

L.J. - Sunoco. Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1942.

NORTH AFRICA

Tonight the American flag is flying at the great French naval base of Oran. United States military headquarters has<sup>ve</sup> been set up in the center of the city. The French Vichy forces put up a good deal of resistance at Oran, but our troops closed in on that Algerian key point from two sides. Here's a late dispatch telling about it.

Our North African Commander, Lieutenant-General Eisenhower tells<sup>of</sup> the order he sent to Major-General Fredendall, American Commander at Oran. "I told Fredendall that the cleanup must come today. He started in," Eisenhower adds, "and made a fine job of it." <sup>#</sup> So now we have Oran and Algiers and the only other important stronghold left for us to capture is Casablanca -- in Morocco. Resistance in Morocco has been stronger all along than in Algeria -- but even now Casablanca may have fallen to the American forces.

~~The~~<sup>At</sup> last reports our tanks were driving through Casablanca streets, <sup>with</sup> the Vichy French <sup>holding</sup> ~~held~~ only part of

the city. <sup>TP</sup> Today's news <sup>also</sup> tells about a naval engagement fought at Casablanca. A force of French destroyers tried to ~~x~~ interfere with our landing, and attacked our boats. Whereupon the American Naval commander threw forward the full power of his squadron. ~~And he~~ smashed the French destroyers. The Vichy defense was helped by the great battleship Jean Bart -- which big ship was not in a condition to navigate, but was able to operate as a stationery fort, hurling powerful broadsides. <sup>But</sup> American Navy dive bombers put an end to that. They smashed the Jean Bart and left it a flaming ruin.

The advance forces of the great offensive are ~~now~~ driving eastward toward Tunis. <sup>a</sup> ~~The~~ swift armored <sup>column</sup> ~~force~~ is on the go, intending to drive through Tunis and on into Italian Libya -- thereby threatening <sup>a</sup> rear attack on the Nazi Afrika Korps, which is retreating rapidly before the British on the other side. ~~One~~ ~~report today was that our war planes were bombing~~

~~positions in Tunisia~~<sup>at</sup>, because the Bey of Tunis and

~~the Vichy Resident General had refused to permit~~

~~American units to pass through.~~ A late statement

from the Axis side declares that the Bey of Tunis

has agreed to permit the passage of American troops --

~~let them go on~~ <sup>to get</sup>  
~~to get~~ into Libya ~~and~~ at Rommel.

Here's something just in: -  
word from Pres. Roosevelt that  
he has received no reply from the  
Bey of Tunis.

# EGYPT

*other end —*

At the <sup>^</sup>eastern end of North Africa, the British continue to chase after the Germans, who are in rapid retreat.

Speaking of the great Battle of the Desert, British Prime Minister Churchill stated today:- "We have won a remarkable, definite victory." And he told of what has happened to the Nazi Afrika Korps. "It has been defeated," said Churchill, "has been routed and has been very largely destroyed as a fighting force."

What has Berlin to say about the precipitate

flight of that Afrika Korps, once so proudly led to victory by Field Marshal Rommel? *the most conspicuous single military figure to emerge so far in this 2nd world war?* Berlin uses a peculiar

phrase in describing the movement of the Axis troops.

They have, in the words of the German communique,

"detached themselves further westward." <sup>R</sup> "Detach" "

is a nice way of saying that they are traveling so fast, the British can't catch up with them. In fact,

"detach" sounds like a good ~~xx~~ way of describing the

whole of Rommel's present situation - with the British chasing him from the east and the Americans coming from the west, to attack the Afrika Korps from the rear. Well, if we go fast enough through Tunis and on to Italian Libya, Rommel may soon be completely detached from his main base of supplies and port of escape.

Secretary Knox <sup>said</sup> ~~stated~~ today:- "The battle now going on in North Africa is the second front, and, is progressing beyond all expectations." He warned, however, that the complete defeat of the Nazi North Afrika Korps is, in his words, "not yet assured." "The Germans are clever," <sup>he added, and</sup> ~~said he~~ "There is a possibility that Rommel may get reinforcements and that the battle may emerge into a lengthy engagement and it is foolish to claim victory until it is won." <sup>TP Madrid reports that Rommel is urging Berlin to send ships to evacuate the remains of the Afrika Korps.</sup>

## ARMADA

"The greatest armada in history" - that's the term used to describe the ships that carried our invasion forces to North Africa. Well, it would have to be that - considering the magnitude of the operation, the many points attacked and the formidable amount of military power, men and machines, that are in the mighty American offensive. So we can well believe what a naval officer said today. "In terms of tonnage, it was the greatest armada in history." To that we can add General Jimmy Doolittle's ~~XXXXXX~~ "air-mada". And that completes the picture of a mighty armada plus a mighty air-mada.

Secretary Knox today called the ship movement "the most superb piece of seamanship on record." He <sup>also</sup> said he expected a lot of Nazi U-boat activity against our <sup>craft</sup> ~~ships~~ in the Mediterranean, and thought that the entire force of Axis submarines now

concentrated in the North Atlantic may be moved into the Mediterranean.

