

P.J. - Sunoco. Friday, Feb. 12, 1943.

RUSSIA-

In Russia the Nazis are faced, not merely with another disaster, but with two disasters of major proportions. That's the picture given by a late bulletin from Moscow tonight. We are told that two huge forces of Germans are trapped, with lines of encirclement closing about them.

One - in the Donets Basin; ~~That is~~ the one-time great industrial area of the Ukraine to the North of Rostov. Moscow tonight announces the capture of a city with one of those unpronounceable names. Plenty of Russian names are jaw breakers, but this one is shattering. However, the Moscow bulletin mercifully translates it for us. It means, town of the Red Army. <sup>So</sup> The Red Army has captured the town of the Red Army. And Moscow tells us that this virtually completes the envelopment of the Donets Basin, <sup>with</sup> ~~there are~~ hundreds of thousands of German troops in that area, <sup>Facing</sup> ~~they face~~ the same doom as the Germans who <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ caught at Stalingrad.

The second new trap is south of Rostov. Moscow announces the capture of Krasnodar, a railroad junction of number one importance in the western Caucasus. In that area, a hundred and eighty five thousand Nazi troops are backed against the Black Sea, caught in a pocket which is constantly narrowing about them. The capture of Krasnodar makes

the encirclement a great deal tighter.

And, the Red Army is closing in on Rostov. Moscow announces that Soviet troops have stormed the town of Shakhty, which blocks the line of retreat from Rostov.

*That's*  
~~This is~~ the late news from Moscow, while earlier dispatches stated that heavy Soviet artillery was bombarding Kharkov, the great industrial centre and a key point of the German line. The Russians have pushed so close to the city that they <sup>now</sup> have it within artillery range.

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The Moscow news pictures today as one of the worst <sup>of all</sup> for the germans, the worst since their disaster at Stalingrad.

## SOVIET AIMS.

There is wide ~~spread~~ speculation about what the war aims of Soviet Russia may be. What will Stalin expect to get when Nazi Germany is defeated? an answer is given by an article printed in Moscow - an article written by a number one Russian official, Alexander Gorkin, Secretary of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. He states that the Red Army is fighting a patriotic war and does not aim to seize foreign lands or subjugate foreign people.

"The Red Army together with its allies," writes Gorkin, "Fights to destroy racial exclusiveness, fights for equality and <sup>the</sup> Sovereignty of nations, for liberation of enslaved peoples, and for the restoration of democratic rights."

This may be taken as a <sup>most</sup> significant Soviet declaration, <sup>— heartily</sup> in support of the general war aims of the United Nations.

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Here's an item that will interest all of RAF- us - but especially Johnny Fripp and his RCAF pals who are here with me at Mt. Tremblant.

The British Royal Air Force is mighty busy these days - raiding  
by day  
the Nazis in France, and sweeping far into Germany by night That's  
the R A F story for the past twenty-four hours. Swarms of those  
fast bombers called Mosquitos went winging across the channel today,  
after a huge raid was launched against the Nazi base at Wilhelmshaven  
last night. Two ton blockbusters created a huge devastation at the  
great German ship and submarine building port.

The London Air Ministry gives us a vivid description of a tremendous  
explosion on the ground. It was not the mere bursting of a bomb buster,  
Some great store of Nazi high explosive must have been touched off.

"The explosion," states a British pilot, "lit up the sky with a  
brilliant glow, which seemed to spread for miles under a cloud bank  
before it died away." A vast area of clouds, he added "was colored and  
for a few seconds the light was so brilliant it silhouetted the other  
bombers. I saw at least six of them between us and the clouds," *relates*  
~~relates~~ the R.A.F. war flyer, *And*, he adds, " I should think we must  
have touched off a <sup>huge</sup> store of mines or an arsenal or something pretty  
good."

NORTH AFRICA-

My Canadian friends who are sitting around me here in the CPR Railway station, in Quebec, ought to get a shock out of this item: -

We are so accustomed to consider North Africa a land of blistering desert that it sounded rather odd when we first heard about the allied offensive in Tunisia being held up because of rain, an incessant downpour from the sky turning the country into a morass. The oddity is doubled today, with a bulletin from allied headquarters stating that military action is being slowed down, not only by rain, but also by snow! We don't think of North Africa, with its burning sands, as a place for blizzards. Today's weather and war ~~story~~ story of snow is just another -- and a striking -- indication of how <sup>met</sup> Meteorology is handicapping allied military operations against the Nazis in Tunisia.

The only activity reported is in the air -- with General Doolittle's war planes blasting enemy targets at Sened. That place is the one that was captured some little while ago by American troops who then abandoned Sened. The land raid was designed to disorganize the Axis enemy in the sector of Sened, and the air raid reported today did some more disorganizing.

