

L.J. - Sunoco. Wednesday, July 9, 1941.

ARMISTICE

An armistice in Syria! The fighting hasn't stopped yet, but negotiations are going on. That's official, <sup>and</sup> comes from Vichy, through a statement issued by the Petain Government. <sup>e</sup> That statement explains that for more than a month the French army in <sup>the</sup> Levant has been engaged in a ferocious fight against overwhelming odds. Despite all efforts, the government at Vichy found itself unable to send sufficient quantities of supplies and reinforcements. The combat became daily more unequal, so the Petain Government didn't wish to prolong it any more, especially since the honor of <sup>arms</sup> the French ~~armies~~ had been saved. Therefore, General Dentz, the Commander-in-Chief, had been authorized to ask for the immediate suspension of hostilities. Negotiations are going on through Uncle Sam's Consul General at Beirut, Cornelius van <sup>H.</sup> Engert. Sumner Welles, the Acting Secretary of State, admitted this was a fact, but pointed out that ~~van~~ Engert's function was purely that of a messenger, ~~boy,~~ in transmitting messages between both sides.

There appears to be some truth in the claim of the Russians that they have the Nazi armies ~~held up, standing on their heels.~~ <sup>stopped.</sup> Military observers in London ~~explain it~~ <sup>say this</sup> is because the mobilization of the Red army is now practically complete.

<sup>As a</sup> ~~The~~ consequence ~~was that~~ <sup>have been</sup> the Soviet generals ~~were~~ able to throw huge masses of reinforcements into the path of the Nazi

juggernaut. ~~And~~ <sup>at</sup> most of these ~~were~~ concentrated in front of the central spearhead, ~~that is the striking force aiming for the~~ <sup>at</sup> heart of Russia, ~~and~~ <sup>the</sup> Moscow. Furthermore, ~~said~~ <sup>at</sup> a British ~~mouthpiece,~~ <sup>the</sup> at the end of two weeks the strain of driving armored vehicles becomes too great even for a man who is really fit.

However, the British appear to have no delusions about their Soviet Allies. The belief in London is that it probably won't be more than two weeks before the Nazis are in Kiev.

But ~~the British~~ <sup>London</sup> experts insist that won't mean much, in so far as it relates to Hitler's hope of seizing the grain fields of the Ukraine and the oil and manganese <sup>of</sup> the Caucasus. A decisive German stroke against the Ukraine and the Caucasus will be impossible unless the Germans also reach Moscow so as to protect

their left flank. If they don't break through in a big way within the next few days they'll have to make a considerable pause for refitting.

The Russian spokesmen declare that the Red army is throwing tank for tank against the Nazi blitzkrieg. Not only is the striking force on the central front being hauled up short, but the Nazis, Hungarians and Rumanians in the southwest have been hurled back across the Pruth River. One detail in the Soviet official war communique is that two entire motorized regiments of the Nazis were smashed, together with four batteries and many anti-aircraft guns.

The Nazis, on the other hand, claim to have thrown the Russians out of Ostrov, that city just inside the old Soviet frontier where there has been so much desperate fighting. It's on the route to Leningrad and also controls one of the railways to Moscow. They also claim to have taken the Esthonian towns of Pernau and Fellin.

But these claims are not made by the Nazi high command, which is again going through one of its periods of silence, reporting only that the campaign is going according to plan.

The Nazi success <sup>yarns</sup> ~~XXXXX~~ today come only from D.N.B.

*Goebbels*

Here's a straw in the wind which provides corroboration of the Russian claims that the Nazi steam roller has been halted. A Fascist newspaper, the Popolo di Romo, today published a broad hint that the Nazi allies of the Italians were having unexpected

difficulties in cracking the Stalin Line. But the Fascist paper has a plausible explanation. The Germans are reorganizing - that's the idea. "It is probable," says the ~~N~~ Fascist newspaper, "that the Germans are carrying out a gigantic operation of recuperation and reorganization. They're consolidating their bases of communications and supply lines for the second phase of the campaign."

