

L.J. - Sunoco. Monday, May 17, 1943.

The ~~British Royal Air Force~~ ^{R.A.F. has just} last night carried out a raid on Germany along entirely new lines. With ~~their~~ giant Lancaster bombers, the R.A.F. smashed two of the most important dams in western Germany. The ~~big~~ ^{big} ~~monster~~ planes roared down within twenty feet of the surface. ^{then} They dropped mines which completely ~~crushed~~ ^{broke down} the walls of the dams and let loose ~~great~~ floods of more than three hundred and thirty million tons of water. One of those dams controlled two-thirds of the storage capacity of the entire valley of the Ruhr where the biggest plants in German industry are located. The other ~~dam~~ impounded the headwaters of the valleys of the Weser and the Fulda Rivers. Several power stations ~~used to get~~ ^{got} all their current from this dam. Even Berlin admitted that the damage and loss of life had been large.

Several hours after the raid, reconnaissance planes went over the scene and took photographs. These

pictures show floods rising right and left, bridges and other important works washed away. ^{TP} The R.A.F. also made a raid on Berlin. But that was nothing compared to the smashing of those two dams.

The Air Ministry announced that the operation had been extraordinarily difficult and dangerous. ~~Indeed~~ ^{of these huge} Eight ~~TP~~ Lancasters, ^{and} ~~with~~ their crews, were lost.

All day today the floods from those ^{two great} ~~two~~ dams were spreading ~~ing~~ death and destruction throughout western Germany. ^{TP Evidently this} ~~It~~ was one of the most spectacular, ~~successful~~ and devastating raids of the war.

^{American airmen} ~~The United States air force~~ followed this up with a daylight raid on Bordeaux and Lorient. A strong force of flying fortresses and Liberators smashed at the submarine bases, ^{while over} ~~in those two parts, while~~ medium bombers flew over other parts of ~~the~~ occupied Europe.

POPE

There is a rumor from Italy that Mussolini has appealed to the Pope.

The word also is that the Nazis have sent a dramatic warning to Mussolini telling him not to try to sell out or come to terms with the Allies.

The rumor also still persists that the Italian ^{throne} ~~throne~~ is toppling and that King Victor Emanuel is ~~abdixx~~ abdicating. All of which is denied by the Rome government, which tells placidly how the King formally opened an art exhibition in Rome yesterday. No jitters in Rome! Oh no!!

But London has a ~~rumor~~ report, via France and Madrid, that there have been lengthy conferences at the Vatican. The Pope is reported to have given audiences to the King, the Crown Prince, Mussolini, and even to Count Ciano.

Still another report has it that the Vatican sent word to both London and Washington reporting Italy to be in danger of immediate collapse, which would have disastrous results.

~~disastrous~~

Maybe so. But there also are evidences that
Mussolini still is determined to fight it out.

MEDITERRANEAN

Nazi General von Arnim, the defeated and captured
Commander-in-Chief of the Axis forces in Tunisia, is
now in London. He was landed by plane, escorted by

British officers, and treated with the utmost courtesy

and ~~XXX~~ ceremony. Italian General Messe ^{has} also ~~landed~~

~~and~~ interned in Britain. *Two who will not be coming over here to work on our farms.*

Since their defeat and capture, the principal

news from Africa is of ^{more - over} air raids ~~on~~ Italy, ~~and points on~~

Sicily and ^{various} ~~the other~~ Italian islands. ^{TR} British Air

Marshal ~~Sir Arthur~~ Tedder, Allied Air Commander in ^{those} ~~that~~

part ^S ~~of the world~~, announces ³ that a new stage of air

warfare had now begun in the Mediterranean. He gave

newspapermen to understand that this is part of a major

strategic plan. The Allies are concentrating their

^{air power on} ~~air force on~~ continuous heavy attacks against the

Axis ground positions in the west. At the same time

they are attacking supply lines to the northeast; ~~and~~

thus drawing off the enemy's air forces.

One formation of British Wellington bombers went roaring over the seven ~~sublime~~ hills of ~~old~~ Rome. They dropped no bombs on the Eternal City, ~~just past~~ ^{— merely painting}

~~Mussolini's visit to show~~ ^{out} how easily it could be done.

They could see the historic landmarks of Rome quite

easily in the moonlight, ~~Notably~~ the Coliseum, and the

Venezia Palace, where Mussolini, ^{holds forth, and} ~~hangs out, were as plain~~

~~as could be.~~ ^{so on.}

They then followed the course of ^{the} ~~old Father~~

Tiber to the coast, ^{where they} ~~and~~ bombed the seaplane base ~~nearby~~

~~at Lido di Roma,~~ ^{at} Lido di Roma, ^{setting} ~~they set the~~ hangars afire, ^{and blasting} ~~and burst a number of~~ Italian aircraft on the ground.

