

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, OCT. 6, 1943

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY;

Here is a late Navy bulletin telling about operations off the Solomon Island of Guadalcanal. It tells of enemy planes shot down and a Jap warship bombed.

The part about the planes reads as follows:

"A small group of Japanese bombers, preceded by about thirty Japanese fighters, attempted to raid U.S. installations on Guadalcanal. Anti-aircraft batteries shot down two enemy fighters, while nine more of the attacking Zeros were shot down by seven Navy wild-cat fighters."

As for our sky attack on the warship, the Navy says this:- "During the night of October Third and Fourth, Navy and Marine Corps dive bombers attacked an enemy heavy cruiser.

At least one hit was scored. Shortly after daybreak a group of Navy and Marine Corps torpedo

bombers scored two torpedo hits on the cruiser -- which was still smoking as a result of the previous bomb hits."

The Navy communique says there is little ground fighting at Guadalcanal, though the Japs continue to land small detachments of troops under cover of darkness.

ALEUTIANS

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Up in the Aleutian Islands, there is an American war flyer who has been given an ill-sounding nickname. They call him - "Stingy." And that sounds like penurious, pinch-penny, miserly, ~~tidewada~~, cheap-skate. Not many of us would want to be called - Stingy. So let us see what Lieutenant A.T. Rice of Alhambra, California, has done to deserve the close-fisted nickname. ^{TR} He is, for one thing, the first American fighter pilot in the Aleutians to bring down two Japanese planes in a single raid. And in doing so, he was ^{mighty} frugal with his ammunition, not at all generous or lavish with the shells of his gun. So, that is why they call him "Stingy."

A squadron of American fighters went on a strafing mission against ~~the Japs at~~ Kiska Island, and they shot up the Japs considerably. On the way back, two Jap Zeros attacked Stingy Rice. He had only five

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rounds of ammunition left, and he used four of the shells to shoot down one of the Zeros. The other enemy plane swung to the attack, and Stingy Rice brought this one down, with one round - his last remaining shell. So he is just about the stingiest guy in the world, when it comes to spending ammunition in bringing down Japs.

BATTLESHIP

There is absolutely no confirmation of the Italian claim that an American battleship has been sunk. The Fascist boast is that an Italian submarine torpedoed the battleship MISSISSIPPI, or another battleship of the MISSISSIPPI class -- off the coast of South Africa. The War Department in Washington refused any comment on this enemy claim.

Well, this is the second time Rome has claimed to have sunk an American battleship.

RUSSIA

A new Soviet drive in the Battle of Stalingrad pictures an interesting military situation. The German position is like a wedge thrust forward into the great city on the Volga. And this wedge has pushed to the river ^{from} ~~on~~ both sides of the city, north and south.

So obviously, if the Soviets could drive along the bank of the Volga - cutting through a section of the wedge that has been thrust to the river, they could cut their way into Stalingrad, and form new forces there. As it stands, the Red army can only get to Stalingrad by boat across the Volga, and that ^{'s} ~~is~~ difficult and dubious, with the river under German Cannon fire.

The strategy outlined is that which the Soviets are now putting into effect. They are driving down on the Volga from the north, and are smashing at the northern section of the German wedge. And they

are advancing, with the Nazis making desperate efforts to stop them - using paratroops and swarms of snipers.

And, at the same time, they are redoubling their assaults against the battered ruins of the city itself.

Moscow says the German command is hurling as many as twenty assaults a day against the defenders of

Stalingrad - who sometimes are forced back a little ~~but~~ ^{but}

^{who} ~~but~~ cling like grim death to their strongholds in ~~the~~ bombed and blasted buildings.

SECOND FRONT

In London, Prime Minister Churchill today refused to discuss the Stalin demand for a second front.

The question was put to him in Parliament - What had he to say about Stalin's letter to Henry C. Cassidy,

Chief of the Moscow Bureau of the Associated Press, *? That*

was

the letter in which the Russian war leader called upon the British and the Americans to fulfill, as Stalin said - "their obligations fully and on time."

To the question, Churchill replied:- "I have, of course, read and considered the statement referred to - and we are quite clear that no statement from His Majesty's government is called for at the present time further than those that have already been given on this subject."

And Churchill warned the House of Commons, saying - "not to press these matters unduly."

A Labor member put up some further argument,

saying that the second front ^{controversy} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ might injure ^{the} British armament industry. He said:- "Does the Prime Minister realize, the most serious effect on war production that may happen if the feeling grows that there is any misunderstanding between the Soviet Union and ourselves?"

To which Churchill responded:- "I have nothing to add to the statement I have just made."

These rather tense proceedings in the London Parliament indicate the increasing strain in the second front argument. ^{TP} And here is another flash of news, bearing importantly on this. In Moscow, the American Ambassador, Admiral Standley, announces that he had a conference with Soviet Premier Stalin today, and that he, ^{our Ambassador,} will soon leave for the United States.

He said he was starting for Washington within the next few days to report personally to the President about

closer Russian-American cooperation -- "ways and means," said the Ambassador, "of coordinating to the utmost the war efforts of the United States and the Soviet Union."

NAZIS

To the Nazis, a second front appears to be an imminent possibility - they are afraid it may happen at any time. This is apparent from an order issued by the German military authorities in Norway. They have ordered an invasion alert on the entire Norwegian coast - German troops told to be in readiness for a British-American blow.

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And, at the same time, the Germans are taking new and elaborate measures against anti-Nazi action by the conquered Norwegians. The occupation forces are apprehensive of a Norwegian revolt, and have rushed reinforcements to the area of Trondheim to suppress an outbreak. Tonight, steel helmeted Nazi troops are patrolling the port of Trondheim with fixed bayonets. This follows the discovery of a big sabotage plot, Norwegian patriots planning secret action to disrupt the German supply system.

