

L.I. - Sunoco. Wednesday, August 6, 1941.

At last we have a definite report from the Nazi High Command. Hitler's divisions have won the battle of Smolensk. That was announced definitely today. At the same time, the High Command explains the curious tone of its communiques in the last three weeks. Hitler's Generals ~~xxx~~ declare that the Soviet High Command did not have an accurate picture of what was going on along its own front. Therefore, the Nazis made their own official reports as reticent as possible in order to avoid giving the Russians any information. But now the Nazis give out details. One German Army group, commanded by Field Marshal Ritter Von Lieb, forced the passage of the Dvina River between Dvinsk and Riga, after fierce fighting. This Army then mopped up Latvia, broke up the Stalin defenses along the frontier between Latvia and Russia, and then mopped up the Soviet forces in ~~Esthonia~~ Esthonia.

Another Army under Colonel-General Busch, broke the strong Soviet positions to the south of Lake Peipus in Esthonia, and thereupon, after a short ~~aa~~ battle, captured Ostrov, Prokhov and Pskov.

Still another Army group under Colonel General Von Kuechler, took several cities, ^{and the} ~~then advanced on raps.~~ The operations of that group, says the Nazi High Command, have not yet been completed.)

→ All of this refers to the operations in the North, the German advance ^{on} ~~at~~ Leningrad, and the threat to the railroad from Leningrad to Moscow. The cutting of that line, when it is achieved, will be a terrific blow at the Soviet defenses, ~~and~~ ^{intended to} ~~will possibly~~ isolate the red armies in the North.

Dealing with the battle of Smolensk, the High Command is triumphant but still reticent. It uses these words:-

quote: "In the center of the eastern front, ~~an~~ army group ^{under} ~~under~~ Field Marshal Von Bock victoriously fought the great battle of Smolensk to a conclusion." Then it adds: "In space of time and severity of fighting, the battle was unique in history for the adamant series of destructive blows against the Bolshevist ~~and~~ ^{then} armed forces." And ^{then} it continues, "In almost four weeks of conflict, five armies inflicted terrible and bloody losses on the enemy."

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On the Kieve front, the Nazi Army groups, commanded by Field Marshal Von Rundstedt, forced their way until a wedge was driven through Zhitomir, which the High Command describes as before the gates of Kiev. But three weeks ago, the Nazis already had claimed to have taken Zhitomir. If they are only at Zhitomir, they are still a hundred miles from Kiev. However, the Germans explain further that this break-through at Zhitomir enabled them to launch a broad attack between the Dniester and Dnieper Rivers, thus precipitating a battle of involvement, which still is going on.

The High Command professes further to have captured eight hundred and ninety-five thousand Red prisoners. Military authorities in Berlin claim that this means the Russians have sustained a total loss of about four million men, killed, wounded and captured.

A German military spokesman in Berlin said tonight that the victory of Smolensk is decisive for the future of Europe and perhaps ~~of~~ the world. Adding that the operations on the eastern front have now entered a new decisive stage. He claims that the Red Air Force has been virtually destroyed as an effective

military instrument. And the greater part of Stalin's armies annihilated. All of which the Germans have said before and each time we later heard that the Red Armies launched a new counter-attack.

What does Moscow say tonight? The Reds claim that Smolensk still is in the hands of the Soviets, that the armies of Field Marshal Von Bock have been thrown back and that the Stalin forces are holding all along the line.

The fighting on the central Smolensk salient is now in its twenty-first day, and the news from Russia is that there are no indications of Hitler winning an overwhelming victory.

"Where is President Roosevelt"? And, "where is Winston Churchill?" And "where is Harry Hopkins?"

The only official word we have is this: from the Navy Department:- That the Presidentail Yacht Potomac is proceeding slowly along the New England coast with party fishing from stern. Weather fair, sea smooth.

COMMONS

The absence of Winston Churchill did not ~~prevent~~ prevent the House of Commons today from hearing what the Prime Minister had to say to them. The commons heard a statement made on Mr. Churchill's behalf by Labor Leader Clement Attlee, the Lord Privy Seal. And it was a highly optimistic statement ; in fact enthusiastic about the stand that Soviet Russia has been making against the mechanized blitzkrieg forces of Germany. But, Churchill warned the empire that it would be foolish for anybody to try to prophesy the outcome of the Battle of Russia. Nevertheless, through Labor Leader Attlee, Churchill said it is abundantly clear that the plans of the German High Command for a rapid victory have not succeeded. Because Russia still holds Murmansk; the Nazi legions are still quite a distance away from the Leningrad railroad; and Hitler's main offensive in the South has made no particular progress recently. Weeks ago, he pointed out, the Germans claimed to have captured Kiev, but it still is a bastion of Russia defense.

