

ROOSEVELT

R.D. - Sunoco. Thursday, Jan. 28, 1943.

President Roosevelt today sent a ^{personal} ~~right chatty~~ message to ^{our} ~~the~~ forces ~~of the United States~~ in North Africa. ~~It is~~ ^T The sort of message ~~that~~ any soldier would like to receive from his Commander-in-Chief.

The President said:- "The officers and men who landed with the initial assault, those who are now carrying on ^{at} the spot in Tunisia and those who are training and readying themselves for future combat are deserving of the highest commendation."

He went on to say: "I could not but note your alertness, your smartness and the pride you take in yourselves and your splendid equipment. I return to the United States with renewed confidence that American soldiers, equipped with the best equipment the world can produce and led by men who have proven themselves in battle and all imbued with the will to win, shall be victorious. Officers and men of the armed forces of North Africa, I commend you."

AFRICA FOLLOW ROOSEVELT

The President's message is about the most important news we have today concerning North Africa. Most of the other reports from there concern aerial operations. For instance, a formation of American planes came across two destroyers believed to be Italian, a hundred miles east of Tunis. They attacked and landed two direct hits on one of the destroyers, leaving it in flames and listing heavily. On the other they scored a near-hit, damaging the propeller and steering apparatus.

No ground fighting is reported:- probably because all the generals were busy conferring. The American and British commanders held meetings at headquarters with Lieutenant-General Eisenhower, General Marshall, our Chief of Staff, Admiral King, the boss of the Navy, General Arnold of the Air Corps, and General Somervell of Service and Supply.

British General Harold Alexander was also much in evidence, Also Vice-Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Chief of the Commandos, Field Marshal Sir John Dill, British Admiral Sir Dudley Pound, ^{as well as many} Lieutenant Generals and Major Generals and Vice marshals ^{air} ~~to be~~. The natural assumption is ^{that they are} ~~they were~~ planning the next step in the Tunisian campaign.

RAID

The ~~British~~ Royal Air Force ^{today} ~~quietly~~ followed up the raid of American bombers on Wilhelmshaven. The R.A.F. paid a lightning visit to the big Nazi factory city, Duesseldorf. It lasted only twenty minutes, but it was a real blitz, for in those twenty minutes the Britishers dropped hundreds of tons of high explosives on some of the most valuable factories in Germany. The Britishers ~~going~~ over with a fleet of Lancaster and Halifax bombers, the most formidable they possess. ⁷⁷ The airmen were not able to report how good their bombing had been, because the sky was ~~heavily beclouded~~ ^{too murky.} But as they flew away they could see the glare from huge fires. ^{The} British flyers ^{are} calling their Duesseldorf visit a "Thunderbolt Raid."

RUSSIA

The latest Russian victory is on the Voronezh front. The Red Army ^{there} ~~on that front~~ is ~~now~~ under the command of Colonel General Philip Golikov. His right wing struck due west from Voronezh and overcame the garrison of a place called Kastornaya. It was a hard fought battle, said the Moscow high command, and the Reds had to work hard for every foot of ground.

TP Kastornaya is a railroad junction, ~~at a point where~~ the railway from Voronezh to Kursk crosses the north-south line between Moscow and Rostov, also Moscow and Kharkov. A couple of days ago, ^{Gen.} Golikov captured Gorshechanaya, twenty-two miles south of Kastornaya. So now they have that salient ~~striken~~ ^{straightened} out and appear to be on their way to Kursk and Orel. That would put Stalin's generals ~~xx~~ only sixty miles away from Kursk. *TP* Elsewhere they are within sixty miles of Rostov.

~~Down south~~ At Stalingrad, the Sixth German
Army of ^{once} twenty-two divisions, ~~two hundred and twenty~~
~~thousand men~~, ^{strong} continues to shrink. The Reds figure ^{today}
^{tell us} there are ~~only~~ eighty-five hundred starving, frozen
men left out of the once powerful two hundred and twenty
thousand. ^{TP} The remnants of General von Paulus's brave
army are shot through with mutiny. ^{So say} ~~according to the~~
~~reports of~~ Russian correspondents. The noon
communique from Moscow today reported that a group
which surrendered included one general, three colonels,
four lieutenant-colonels and other field officers,
with crowds of privates and non-commissioned officers.
^{TP} Three days ago, a crack German regiment boasted twelve
hundred men with machine guns and mine throwers. ^{When it}
surrendered yesterday, only a few hundred ~~were~~
left, with two machine guns and a hundred rifles, ^{and}
without ammunition.