## ROMMEL

London seems to know nothing about the story that Nazi Field Marshall Rommel has been wounded in Tunisia. It had been reported that the one-time winner of battles in the desert was hit during an American air raid, and is in a hospital. London sources that would be in a position to know were queried today <sup>and</sup> they said they hadn't heard anything about Rommel being wounded.

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## FIGHTING FRENCH-

In the new North African political situation, a harmonizing move was made today by the Fighting French. They are turning loose some prisoners. These are French soldiers who supported Vichy and were captured by General De Gaulle's Fighting French at various places in Africa. One hundred of these Vichy supporters have been held in detention. Now, they are being released and sent to North Africa.

The De Gaulle people are doing this at the personal request of General Giraud, the French North African High ~~Commander~~ Commissioner. And the move is calculated to help in the tedious business of procuring an agreement between Giraud's North African administration and De Gaulle's Fighting French.

## BURMA.

In India, a group of Americans had an anniversary celebration today - this in addition to the observance of Lincoln's birthday. The Tenth United States Air Force is just one year old, ~~and~~ that sky fighting outfit <sup>which</sup> is the descendant of those flying tigers who made such a fabulous reputation earlier in the war. Just one year ago, the American volunteer group, which <sup>then</sup> was in the service of the Chinese Government, was taken into the United States Army - the Flying Tigers becoming the Tenth United States Air Force.

How did they celebrate the anniversary today? <sup>Oh,</sup> they just hit the Japs a little harder. They launched four air raids against the enemy in Burma. Two of the attacks were against Rangoon, that historic and much bombed city which is the number one war center for the Japs in Burma.

There is ground fighting in Burma too, with the Japs hitting at the British force that pushed into Burma. General Wavell's troops are now twenty five miles from the important port of Akyab. The Jap attacks were beaten off with heavy losses.

## SOLOMONS

Guadalcanal may be free of fighting, but Henderson Field remains the scene of that same old air activity - the launching of bombing raids against the Japs. Today's Navy Bulletin tells of still more sky assaults against Munda - that much bombed air base. And American warplanes hit <sup>that</sup> another enemy base <sup>with</sup> ~~that bears~~ the ~~mark~~ melodious south sea name of Kolombangara. Munda, in the New Georgie group, is a hundred and eighty miles northwest of Guadalcanal. Kolombangara is an island Ten miles north of Munda.

American forces captured Guadalcanal for the purpose of using it as an air base from which to hit the Japs day in and day out. And now, having completed their possession of the island, they are fulfilling that major purpose.

ALASKA and CANADA

Here is an item that will interest my Canadian friends who are sitting here with me at Mt. Tremblant tonight.

When the Japs occupied some of those small islands up in the Aleutians, there were Canadians who decided something should be done about it. So Canada has been helping Uncle Sam strengthen his Alaskan defenses - of which the Aleutian Islands are at the uttermost extreme. Well - a new angle of the war situation in the Aleutian Islands was given to us today. Father Bernard Hubbard, the Glacier Priest and veteran Alaskan explorer, has returned recently from the northern war area, and assures us that the American forces can retake Kiska Island from the Japs any time they want to.

But do they want to? There is at least one who doesn't, a bombing pilot. Here is his angle, with the Glacier Priest quoting the flyer as saying: "Don't

squawk about the Japs at Kiska. We like to go out and bomb them."

They like it so well that Kiska cannot become an important enemy submarine base. It has been bombed too often, says Father Hubbard. But the Japs are hanging ~~on~~ on out at Kiska, and for that empty privilege they are paying a heavy price, in ships and planes and men. Capt. Lovette, of our Navy Department, in describing it to me, called it a "rat trap" - where we are catching just about all the Japs who come there.

TAXES-

Here's a prediction from a Congressional leader that Congress *will*  
~~will pay~~ <sup>pass</sup> a pay-as-you-go tax bill and that this will embody —  
"forgiveness <sup>ness</sup> of taxes in some form" as the Congressional leader phrases *it*.  
*And that leader*  
~~is~~ <sup>is</sup> Joe Martin of Massachusetts, head of the republican  
minority <sup>Minority</sup> ~~Minority~~ in the House of Representatives. <sup>Martin</sup> ~~He~~ said today that it was  
too bad the tax question hasn't already been settled. "The people  
do not know where they stand - they are confused," he declared. And  
to this he added his prophecy of pay-as-you-go with some sort of  
forgiveness.