The Lord Privy Seal got a laugh from the House of Commons when he talked about the German complaints that the Russians were not playing the game when they surrounded the advanced

Panzer units of the Nazis. The Germans, he added, have sustained heavy losses in men and material. And he ~~said further~~ ^{went on to say} that the

British Government is taking urgent steps to furnish Russia ^{with the} war material ^{s that Stalin wants.} ~~and supplies for which Stalin has asked.~~

Then Attlee spoke of the battle of the Atlantic, and said it is now being fought over an immense area which reaches far across the Atlantic toward the coast of the United States and far South into the ~~the~~ tropical seas of Africa. The results of the last two months, he added, have been reasonably satisfactory and imports have been maintained at a satisfactory figure. From July Eleventh to July Twenty-eighth the Germans were unable to

broadcast a single claim of ~~an~~ ^a successful attack ^{made by} by U-Boats, ^{said he.}

² ~~But he said he didn't mean~~ ~~he admitted, of course,~~ that the Battle of the Atlantic has ~~not~~

~~been won,~~ ^{Simply that} ~~though though he does claim~~ Britain is holding her own.

Incidentally, he answered questions about the visit of Harry ~~H.~~ ^{Lease-Lend} Hopkins, Administrator ~~of Lease-Lend.~~ He said

Hopkins had come to England to help promote greater ~~assistance~~ assistance under that act.

And he added these words: "Not only does the stream of material from the United States exceed anything we received in the last war, but ^{he went on, "we are receiving} ~~we receive~~ it under the extraordinary terms of the Lease-Lend act." Then he spoke about Japan, and ~~xxxxxx~~ acknowledged that the governments of Great Britain and the United States are ~~xx~~ acting in agreement. ~~He said that~~ by independent but parallel action the United States and the British commonwealth again have affirmed community of interest.

He announced there is plenty of evidence that Japan is directing attention to Thailand in a manner which bears an ominous resemblance to the actions which preceded the invasion of Indo-China.

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With all this Lord Privy Seal Attlee warned the Commons ~~that~~ and the British people not to be too optimistic. He reminded them that they are still fighting for their very existence against a ~~string~~ ruthless enemy.

Foreign Secretary Eden also spoke about Japan. He told the Commons that the British Government has warned the Japanese that any action threatening the independence and integrity of

Thailand would inevitably give rise to a most grave situation between Britain and Japan, more particularly, he added, because it would threaten the security of Singapore.

FAR EAST

Here's the latest from the Far East. The Japanese are getting ready to attack the Russians at Vladivostok. ~~That~~

So says
~~comes from~~ Shanghai. ~~It's a grapevine report of course.~~ But

~~it is~~ Based on the fact that for several days there ~~xx~~ has been a steady stream of Japanese ~~xxxxxx~~ troops and equipment flowing

into ~~Manchu~~ Manchuoko. [All signs indicate that the Mikado's

war lords are getting ready ^{to attack} / not only Vladivostok but other

strategic points in Eastern Siberia, the minute there ^{is} any

sign of a collapse of the Red Armies in Europe.]

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EIRE

Ireland under the protection of Uncle Sam: There's a novel suggestion. It was brought up in the Parliament at Dublin today. Senator Frank McDermott introduced a motion to the effect that in the opinion of the ^{Irish} Senate, the DeValera Government should take immediate steps to obtain the full and effective cooperation of the Government of the United States of America in securing

Ireland against ~~any~~ attack. Of course that's just a motion, And ~~it may never be passed.~~ ~~there's no report that it has been adopted yet, let alone that it passed.~~ ~~but it~~

Ireland a protectorate of Uncle Sam! There are more Irish in this country than in Ireland, so why not? It isn't half as far away as the Philippines

OIL

Another suggestion from Secretary Ickes in his capacity of Defense Oil Coordinator. It's addressed particularly to the operators of delivery trucks. The Oil Coordinator shows them another way of saving gasoline, that is, limit retail deliveries to one trip a day and use all other possible devices to cut down the number of trips they make. He asks them also ~~xxxxxxx~~ to stop bulk and wholesale deliveries on Saturday, reduce the delivery of perishables to as few as possible ~~xxxx~~ each day. The Oil Coordinator also has a word for the customers, and that is to carry ~~xxx~~ home as many small packages as you can instead of asking for deliveries. If this is generally carried out voluntarily, Ickes estimates it would bring about a saving of fuel anywhere from twenty to thirty-five per cent.