The Italians admit that it can't be denied the Russians are fighting with unexpected spirit and tenacity.

The two main reasons for their defeat in the first weeks of the war was that they hadn't the same highly specialized training as the Nazi shock troops and also the Red army was taken by surprise.

At Moscow, the official spokesman of the Soviet claimed that most of the heavy Nazi artillery along the English Channel has been withdrawn to the Battle of Russia.

The Reds declare that German prisoners have told them that in the Cherbourg sector of France the batteries have wooden dummies in place of real cannon.

There was <sup>a mild</sup> ~~quite a~~ sensation on the floor of the British House of Commons today. Three members of different parties delivered biting attacks on the government, charging inefficiency, particularly in aircraft production. One member, Lieutenant-Commander Hopkinson, an Independent, made the astounding statement that there was chaos from top to bottom in British plane production. He added that he was talking as a member of the fleet air arm and also as an aircraft producer. Then he went on to say that for the last year, aircraft production has been run on the lines of a newspaper stunt. ~~That was~~ a dig at Lord Beaverbrook, publisher of the DAILY EXPRESS, who until recently was in charge of plane production, <sup>and is now right hand man to Churchill,</sup> ~~The naval officers~~ member of Parliament then went on to complain that goods had not <sup>TP The Naval Officers M.P. then</sup> ~~been delivered and are not being delivered yet.~~ He complained further that the Commons and the public had been misinformed. They <sup>had been</sup> ~~hadn't~~ told that the British had been able to overcome the enemy in the air because of the Spitfires and Hurricanes that Beaverbrook was producing in such number. ~~Then~~ Said Lieutenant-Commander Hopkinson, M.P. I QUOTE: "I am an aircraft manufacturer and I say

that not one single airplane that took part in the Battle of Britain had anything to do with the Ex-Minister."

Then a Conservative member of Parliament, a Lieutenant, got up to speak. He was wearing the uniform of the fleet air arm with which he had seen service in Crete and in Greece. This Lieutenant told the Parliament that in Greece, Crete, Libya and Syria there has been an almost chronic lack of the most important materials of war. And he added that the British did not have enough planes to send up more than two at a time for continuous patrol in daylight over one point in Crete. And he added that British tanks in Greece, Libya and Syria have done marvelously, but they haven't done so well against the Germans because there were not enough of them, and they were too slow. In Greece, he said, seventy-eight per cent of British tanks broke down before they saw the enemy."

Then <sup>who</sup> ~~he~~ spoke a Laborite member, a Welshman, ~~he~~ made the charge that a few weeks ago, hundreds of American-made airplanes were lying unpacked in warehouses because those who had placed the orders in behalf of the Ministry had not ordered the necessary

auxiliary equipment. # All of which bickering indicates that Britain is still very much of a Democracy.

CHURCHILL FOLLOW COMMONS

On previous occasions, when Beaverbrook was criticized, Prime Minister Churchill got up to defend him. This afternoon apparently he did not, probably because he was occupied explaining to the Commons about Iceland. In the course of that explanation, he ~~made an statement which is of exceeding~~

~~interest to us in the United States. It was a promise that the~~

*said the* navies of Great Britain and Uncle Sam may be expected to cooperate in the most dangerous waters of the North Atlantic. To be sure, this hardly falls in the category of news, but it's the first time we've heard it officially stated. ~~No such official statement has come from any member of our government.~~

Churchill declared ~~that~~ the military occupation of Iceland by forces of the United States was one of the most important things that has happened since the war began. Then he added that it was undertaken by the United States in pursuance of a purely American policy for the protection of the Western Hemisphere from the Nazi menace. He said further, he understood American technical authorities consider that modern conditions of war, especially air

warfare, require forestalling action. In this case it was especially necessary, to prevent Hitler from acquiring a jumping-off <sup>base</sup> ~~ground~~ from which it would be possible, bound by bound, to <sup>get</sup> ~~come~~ <sup>^</sup> to ~~close quarters with~~ the American continent.