Then they flew back over the ^{scene} ~~city~~ at a low level, ~~and~~

^{letting go with} ~~turned loose~~ their machineguns. ^{In fact} They made no fewer than

four runs over ^{the Duce's} ~~the~~ seaplane base, ~~and left the Fascist~~

~~airplane hangars no better than fragments of twisted~~

~~steel and flames rising aloft.~~

Tedder today

The ~~British~~ Air Marshal gave an interesting

explanation of the final phase of ~~the~~ air operations up

to the fall of Tunisia. He pointed out that at Dunkirk

the British had been able to save a large part of their

First Army because for a short time the Royal Air Force

had acquired superiority in that small area, enough to

He said that

protect the beaches of the Channel. [^] If the Nazi air arm

had been able to do the same thing at Tunisia, the armies

of von Arnim and General Messe could have been evacuated

in the same way. But, the Nazi air force did not even *try*

He said

[^] it was beaten so thoroughly that it left the scene

And that

~~of the battle~~ entirely. ~~Consequently~~ by the Sixth of

May, Tunisia was completely blockaded both by air and

by sea.

RUSSIA

The Nazis are ~~now~~ getting ready for their long expected big push in Russia. But it does not look as though they were going to be able to take the Red Army by surprise. Soviet reconnaissance planes have spotted huge concentrations of tanks in the sectors around Belgorod and Orel. Hitler's engineers ~~have huge affairs~~ ^{seem to have} ~~of a new model called Tigers~~ ^{of their biggest tanks,}

We have not heard of that part of the line so long that it is well to remember that Belgorod is forty-five miles north of Kharkov, and Orel is midway on a twenty-four hundred miles railroad between Kharkov and Moscow. Belgorod is one of the crucial points on the Donets River line. That is where the Nazis have their heaviest massing of tanks. The Russian high command infers that the Nazi generals are going to use their big Tiger tanks in mass formation, and try a blitz attack on Belgorod or ~~the~~ Orel, or both. We can take it

~~ADD LEAD~~

Roosevelt

President Roosevelt sent an enthusiastic message to ~~Soviet Premier~~ Stalin today. ~~It was~~ ^{In} reply to a message of congratulations ~~that~~ the Allies had received from Stalin. "Mr. Roosevelt's message included the statement that it is reasonable now to expect further successes on both the eastern and the western fronts, ^{now} ~~and further supplies including air force, now that~~ that we have the initiative."

The President also sent a wire to Chinese Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, hinting at a major offensive in the Asiatic theatre of war; ~~and that~~ soon. The President used these words: "We hope in the near future to take, together with your gallant army, the initiative in Asia and to bring to an end the war which you ~~have~~ for many years have carried on successfully in spite of all difficulties."

~~DO NOT~~
Senate - Japan.

The United States Senate today ~~heard a strong~~ ^{heard a} demand that the Allies now concentrate their attacks on Japan. ~~The man who voiced this demand was Democratic~~ ^{This from} Senator ~~Happy~~ Chandler of Kentucky, ~~who declared~~ ^{who said} that if we do not attack Japan ~~first~~ ^{now} and let Germany wait until ~~later~~ ^{last forever,} the war may ~~never be over.~~ The Kentucky Senator ~~declared~~ ^{added} that we have Germany surrounded, and ~~unable~~ ^{virtually} ~~helpless.~~ ^{So, let's get going on} ~~to do us any damage.~~ ^{Japan!}

Chandler explained that he was saying this now while Prime Minister Winston Churchill is in Washington. The length of the war, he ~~declared~~ ^{went on,} depends largely on the result of the conferences now going on between Mr. Roosevelt and M^r. Churchill. ~~Churchill, he continued,~~ is British and representing the best interests of the British. Stalin, he added, is Russian, strong and tough. But nobody can say that he will represent the interests of the United States.

ATTU

Attu, that westernmost island of the Aleutians, is still very much in the limelight tonight. Attu belongs to that group of the Aleutian chain called the "Near Islands." So named by the Russians. But a most appropriate name now because for us they are the nearest to Japan. The nearest base from which we can get at Tokyo.

And again today most of our news comes from the Japs. The U.S. Navy, sticking to its rule of giving out no information until a show is over, tells us nothing, except that our Attu operation is proceeding.

However, a Navy Spokesman did make one pertinent statement. The Japs flung out the accusation that our troops have been using ~~poison~~^{poison} gas. Absolutely untrue, says the U.S. Navy spokesman.

Our government, and the British, have declared they will never use ~~poison~~^{poison} gas -- except in retaliation.

The Japanese communique tells Tojo's people how bravely their soldiers on Attu are fighting -- against superior numbers of Americans. By which we gather that

our people are on Attu in force. And reinforcements are being landed continually. Protected by naval gunfire and many army planes, our troops evidently are pouring on Attu.

The Jap spokesman claimed that one United States force that had tried to land on the East coast had been ~~annihilated~~ ^{annihilated} by the Japanese garrison. Later, however, the same spokesman said that this American force which had landed on the East coast had gotten as far as the Jap lines and had then been thrown back to the beach.

Major General Yahagi, head of the Press Bureau of the Japanese Army, stated today that the Americans and Japanese on Attu are now fighting a fierce pitched battle.

He speaks of a three-pronged operation; from the East, North and South. And he says that the Japanese garrison is holding its own against ^{tremendous} odds.

