully good to me so far."

SOLOMONS FOLLOW NEW GUINEA

7
And Today we ~~also~~ have a delayed story of the first round of a hard naval battle for control of the waters around the Solomon ^{s.} ~~Islands.~~ ^{This} The first round was fought October Twenty-Sixth. A Jap striking force of nineteen ships, including carriers, dashed in to make what was obviously planned as a major thrust at Guadalcanal.

The enemy threw wave after wave of planes against our warships. ^{Allied} ~~our~~ anti-aircraft fire bagged forty Jap

aircraft and our ^{planes} fighters shot down twenty-five.

^{American} ~~our~~ casualties were few, ^{and} ~~our~~ damage light.

~~But our~~ Navy planes bombed two enemy carriers and severely damaged a Japanese battleship and one heavy cruiser. A latter communique reports that one ^{Jap} carrier was damaged heavily and another hit, ^{and} ~~that~~ ^{not} only the battleship but five Jap cruisers were damaged.

~~Altogether, more than a hundred Jap aircraft were destroyed, and probably fifty damaged. This battle~~

This battle

^ was fought a hundred miles north of the Santa Cruz

Islands and four hundred miles east of the Solomons.

~~The Jap force included two battleships, two carriers,~~

~~two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers and eleven~~

~~destroyers. After sustaining all that damage, the Japs~~

~~took to their heels.~~

NEW GUINEA

A communique from the headquarters of General Douglas MacArthur ^{says that} Allied ground forces ~~under his~~ ~~command~~ are advancing on Japan's chief base on the north shore of New Guinea ^{advancing} from two directions. The Americans, who were transported to the big island by ~~airplane, as announced on Saturday,~~ ^{plane, are moving in} ~~are advancing~~ from the sea, ^{and} the Australians are still fighting the Japs ~~at Ovak,~~ some fifty miles to the south of Buna.

At the same time, an Allied expedition has mopped up all the Japanese in the group of islands off the eastern tip of New Guinea. ~~They had heavy casualties~~ ^{We} ~~and~~ are now in control of ^{two islands called} Good Enough Ferguson and Norbandy. ~~Islands.~~