He then pointed out that American forces in Iceland will require provisioning and reinforcing from time to time. Those provisions and reinforcements will have to traverse the most dangerous waters. And then Churchill said that, as the British have a large traffic constantly passing there, he dare say it would be found mutually advantageous if the two navies should assist each other.

*The Prime Minister added one*  
~~Churchill said one that~~ <sup>^</sup> thing that is news to us. *That*  
The British propose to retain their army in Iceland, <sup>those</sup> ~~^~~ eighty  
thousand <sup>men,</sup> ~~troops.~~ <sup>^</sup>

ICELAND

Here's Germany's answer to President Roosevelt's occupation of Iceland. Say the Nazis, <sup>and</sup> I QUOTE: "The American President has now advanced the United States frontier to the English Channel."

Then the Nazi spokesman goes on to say, "Tomorrow Mr. Roosevelt will probably put that frontier on the Volga River, and the next day on the Ural Mountains." And he added, "This is the first act of a military step by the United States outside the Western Hemisphere and Monroe must be turning over in his grave."

Such were the words of the authorized Nazi mouthpiece.

But of course the German newspapers were far more vituperative.

One of them called President Roosevelt's act, a dagger thrust against Europe. Still another declared that Mr. Roosevelt must be held responsible for the consequences which may result from intervention in the European sphere and which are quite clear. Another editor pointed out that the United States has now entered the danger zone where shooting is sharp.

And here's ~~Brother~~ Gayda, Mussolini's Virginio <sup>who</sup> ~~Gayda~~

~~He~~ describes the occupation of Iceland as an attempt to collaborate

KNOX

Secretary <sup>Knox</sup> ~~Knox~~ of the Navy, uttered a sentence today with startling implications. He was asked at a press conference whether the President's orders to the Navy went beyond the mere reporting of the presence of hostile craft in the waters of the Western Hemisphere. <sup>Sec.</sup> Knox replied, "Yes, I should say ~~that~~ it does."

The Secretary of the Navy then quoted from Mr. Roosevelt's message to Congress on Monday, announcing the occupation of Iceland, <sup>In which</sup> ~~In that~~ he informed Congress he had instructed the Navy to take all necessary measures to keep open the sea lanes of the North Atlantic. Referring to this, <sup>Sec.</sup> Knox remarked that there is no room for doubt of what may be done, but he left the interpretations to the newspapermen present at the conference. <sup>And</sup> Their interpretation is that the commanding officers of the United States Navy, engaged in the occupation and protection of Iceland, have been ordered to shoot if necessary. However, it must be pointed out that this is not a direct statement but an implication.

~~That's one of the episodes that have Washington talking tonight. Another is the visit of Wendell Willkie to the White House.~~

He lunched with President Roosevelt and stayed with him for an hour and a quarter. When he left he would not say what they had discussed, but he left the way open for plenty of inferences when he gave out a statement approving the occupation of Iceland and calling for the further occupation of bases in northern Ireland and even in northern Scotland. Mr. Willkie declared that at present from ten to fifteen per cent of the American Aid to Britain is being sent to the bottom of the ocean. "Our aid to Britain should either be made more effective," said Wendell Willkie, "or we should withhold it altogether." And he added that the thought the overwhelming majority of Republicans were with him in this opinion.

WHEELER

This has been a lively day for Senator Wheeler of Montana. He was refused the use of an auditorium in Atlanta., Georgia, and so had to postpone a speaking engagement there. *Also,* The British Government made a complaint against him with the State Department and the White House made it public. <sup>Sen.</sup> Wheeler thereupon dared the President to ask Congress for a declaration of war, adding that if Congress voted for war, he, <sup>Sen.</sup> Wheeler, would do his utmost to help win it.

The America First Committee had arranged an engagement for the Montana Senator to speak at Atlanta tomorrow night. It was the ~~f~~ Manager of the City Auditorium who turned them down. He said that, before <sup>Sen.</sup> Wheeler spoke, the Auditorium Committee would have to approve, and the Committee won't meet again until July Eighteenth. It turned out that trouble had been threatened at his appearance in the Georgia metropolis. The Fifth District Veterans Council had vowed to take action if <sup>the Montana Statesman</sup> ~~Wheeler~~ <sup>were allowed</sup> ~~was allowed~~ to appear at the City Auditorium.