~~xxxx~~ Ickes has transmitted this request all over the eastern states and he has notified the ~~xx~~ Governors ^{of these states that this} ~~that it~~ has the ~~xxxx~~ approval of the Department of Justice. In other words, if operators of delivery trucks take ^{con} ~~oc~~certed action to comply, there'll be no danger of their incurring prosecution for violating the anti-Trust Laws.

ADD OIL

There was a conference at the Coordinator's office today, with heads of the industry taking part, and it was announced that the east coast marketing committee had raised two hundred and fifty thousand dollars for an advertising campaign to discourage the use of gasoline. ^{TP} There's a weird situation: Don't buy too much of our product is the slogan! The companies are going to distribute windshied^l stickers in red, white and blue, carrying the legend, "I'm using one-third less gasoline." And the back of ^{which} ~~it~~ reads, "in the interests of national defense, I pledge myself to use one-third less ~~gas~~ gasoline." Each car owner ^{to} ~~will~~ sign on the dotted line. ~~There's~~ The latest effort to get ^{us all} ~~you~~ to cooperate voluntarily in the hope that the Government won't have to ration ~~your~~ ^{throughout} gasoline and oil ~~in~~ the eastern states.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

The office of Production Management is in favor of nationwide Daylight Saving all the year round. The idea was ~~put~~ put out at Washington today by William L. Batt, Deputy Production Director. He asked the Interstate Commerce ~~Committee~~ Committee of the House to promote a law to that effect, said it would be invaluable in helping conserve electrical energy ~~is~~ vital to the defense program. It was intimated that this was probably inevitable sooner or later.

WALLACE

Uncle Sam's Army today has the ~~XXXX~~ services of a new recruit, six feet four inches tall. His name is Wallace, Robert Brown Wallace. Yes, he's the son of the Vice-President. He was caught in the draft, and that's an answer to any squawkers who may have been claiming that selective service doesn't apply to the son of the prominent and influential.

This towering young son of the Vice-President - he's half a foot over his father's head - has no objections to doing his tour of service, says he has never had any military discipline and thinks he'll be all the better for it. He has been doing graduate work at the University of Wisconsin.

Meanwhile, his father is having a vacation in the Colorado Mountains, taking life easy, dodging autograph hounds, but the reporters got to him, in between sets of tennis. The Vice-President told them there's a feeling in Washington that if Soviet ~~Russian~~ Russia can hold out against the Nazi war machine until autumn, the Nazi machine at home may blow up. To which Mr. Wallace added, "I won't elaborate on it, but you can draw your own conclusions and now let me get ~~me~~ back to my tennis".

JOKE

Speaker Ram Rayburn of the House has been using his authority to bring about a reform. He has revolutionized that fascinating but too seldom ~~in~~ read publication, the Congressional Record. By dint of his authority as the speaker, he ordered that the word "applause" should ~~be~~ no longer adorn the reports of debates in the House.

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That reform doesn't please many of the Congressmen. Their objection was expressed by Congressman Ludlow of Indiana, who used to be a newspaperman. ~~Ludlow~~ Ludlow declares it's

a shame that a member should spend his time and his brains

thinking up ~~jokes~~, epigrams, ~~bon mots~~ and fine phrases, and then

have the record make it appear that all the ~~jokes~~, epigrams, ~~bon~~

~~mots~~ and fine phrases ~~were just so many duds.~~

~~As though the life of Congressman wasn't hard enough~~

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~~these days.~~ Well, a radio speaker, unless he has a studio audience to whoop it up for him, hears no applause. So why should a Congressman get credit for applause when there isn't any? Hugh, do you ^{feel that you} need applause? Maybe we ought to applaud each other.

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