

RUSSIA

P.J. - Lenocho. Monday, Nov. 30, 1942.

The most dramatic Russian news today comes from the north. Units of the Red army are reported to have fought their way to within sixty miles of the border of Latvia. ^{And} That puts them west of ~~an~~ ^{the} important railroad junction, ~~of Belakieluki~~ ^{Velikie Luki}. Railroad connections have been cut there, and it looks as though the Russians might be in a position to isolate the Germans ^{at the city of Rzhev} ~~not only in~~ ^{Velikie Luki} ~~Belakieluki but also in Rzhev.~~

In the south, ^A Around Stalingrad, Timoshenko's army has made new holes in Hitler's defense lines, — ^{with Red} ~~the~~ infantry marching as fast as it can to overtake the spearhead of Red tanks. The Russians now threaten the encirclement of the German salient running northeast from Smolensk to Rzhev.

^{And A} ~~The~~ third big Russian offensive is ready to break loose. This we hear from German sources. The Nazis report they have spotted a huge concentration of

Soviet forces around Voronezh, midway between
Stalingrad and Moscow, ^{where} They have massed great forces
of tanks and infantry. ^{And} ~~there~~ We may judge that these

Nazi reports are correct, because they are just like
~~the German reports that~~ ^{those which} preceded the attack on the

Rzhev salient. The Germans ^{today} are throwing strong air
forces into the central front in an attempt to beat

back the Russian offensive. But, according to dispatches
from Moscow, the Russians ^{kept the upper hand,} ~~drove them back~~. Evidently

Stalin has recently acquired greater strength in the
air, thanks to the number of planes Hitler has had to
draw off for the African campaign.

The Germans complain they are being hampered
by the beginning of winter. ~~But~~ the Russians ^{are forging} ~~apparently~~
~~fighting~~ ahead in the teeth of the blizzard.

^{To the} ~~Down~~ south, the Russians have made another
crossing of the River Don, thirty-five miles northeast

of Kalach. ^{They} They broke through ~~the~~ fortifications, ^{that} the
Nazis built on the east bank, ^{then the Reds re-} and occupied two important
towns, both of them ~~typic~~ pivocal points in the German
defense line.

In the last five days, the Russians have
killed twenty thousand Germans in the Stalingrad
salient alone. ~~They pushed ahead from four to six~~
^{So says} ~~miles yesterday. That is what Moscow, says.~~

ITALY

Italy today seethes ^{in fact} with unrest, with actual ^{at any rate} outbreaks of military mutiny. So we hear ~~through~~ ^{from} ~~reports from~~ neutral sources, ~~such as~~ ^{For instance,} ~~Berne,~~ ^{mainly} ~~the capital of~~ Switzerland. Correspondents there have stories from Rome that Italian forces are being ~~withdrew~~ withdrawn from Tunisia and Tripoli. ^{also} One paper ^{also} reports that many Italians have been arrested as a result of a discovery of a plot to overthrow Mussolini and ~~to~~ restore King Victor Emanuel to power. ^{And -} There are ~~even~~ circumstantial details. It is claimed that Marshal Badoglio is among those arrested, together with a former chief of the air staff and two thousand other Fascist military officials. ~~And it is rumored that~~ Marshal Graziani, former Commander-in-Chief of the

Italian army in North Africa, escaped to avoid arrest.

So runs the tale.

[^] ~~A~~ London newspaper claims to know that seventy

thousand more Gestapo agents have been sent to Italy

from Germany. ^{Which} ~~That~~ would make a total of a hundred thousand ^(Nazi) secret police and spies in the peninsula in addition to three hundred thousand German troops.

All this purports to be an immediate consequence of the crashing Royal Air Force raids on Turin and the radio broadcast yesterday by Winston Churchill, ^{— plus the American invasion} ~~That~~ ^{Churchill} speech was rebroadcast in Italian, not once but several times, particularly the part in which he invited the Italians to throw Mussolini over and make peace.

49
Against this, we must set the fact that ^{in other countries} ~~hitherto~~ the bombing of cities has not ^{completely} destroyed civilian morale. ^{Far from it. In fact} ~~On the contrary~~ it has, if anything, strengthened it. It ~~has~~ had that effect during the war in Spain. It ~~has~~ had that effect in Albania, in Greece, China and, ^{enormously so} ~~most especially~~ in England.

^{But,} ~~Of course~~ in Italy there are other contributing circumstances; ^{mainly a lack of enthusiasm for the war}

North Africa

H However, London believes that Hitler would not let

Mussolini back out of the war even though Italian

H troops quit fighting on every front. The Fascist high

today makes command ~~made~~ light of the results in Turin *from these* ~~of the~~ big

British eight thousand pound triple block busters.

No important damage ~~was~~ done, ~~said~~ the Fascists, though fifteen persons were killed and twenty-two wounded.

~~Of course that is extreme enough to be ridiculous~~

But ~~ridiculous, because the~~ Royal Air Force pilots on their

return to Turin saw ~~xx~~ with their own eyes the *vast* fires

that had been started.

today
Secretary of State Hull ^o was asked about

those reports of insubordination in Italy. He said

he had not studied the information received by the

State Department but he would not be surprised if

there were some truth in it.