<sup>Today's</sup> The British complaint was made by Prime Minister Winston

Churchill himself. Churchill did not formally protest, but he did officially advise the State Department that the lives of British soldiers had been placed in jeopardy by Senator Wheeler's announcement last week that American troops would move into Iceland -- implying evacuation by the British. This communication was made public at the White House by Secretary Early who said the dispatch would not be communicated to Congress but would be merely released to the newspapers.

Senator Wheeler's friends in rebuttal are pointing out that his prediction last week did not endanger the lives of the troops arriving in or leaving Iceland any more than the official announcement by the President on Monday.

Senator Wheeler himself made only a short reply to the Churchill statement. He declared that it was his intention to continue keeping the public informed of all attempts to drag this country into the war, and he said further that this country still is a democracy and so far as he is concerned he will do his part to keep it a democracy regardless of anything and anybody.

Then the Montana Senator issued his challenge to the

President to ask for a declaration of war. If the Congress votes it, he added, he would be one of the first to say that we must have unity to win it. Then he insisted that the reason Mr. Roosevelt doesn't come to Congress to ask for a declaration of war is that he knows he couldn't get it through Congress. When they asked whether that were a challenge, he replied, "absolutely."

But, added Senator Wheeler, until war is declared in a constitutional way, he proposed to exercise his constitutional prerogatives and what he considers his patriotic duty.

## SHIPS

Uncle Sam is building warships with great rapidity. That was reported to a Senate Committee today by Rear Admiral Robinson, Chief of the Navy's Bureau of Ships. Every single man-o-war, under construction is ahead of schedule. That's particularly true of the smaller warships. By the end of Nineteen Forty-Three, we will be turning out destroyers at the rate of onehundred a year!

DRAFT

*Cong.*  
^ ^  
~~Sam~~

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He's in favor of keeping the National Guard on the job after their year is over because he believes the majority of the men and officers are willing. But as for the selectees, No. The Speaker of the House takes the point that we made a contract with them which provides for their being in service one year. However, he would like to amend the law so as to enable those who want to stay in the army to volunteer.

LEAR

Congressman Kilday of Texas is sharpening his tomahawk for Lieut.-General Ben Lear, in command of the Second Army. He doesn't like the way the General has treated the men under his command.

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You may have heard or read how the other day, the Thirty-Fifth Division, while on the march, passed a golf course at Memphis, Tennessee. It was a scorching day and some girls were playing in shorts. The men, as men on the march will, whistled at the girls and shouted a few remarks. But on those links also was Lieut.-General Lear! Not Lew Lehr, nor even King Lear. Just General Lear! And the General was furious because the soldiers under his command, not recognizing him, also made some remarks to the General, who ordered them back to camp, then to return and march back once more. All of which made a lot of extra marching, in the hot Tennessee sun.

Whereupon Congressman Kilday got hot under the collar and sent an angry telegram to General Lear. The Congressman by the way is a member of the House Military Affairs Committee. He said he was thinking of introducing a resolution in Congress to investigate the General. But that before doing so he wanted some information.

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The Congressman wired the General that the newspaper accounts give the impression that in the name of discipline, General Lear was assuaging his personal resentment because of remarks directed at him while he, the General, was not in uniform. The Congressman also demanded to know whether the alleged misconduct of the troops came to his attention while he was in the field with his troops or while playing <sup>golf, while</sup> the general ~~was~~ was carrying some strategy on that golf course. Congressman Kilday demanded, too, that the General <sup>f</sup> furnish him with some precedent in military history for the mass punishment of guilty and innocent alike.

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Congressman Kilday isn't the only legislator annoyed by the action of Lieut.-General Lear. Republican Congressman Dirksen of Illinois today made some acid remarks on the floor of the House.

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