• The Secretary was asked about Berlin reports that U-boats and sky bombers have already sunk and damaged American vessels. Berlin claims today that fifteen warships and transports have been hit. <sup>The Secretary</sup> ~~He~~ replied that Washington has received no direct word about any such thing from the Navy. "The units," he explained, "have been too busy to send us any news."

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London tells us of the torpedoing of an Italian cruiser near Sicily, across from Africa. Berlin counters by claiming that a British battleship of the QUEEN ELIZABETH class was torpedoed and sunk in the North Atlantic.

## FRENCH LEADERS

There is a smile in the official statement today that French Admiral Darlan, who was captured when the Americans took Algiers, is being "entertained" by our Commander, General Eisenhower. Darlan has been a Number One advocate of cooperation with the Nazis and he went to North Africa to supervise the defense against possible attack. He got to Algiers just in time to surrender. So we might think he would be more a prisoner of war than a guest being entertained.

TP However, maybe there is something deeper to that peculiar phraseology. They say it is possible that Darlan may come over to the side of the United Nations, and there are reports that right now he is pondering a decision - whether to join our side or not. (The same thing is said to be true of General Juin, the French land commander who was captured at Algiers. Hence, they are not being styled "prisoners" - they are being "entertained."



In the question of French commanders changing sides, strong influence, it is thought, will be exercised by General Giraud, who escaped from Vichy France to join our forces. No explanation is given how the sixty-three year old officer got out, - That 'is being kept a secret, so as not to jeopardize people who helped him, <sup>we may</sup> ~~and weren't~~ supposed to. ~~(We merely hear~~

~~a report that the escape of General Giraud was engineered by an underground organization in France. That veteran warrior is quite an escaper. During the last war he broke out of a prison camp. During the present war he was captured by the Germans, and repeated his exploit - by getting away from the Germans and into Vichy France. There is consistently refused to have anything to do with the Nazis, and now has escaped to join us.~~

Today American General Eisenhower announced that

General Giraud is in Algeria to organize <sup>the</sup> French forces *that will* battle side by side with the Americans. (General Eisenhower is quoted as saying: "Giraud will crystalize all anti-Nazi sentiment in North Africa, organize the French army, and, if necessary, carry on civil affairs." That covers a lot of territory, and sounds as if General Giraud might be put in charge of French North Africa.) There is even some surmise that he might succeed General DeGaulle as head of the Fighting French. The question was asked in London today, and a Fighting French spokesman stated: "that will be decided when and if DeGaulle and Giraud meet."

French leadership on the other side of the fence, the Vichy side, seems to be in a state of confusion. Today head of the Vichy Government Marshal Petain assumed command of all land, air and sea forces that Vichy controls. Petain announced that he would

assume the supreme command.- "In the absence of Admiral Darlan", as he <sup>put it,</sup> ~~said~~ Admiral Darlan being "entertained" by General Eisenhower in Algiers.

What about Laval, the arch collaborationist and big-shot in the Vichy government? There are suppositions that Laval's idea is for the Germans to take over the remainder of France, the part unoccupied at present - and for the French fleet to be turned over to the Nazis. A late rumor from Madrid states that Laval has gone to Berlin to confer with Hitler. An earlier rumor had him on his way to have a pow-wow with

Hitler and Mussolini. <sup>TF</sup> Switzerland reports that the Nazi Fuehrer and the Fascist Duce are together right now, trying to figure out what to do. Mussolini is said to be greatly alarmed by the possibility of an American-British attack on the Italian peninsula, an assault launched <sup>from</sup> ~~in~~ North Africa. They say that

Mussolini may ask Hitler to take over the defense of the Italian coastline.

ROOSEVELT

Who was the author of the great American offensive? From what person does the great campaign in North Africa emanate? The answer is - President Roosevelt. This was stated today by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. He described the offensive in these words:- "the momentous enterprise undertaken by the United States at the western end of the Mediterranean." And then he made this statement: "The President of the United States," said he, "is the author of this mighty undertaking." And Churchill added: "In all of it I have been his active and ardent lieutenant."

FOLLOW ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt gives us his own version -- saying the planning of the African campaign goes back to two weeks after Pearl Harbor. With an offensive in mind, the President invited Prime Minister Winston Churchill to visit him in Washington. That resulted in the Churchill trip over here, which made such headlines. The President and the Prime Minister discussed various offensive plans. They considered a direct ~~frontier~~ <sup>second front</sup> invasion of the Nazi controlled continent -- a drive across the English Channel. <sup>And</sup> They decided ~~however~~ <sup>later</sup> that the best line of assault against the Nazi power would be through North Africa.

The President today described the offensive as a smaller second front ~~launched~~ instead of a bigger invasion attempt against Nazi controlled France.