AFRICA

The American and British army ^{ies are} ~~is~~ closing in gradually but surely on Tunis. Last night we heard the good news that the Allies have already cut off the Tunisian capital ^{— cut it off} from the big air base at Bizerte.

Tonight we learn that a British ^{battalion} ~~XXXXXXX~~ of paratroops ~~was~~ dropped down from aloft and captured an ~~important~~

Axis airdrome considerably east of the Allied army,

Evidently ^{a flying field of} ~~that is of the~~ utmost importance. It is

hinted that this may be the main Tunis airdrome which

is on the outskirts of the city itself. ^{And,} The Germans

did not defend it. We ~~do not~~ ^{Germans} know whether they occupied

it and abandoned it, or whether it had been entrusted to

Italian soldiers who left at the approach of the

Allies. ^R Radio Morocco reported ^S ~~ed~~ that five hundred and

seventy Italian troops ^{did} ~~had~~ mutinied. ^{That} ~~It~~ was in

eastern Tunisia ^{where} ~~that~~ the Italians were charged with the

principal work of defense. The men who mutinied were

arrested and sent to concentration camps in Italy.

~~However,~~ The Allies have not yet broken through to the east coast. ~~But~~ They are moving slowly because they have to proceed over ground heavily sewn with minefields by the Germans. These minefields have to be deloused, as the military call it, by engineers, before tanks and infantry can cross them. All ^{of which} ~~this delousing~~ has to be done under heavy strafing from Axis airplanes.

51
Officers report that the Germans are making a skillful and well planned defense. Every bridge and every road is defended by machineguns as well as mines. The Nazis are using both light and medium tanks.

The Allied advance guard was reported to be now east of Djedeida, ~~That is~~ less than ten miles from Tunis itself.

Allied forces are shelling Tunis, evidently from the sea. That much we learn from the Paris radio,

controlled by the Nazis. They also report heavy fighting near Bizerte. We have no details of the Battle of Bizerte, but it is understood among the news gatherers in Morocco that it is going at least as well as the attack on Tunis.

The Allied front now runs from the north coast of Tunisia just east of Tabarca near the Algerian frontier, past Djedeida, to a point near the coast southeast of Tunis.

EGYPT

We hear today
that The Italian port of Tripoli was attacked by
British and American bombers on Saturday night in
the biggest raid yet. *One that* ~~It~~ lasted twelve hours. Bombers
of the ~~Royal Air Force~~ dropped tons upon tons of
bombs on the harbor installations and the shipping
in the harbor. *also* They scored many direct hits including
one on the electric power plant. After the Royal Air
Force got through the ~~United States Army Air Force~~
followed up, *with two devastating* ~~And they made two~~ daylight raids

SINKINGS

The German high command claims to have sunk or damaged ninety-nine British-American transports and forty-three warships. Axis planes and submarines did that much damage to the invasion fleet carrying troops to North Africa, ^{— so they say,} All this happened ^{ing} between November Seventh and November Twenty-Fifth. Such is the communique issued in Berlin today. The Nazis boast of having destroyed altogether six hundred and sixty-three thousand tons of merchant vessels. And they claim the naval losses of the British and Americans included five cruisers and five destroyers. They also profess to have destroyed important supplies in ~~the~~ North African ports as well as big damage to harbor installations and heavy fires. ^{That's Dr. Goebbels'} ~~All this is the story~~ ^{story - on which Washington today} ~~of the Nazi high command. Our own high command~~ makes no comment.

SUBMARINE

No fewer than ~~three~~ ^{four} French submarines escaped from the Nazis at Toulon. Early today we heard that one of thirteen hundred and seventy-nine tons had reached Algiers. Later, two smaller ones came into port after a dash across the Mediterranean. That makes ^{including the one} four ~~altogether~~ which got away ~~from~~ from Hitler including one that was interned at Barcelona.

REUNION

The island of Reunion, three hundred miles east of Madagascar, is now ^{in our hands.} ~~on our side.~~ You will recall that

Some weeks ago, a force of Fighting French landed and

started a fight to oust the Vichy forces that were in

occupation. Today we learn that ^{all} ~~they had won.~~ ~~All~~

resistance came to an end this morning. ^{And}

General ~~had~~ announced that he would yield provided his

men were given the honors of war, no reprisals. ~~As a~~

¶ We hear also that ~~matter of fact,~~ the Vichy forces were in a bad way

because they were unable to obtain either food or

supplies. ¶ The Governor-General's terms were met, and

the island is now under full control of the Fighting

French. Both the population and the civil employees

54 have ^{themselves now in complete accord} expressed ~~their complete cooperation~~ with the forces

of General DeGaulle.

Almost in the same moment we learn that the

French in Djibouti have gone over to the Allies. A force

of the former Vichy-controlled forces there crossed the frontier into British Somaliland, and made contact, peaceful contact, with the British there. We haven't full details of what is going ~~on there.~~ But it undoubtedly means that there is no longer the remotest possibility of the Axis obtaining any foothold in that part of East Africa.