And, the American Legion adds its voice to the call for pay-as-  
you-go. ~~Reane Waring, National Commander of the Legion, telegraphed~~  
~~this view to chairman Doughton of the House Ways and Means Committee.~~  
~~The Legion Commander~~ <sup>He</sup> urged <sup>3</sup> that a pay-as-you-go program be enacted-  
without requiring people to pay more than one year of taxes at a  
time. No ~~double~~ doubling up.

RATIONING-

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Today Donald Nelson denied that we'll have clothes rationing in the near future. He had stated the same thing several days ago, but later was quoted as telling a Senate Committee that the rationing of clothing was near at hand. This, says Donald Nelson, was a misinterpretation. He told the Committee that we might have to resort to clothes rationing some time in the future - maybe toward the end of Nineteen Forty-Three or in Nineteen Forty-Four, but he hoped we would get by this whole year without it.

Having put us ~~to~~ rights about what he told the Senate Committee, Donald Nelson went on to say that no plans to ration clothing have even been considered by the War Production Board. He added that there is no sense whatever in the recent runs on clothing stores and <sup>he</sup> hoped that these would stop. ~~He said:~~ "Runs on stores are the surest way to bring on rationing," *said Donald Nelson.*

## COLLEGE SPORTS.

A bomb shell was tossed into the realm of College sports today - An order issued by the Army, ~~The~~ military and the Academic are *closely* ~~closed~~ allied during these wartime days. A large proportion of the students in college are sent by the army for specialized training. So intercollegiate sports were expected to depend largely on these army training students -- they to play in the intercollegiate games, especially football.

Today's bombshell consists of an order issued by Colonel Herman Beukmann, Director of the college training program. He announced that none of the army students will be permitted to take any part in college sports.

This means that players in games will be limited to civilian students. But, the draft calls <sup>all</sup> ~~the~~ lads over Eighteen; and, the only civilian students left are below that age or <sup>have</sup> ~~are~~ rejected by the Army.

~~That obviously is~~ <sup>leaving</sup> not such a good selection for college athletes <sup>from</sup> ~~those~~ <sup>and those TP</sup> under Eighteen or rejected. So the college world is asking -- what about the football season next fall ? ~~Answers~~ <sup>Answers</sup> were promptly given,

but, they are contradictory. Major John L. Griffith, Commissioner of the Western Conference states that the Big Ten <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ carry on - in

ROOSEVELT-

Today our War-Time President paid his homage to that other War-Time President -- Eighteen Sixty One to Eighteen Sixty Five, <sup>TP</sup> President and Mrs. Roosevelt went to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, where a Presidential wreath was placed at the foot of the Statue of Lincoln. As for Presidential business on this birthday of Lincoln, there was a white House news conference. That is -- a good deal of conference but mighty little news. The President had <sup>not</sup> much to say about the course of world events, and took up the subject of - short snorters. You know what that is - anybody who has flown across the ocean is a short snorter. And when he makes his first crossing, everybody in the plane autographs a dollar bill for him. Thereafter he must be ready to produce that dollar bill any moment. When he is challenged by another short snorter to do so and fails, he must pay the sum of one dollar to each short snorter present at the time.

By virtue of his across-the-ocean flight to the Casablanca Conference, President Roosevelt became a short snorter. And you'd suppose that other members of the fraternity might be hesitant in challenging the president of the United States, the Nation's leader

in the war. Not at all, no, hesitancy. The short snorters are not a timid breed.

How often <sup>is</sup> the President challenged? Eight to Ten times a day - he told his press conference. ~~We may assume that some of those challenges are made by the first lady, who became a short snorter when she flew to London.~~ How often has the President been caught? how many dollar bills has he had to shell out? not a one. He takes good care to have that autographed bill with him, and promptly

produces it - Eight or Ten times a day. *Perhaps even to the First lady, who <sup>is a</sup> ~~is a~~ <sup>snort snorter</sup> ~~short snorter~~ - - - since she flew to London.*

MOTORIST.

*— this will interest you, JOE Ryan —*  
Today in Philadelphia a motorist was found not guilty of

pleasure driving, when he presented a defense in poetry. His car was parked outside of a tavern and that raised the supposition of pleasure driving -- Taverns not being painful places exactly. His defense given to the Ration Board today rhymed as follows :

"I have no cook, I have no wife;

"I cant cook a meal to save my life.

"I'm not a horse, I can't eat hay,

"So I go to restaurants once a day.

"To the good old tavern I went for meat.

"Since when is it called a crime to eat?"

The ~~in~~ gasoline ration board, after deliberating on that sonnet said -  
not guilty, which is an indication of the persuasive power of poetry.

*And s-l-u- Monday*