~~Secretary of State Cordell Hull points out that the African campaign justifies the State Department policy toward Vichy, which policy was so bitterly attacked. The State Department was just carrying out its diplomatic end in the preparation for the offensive.~~

EMPIRE

Replies have been received to messages that President Roosevelt sent to Spain and Portugal, and these replies are described as - "satisfactory."

When the African offensive began, the President told Franco of Spain, and Carmona of Portugal, that the Americans have no intention of touching the Spanish and Portuguese territories.

~~Spain owns, for one thing, the section of North Africa right across from Gibraltar~~

~~Spanish Morocco. Portugal owns important islands off~~

~~West Africa. The President recommended to Franco and~~

~~Carmona a policy of neutrality in the North African~~

~~affair.~~ The replies that have been received are -

oral, by word of mouth. This was stated today by

White House ~~press~~ secretary, Steve Early, who added

that formal written replies might come along later.

The oral <sup>answers,</sup> ~~replies,~~ said he, are satisfactory.

And in London Prime Minister Churchill today

gave assurance to Spain and Portugal, reiterating that the Allies have no intentions against them. ("Our policy towards Spain and Portugal," said Churchill, "is that they shall be independent, free, prosperous and at peace. The Spanish especially, after all their troubles, require peace for recuperation," said he.)

Churchill also renewed assurances to France - disclaiming any intention of depriving France of her empire in North Africa. ~~"France," he declared, "will rise again - free, strong, with her empire gathered around her, and Alsace-Lorraine restored."~~

*In London*  
Churchill also spoke of the British Empire, and he certainly does not agree with some people who are saying that the mighty worldwide realm is through. "We mean to hold our own," Churchill cried. "I did not become Prime Minister in order to preside over the liquidation of the British Empire."



GUADALCANAL

As for the Solomon Islands, the Commander of the Marine Corps in <sup>Lieutenant General Holcomb,</sup> Washington states that the marines and soldiers are improving their positions; and that they now actually outnumber the Japs that are trying to capture the Guadalcanal air base.

Then Lieutenant-General Holcomb went on to give a military report about ~~the Tokyo Express, Oscar,~~ Louie-the-Louse and Pistol-Pete, ~~bad characters, who~~ ~~don't do much damage, but are getting to be a nuisance.~~

"Louie-the-Louse" is the leader of a squadron of half a dozen seaplanes, which appear regularly over the American positions at night. They drop hundred pound bombs, and fly away. Louie-the-Louse comes every night. He does little material damage but he interferes with the sleep of the garrison.

"Pistol Pete", according to General ~~Holcomb~~ Holcomb, is the Commander of a Jap artillery battery

deep in the jungle which shells the American positions at regular intervals. The enemy trick is to send shells over while the marines and soldiers are having chow. Which makes "Pistol Pete" the meanest Jap of all.

DRAFT

Late this afternoon the House of Representatives passed the bill to lower the draft <sup>age</sup> ~~xxx~~ to eighteen. *and*  
The bill did not include the restriction that would have compelled ~~xxxx~~ the Army to give the eighteeh and nineteen year olds a year of training before sending them to combat zones.

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The measure, as originally passed by the House, ~~xx~~ embodied that proviso. The Senate bill did not. So the whole thing was thrashed out in a joint conference. Today, the conference voted to eliminate the provision requiring a year of training, and shortly afterward the House followed suit - thereby passing a bill that squares with the ideas of the President and the Army chiefs, who were opposed to the year-of-training restriction.

## SUBMARINE

A thriller of the war against the submarines was told today in Canada. Two Canadians leaped aboard a sinking Nazi U-boat, had a gun battle, captured the floundering craft and compelled the surrender of the crew.

The submarine was out to attack an Atlantic convoy <sup>^</sup>- ~~but~~ First it was bombed by an American patrol plane and damaged. It was below water, when a Canadian corvette smacked it with a depth bomb. That forced the sub to the surface, and the corvette blasted the craft with gunfire, charged it, and rammed it three times. With the corvette alongside the U-boat, ~~the~~ two Canadian naval men leaped onto the deck of the undersea craft.

"We started along the deck toward the conning tower," relates one of the Canadians. "We could see the Germans coming out of the escape hatch and yelled at

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them to keep back. But the two in front kept coming."

The two Nazis charged to attack the Canadians, who opened fire with their pistols and shot them down. There was still a third man on the deck, and the Canadians ordered him to jump overboard. He wouldn't go so they knocked him overboard. <sup>He</sup> One of the Canadians had the temerity to go below decks in the sinking submarine. "The sub had taken an awful beating from our guns," he relates. "There were shell holes through the conning tower along the waterline. I went into the conning tower," he continues, "and mustered the Germans on deck. They were in complete panic. I pointed to the corvette and told them to swim for it."

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Then the two Canadians went overside, following the submarine crew that they had captured. In a minute or two, the U-boat reared up on end, and slid to the bottom.

[9] Hows that Hugh?