The inference in Washington is that the Japanese army broadcast ~~fix~~ from Tokyo is to prepare the people of Japan for the news that they have been thrown out of Attu.

BLOCKADE

In spite of the British and American blockade of Germany, the Nazis have been taking desperate chances; running the blockade with raw materials obtained from the Japanese. The other day, the British Navy overhauled two of the blockade runners that had steamed successfully all the way from the Far East to the Atlantic. Then the King's men-o-war bagged one off Spain, near Cape Finisterre, and the other an eight-thousand-tonner, they bagged in Denmark Strait between Greenland and Iceland. Both carrying most valuable cargoes.

The British didn't get the cargoes, but they forced the German crews to scuttle their ships. One of the cruisers that overtook the Nazis at sea was commanded by Captain R. G. Bowes-Lyon, a cousin of Queen Elizabeth.

CORSAIRS

We have heard a good deal about the Corsairs, the new swift fighter planes of Uncle Sam's Navy. We now have information how they live up to the promises made for them by experts. And that information is quite cheery.

It comes from Guadalcanal. A consignment of Corsairs recently arrived there. Last Thursday they had their first chance to show their mettle. Based on an aircraft carrier, they were assigned to protect a United States task force that sailed out among the islands to bombard the big Jap air force at Munday.

They were so employed in the straits between Savo and the Russell Islands. Suddenly, there appeared upstairs a strong force of twenty-five Jap Zeros. They were higher than the American planes and they came in at an altitude anywhere from fifteen thousand to twenty-seven thousand feet. The Corsairs immediately climbed and tackled the Japs. Thereupon they enjoyed a

series of running dogfights that ~~had~~ lasted for twenty minutes. In that twenty minutes, the Corsairs bagged sixteen out of the twenty-five Japs. Four Corsairs were lost.

The superiority of these new lightning fighter planes was amply proved by another circumstance.

In that same fight we had Warhawks, Airacobras and Lightnings. Altogether, they far outnumbered the Corsairs. But while the Corsairs bagged sixteen Japs, the Warhawks, Airacobras and Lightnings got only one.

Another fine point about the Corsairs is that they are not only swift and able to out-climb any other plane. They are also heavy and have a long range. Their speed is reported as literally blinding, more than four hundred miles an hour. The men who manned them reported that once a Corsair gets above a Zero, the Jap has no chance. Out of the twenty-six contacts that the entire body of

American planes made with the enemy during that venture, the Corsairs made no fewer than twenty-one. They are powered by a single two thousand horsepower engine.

One American flier is credited with four of the sixteen Japs that were destroyed. He is Captain Archibald Donohue of Corpus Christi, Texas. Since last November he has a total of six Jap Zeros on his tally. He reports that he ran out of oxygen at twenty thousand feet and dived down to fifteen thousand, ~~XXXX~~ and he came right out on the tail of one Zero. He gave the Jap one short burst, and the Zero blew up. Then he leveled off another Zero. The Jap's engine began to smoke and he started climbing. The Corsair was so swift that Donohue was able to tear up past him, then cut around and shoot him down.

The next thing Donohue saw was the spectacle of three Zeros attacking one Corsair at seventeen

thousand feet. Donohue got into that scrap, and broke one Zero to pieces. Then, as his gas was low, he headed for home and sighted the fourth Jap. He engaged him in a dogfight and ran him ~~snack~~ into the water. He reports that his part of the fight lasted only five minutes.

COAL

Almost at the eleventh hour, John L. Lewis of the ~~United Mine Workers~~ postponed the coal strike until the end of this month. He did this at the end of a ~~decidedly~~ hectic day. It started with a scorching denunciation of Lewis by the War Labor Board. He had been summoned to appear before the Board, which wanted him to resume direct negotiations with the mine operators. Lewis ignored the message entirely.

Wayne Morse, on behalf of the Board, declared ~~flatly~~ that it was impossible to get along with the negotiations in this coal business until the representatives of the United Mine Workers appear before the Board. The Board then said flatly that Lewis's failure to appear was a defiance of our laws and used these words:- "The issue now confronting the nation in this dispute is whether Mr. Lewis is above and beyond the laws which apply to all other citizens of the

United States." And it continued: "This defiance challenges the sovereignty of the United States in time of war and gives aid and comfort to our enemies."

That sounds about as serious a thing as can be said about a man in these times.

The statement went on to say that Lewis's defiance was the only obstacle that now prevents the working out of a new contract for the mine workers by orderly, peaceful procedure.

Following that bitter statement, reports came from Washington that Secretary Ickes had appealed to Lewis to prolong the truce, which was to have expired at midnight tomorrow. The inference is that Lewis's action followed the appeal by the Secretary.

In fact, a telegram from Lewis to Ickes said as much. The ~~United~~ Union President told the Secretary that the wording of his request reflected the

public interest. He reminded Ickes that this is the third time the miners have accepted an extension of the agreement. He then asked that the government instruct the mine operators to begin collective bargaining conferences so that a contract may be signed before the extension of the truce expires.