Even in Denmark, the Germans are having difficulties - in Denmark which made no resistance to Nazi invasion. The Danish Parliament has met to discuss what the news dispatch calls - "a dangerous crisis" in Danish-German relations. Denmark is waiting apprehensively, and the indications are that the Nazis are prepared to impose a harsh and ruthless rule - on the nation that did not resist.

From France we hear of a dramatic protest against conscription of French labor for war plants in Nazi Germany. This occurred at the great Renault factory in Paris, where tanks for the panzer divisions are built and repaired. We hear that there last Friday the many thousands of workers went on strike, put down their tools and refused to work. This they did to protest against the labor schemes hatched by Nazis and French collaborationists - the program of exporting

French workers to Germany, slave labor.

The Nazi handling of the strike was ruthless. They did it the hostage way, threatening to shoot fifty of the strikers. The Germany military authorities gave this ultimatum to the Renault workers:- "If the strike does not end immediately, we will pick fifty hostages - and shoot them in the factory yard." And this menace was enforced by machine guns, aimed and ready.

The strikers went back to work at once.

WILLKIE

Wendell Willkie came forth with another declaration today. The last time he had a headline thing to say was in Moscow, where he trumpeted the Soviet demand for a second front. And now, our Nineteen Forty Republican candidate, ~~is in China, at Chungking,~~ today ~~he~~ broadcast^s a proclamation to the Chinese people. *At Chungking today he* stated that, after the war, all Asiatic nations must be completely independent.

The Willkie pronouncement was in these words:-

"The time of colonial empires is over," said he.

"It is the United States duty to see that China gets planes and supplies. But," he added, "it is even ^{more} the United States duty to see to it that Asia's nations, after the war, will be completely independent, with ~~xxx~~ governments of their own choice."

I wonder what the repercussion to that will be! Perhaps ^{the} colonial empires whose time is over, may not like it.

PRESIDENT'S TRIP

Talk emanating from the White House gives us a few interesting sidelights on the President's recent tour of American war industries -- that secret trip which has caused a good deal of discussion. Here is one distinction. The tour was made by Franklin D. Roosevelt, not as President, but as Commander-in-Chief, of the armed forces of the United States.

If he had journeyed as President, he would have had to meet the leaders of state and local politics -- and regional chieftains of the Democratic Party. But this code of proper presidential manners does not apply to the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

Instead of meeting a lot of political big-wigs he was able to employ the time in talks with plant managers, foremen, and workers. In consequence of which, he learned a lot more about war production.

And something of the same sort of reasoning is applied to the considerably debated question of --

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secrecy. Newspapers and radio accepted a voluntary censorship, and made no mention of the presidential tour, and many are arguing that the secrecy was excessive. Hundreds of thousands of people knew about the President's being in this city or that, for hosts of the people saw him. And many wondered why newspapers and news boradcasts said nothing about it. It seemed like a strange omission, and some papers were actually accused of being anti-Roosevelt and out of bias suppressing the news of the President's visit.

The White House argument against that is said to be two fold. First-- security. Secrecy protecting the chief of thenation in war time. The other angle is that, if the President's trip had been made public, while he was on the go, huge crowds would have thronged to see him. And the President would have had less time at the war plants -- learning at first hand about the making of armament.

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This afternoon the President announced that he was going to make a nationwide radio speech within a week or ten days. One subject will be his inspection tour, and what he learned about American war production. Also a discussion of the new program of freezing wages and prices.

WAGES

From Washington we have some clarification of the restrictions imposed -- on salaries and wages. A strict distinction is drawn between the two. Salaries are earnings paid by the week, month, or year.

Wages are paid on a basis of hours.

The difference between the two forms of remuneration is important, when you consider the following wages cannot be increased, except with an okay from the government. No employer is permitted to boost the earnings of workers who are paid by the hours, without first getting official approval ~~for~~ from the War Labor Board.

In the case of salaries, some cannot be raised without an official okay, and some can. No salary of five thousand a year or more can be increased without the approval of the Office of the Economic Director -- former Supreme Court Justice Byrnes.

As for salaries under five thousand dollars

a year -- they can be boosted without any official sanction -- by individual bargaining between employer and employee. And this means -- individual. It does not apply to salaries that are on a union basis. In other words, if an employee makes less than five thousand a year, and if his pay is not determined by a union rate -- this his salary can be increased without an official okay.

Today a call for prohibition was issued by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. The W.C.T.U., in convention at Birmingham, Alabama, demands a new dry era as a war measure. Today's resolution reads:-

"We hereby call upon the President of the United States and Congress to prohibit - as an essential war measure - the manufacture, sale, transportation, importation, and exportation of all alcoholic liquors for beverage purposes, in order to help win the war."

Could this be the beginning of an effective drive to establish prohibition in this war, as in the last? I wonder.

DIVORCE

Today a famous musician sued his wife for divorce - and let ^s~~us~~ see the charge he made against her.

The famous musician is Sir Thomas Beecham, conductor of the Seattle Symphony Orchestra. He is the ^{eminent}~~famous~~ English maestro, ^{who}~~and~~ makes the music soulful with violen, trombone ^{and timpani.}~~and~~ bassoon, Sir Thomas Beecham charges his wife with

the following offense - "constant harping and adverse criticism", ~~says he~~

I suppose the maestro did ^{not} mind the criticism, but the harping was altogether too musical. Maybe the famous conductor does not like music. Anyway, the maestro's wife kept on harping, and maybe she did some trumpeting now and then, and perhaps ^{she}~~she~~ drummed it in, and then fiddled aróund, after horning in with a sharp or flat remark. All of which would snap the holy bonds, if not bang, ^{do,} of matrimony.

9 And s-l-u-t-m.