JAPANESE

Some two hundred Americans have been arrested by the Japanese in China. The Japs ^{say} ~~claim that~~ this is in retaliation for mistreatment of Jap prisoners. Of course there has been no ^{such} mistreatment. There are still about twenty-five hundred Americans in China and two hundred in Japan itself. The State Department has been working hard trying to get Americans out of the Far East in exchange for Japanese who are being detained in America. But the negotiations are long and difficult.

FIRE

There seems to be no end to the horror of that fire in the Boston night resort. Early this afternoon, the total dead had risen to four hundred and ~~seventy~~ ^{eighty one.} Among them were men in the armed forces, including commissioned officers, ~~eight~~. In addition, a hundred and seventy-six more are injured, many ~~of them~~ in a critical condition, ~~at the hospitals~~. Of the four hundred and ~~seventy-eight~~ ^{eighty-one,} only three hundred and sixty-one have been identified and some of them only tentatively. ^{In fact a} ~~A~~ hundred and seventeen are still to be identified. Among those who died in the hospital this afternoon was Buck Jones, the popular Western star.

The holocaust was so ghastly that it is difficult to visualize and grasp its full horror. Poignant details are almost endless. For example, a party of twenty to celebrate the engagement of a young couple. All of them wiped out. ^{And, a} ~~A~~ bridal party, the young pair, both war workers, married only three hours previously and come to Boston to celebrate with their best man and maid of honor. All of them ~~were~~ ^{died.}

4

~~snuffed out.~~ ^{named} Four brothers, ~~the~~ Fitzgeralds of
Wilmington, were celebrating the football game in
which Holy Cross ^{overwhelmed} ~~beat~~ Boston College. ~~dramatically by~~
~~fifty-five to twelve.~~ All four brothers perished.

56
Seven women of a sewing circle were on their night out
with their husbands, making a party of fourteen.

Three are positively dead, nine missing, two injured.

A passerby who helped ^{saw} ~~pull~~ several ^{said} ~~people~~
~~out of the blazing horror, said that in almost no time~~
~~thirty-eight~~ ^{who were lifeless} ~~corpses~~ were stretched on the sidewalk
~~outside.~~ He saw a priest standing near the door

~~blowing~~ ^{lunged and careened} blessing people as they ~~came out.~~
~~from the inferno.~~ ^{immediate effect,}
The tragedy has had one ~~effect in leading~~

^{causing the} ~~the city~~ authorities all over the entire country to
~~make thorough inspections.~~ ^{Some officials}
~~look to their own bailiwicks.~~ ^{Some authorities} declare
^{this terrible fire} that ~~the fire~~ which wiped out four hundred and ^{eighty} ~~seventy-~~
^{one} ~~eight~~ people at the Coconut Grove in Boston might ^{well} have

happened in any other city, in any one ^{of hundreds} ~~hundred~~ of night clubs. The City Building Commissioner of Boston said that places of this kind are not ^{yet} covered by the strict state laws which govern theatres. [#] The fire laws of all the ~~United~~ States were revised drastically after the tragedy of the Iroquois Theatre in Chicago in Nineteen Three, where six hundred and three people perished. ^{But} Most nightclubs the country over operate under restaurant licenses and are not listed as places of public assembly. Chicago's Building Commissioner says the Boston Coconut Grove had the number of exits that the state law specified. But they were of no use because they were not marked and there was nothing in the law to enable the city authorities to compel the plain marking of fire exits.

Those four hundred and ^{eighty one} ~~seventy eight~~ lost their lives because of panic and difficulty in getting

FIRE - 4

out. Firemen said the fire itself was not serious, they could have put it out in a few minutes if they could have got at it. But the ~~throng of~~ fear-maddened

~~throng~~
~~customers~~ trying to crush out by the entrance through both sides of one revolving door prevented the Fire Department from getting ^{to} ~~near~~ the flames *quickly enough.*

There were many tales of individual heroism. For cool headedness as well as pluck, the prize should perhaps go to a young lady named Jackie MacGregor, the captain of the eight chorus girls. She gathered the girls in their dressing room with the flames licking at the closed door. She made all the girls ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ *were less affected by* cover their heads so that they could not inhale smoke. Then she led them down through the flames to the basement. The smoke was almost thick enough there to choke them all to death. Four of the girls couldn't

INTUITION

When an engineer talks in all seriousness about intuition, one has to listen with interest. Igor Sikorsky, the famous designer of airplanes, told a gathering of his colleagues that he believes in intuition. He said so to the Sixty-Third Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He declared that intuition appears to be some ability which permits an inventor in a way not yet explained to tune in like a radio and learn somehow facts or laws that are not yet known. ~~It~~ ^{to} Also enabled him to imagine and create a mechanism in direct accord with natural laws not yet discovered at the time of the invention.

Sikorsky then pointed out that the drawings of an airplane by Leonardo da Vinci proved that Leonardo had grasped principles which he did not thoroughly understand. Nothing but intuition can

explain it, said Sikorsky. He said further that he believed intuition, properly developed by training, can become a new faculty of man.

59 And now intuition - or something - tells me that Hugh wants to say something.