Normally ~~one~~ ^{one} might be inclined to take with a grain of salt ^{these} German stories of mutiny and desertions ~~from German troops.~~ ~~Such reports~~ Normally they might be open to a suspicion of propaganda. But the plight of the trapped Germans at Stalingrad makes ^{this tale plausible,} ~~the story~~ quite probable.

Berlin reports naively that in the north Caucasus, the bulk of the German troops have disengaged themselves from the Russians. That ~~is probably one~~ ^{is one way} of the cutest ways we've ever heard of admitting ~~that~~ you are on the run. The ^{the} Germans add that the Russians were unable to find the retreating German troops.

The Nazis ~~claim to~~ ^{also say they} have fought off a heavy Soviet attack in the western Caucasus. ~~But evidently~~ ^{Possibly}

~~they are~~ ^{news of} preparing the public for further defeats

there too, because they add that "It must be assumed the Soviets will repeat the offensive."

As for the Russian advance in the north, the Nazis declare that the German retreat west of Voronezh was entirely in accord with the GERMAN plan.

GERMANY

Adolf Hitler has given up one of the roles he has been acting. He has abandoned the part of the great military genius. This came second only to his delusion that he is an artist. With his great Stalingrad army cut to ribbons, and the remnants deserting or surrendering, he has quite directing the war. So says a story that comes by way of London.

Of course, it ~~is not necessarily~~ ^{may not be} accurate.

~~It comes out of France - and~~
~~It originated in reports from the French frontier,~~

according to the London dispatch, and it may be just a

~~bit of~~ ^{bit of} ~~out-and-out~~ guessing, ~~on the strength of the probabilities~~

At any rate, taking it for what ~~it is~~ ^{ever it may be} worth, the story

is that the author of "Mein Kampf", having got his vast

armies into one ~~great~~ ^{vast and} unholy mess, has turned to the

general staff and said, in effect, "Here, ~~this is your~~ ^{you take}

~~over."~~ ^{over."} It was after the Nazi retreat from Moscow last

winter that the Fuehrer with ~~the~~ ^{his} Napoleon ~~complex,~~ ^{ic} ~~took~~ ^{himself}

over the active command. ~~himself as generalissimo.~~

For more than a year, the generals and the great general staff have existed only for the purpose of carrying out Hitler's orders. ^{And} Now they have to carry ^{out} ~~on the job of~~

~~seeing~~ the consequences. One reason for doubting the story, is that it sounds too much like poetic justice,

to be true. *For the mad Schickselgruber may not yet have shot his bolt.*

If it were true, it might indicate a revolt among Germany's generals. As a matter of fact, that ~~much~~ is hinted in the story. Military men, it says, are feeling that the Fuehrer's intuition is not a good substitute for military training and the ^{science} ~~art~~ of war. For some time there has been gossip ~~coming~~ from Germany ~~to the effect~~ that the experienced generals wanted to raise the siege of Stalingrad months ago. Only Hitler and the ardent Nazi coterie around him insisted upon keeping general Von Paulus and his army on the banks of the Volga. The generals wanted to

retreat to a prepared line so as to give their men a rest during the winter and reequip them.

~~But here is a story out of Germany which is official. All men and most women in Germany are to be registered for the defense of the Reich. Men between the ages of sixteen and sixty five, women between ~~xxx~~ seventeen and forty five are to be mobilized. This was decreed by Hitler's Labor Commissioner. And it is~~

One wonders what
~~expected that the Fuehrer will make some other~~
the Fuehrer will make
spectacular announcement, on Saturday, the Tenth

Anniversary of the day he first took power. — day after tomorrow? We wish he would say "Alles Kaput."
But that's wishful thinking.
And we all do too much of that.

~~Several~~ Reporters were gathered today in the Office of Lieutenant-General Thomas Holcomb, Commandant ^{of the U.S.} ~~of Uncle Sam's~~ Marine Corps. In the office also was a sturdy but shy officer in the uniform of a Major-General. Holcomb introduced him to reporters briefly and unceremoniously as "Vandegrift of the Solomons."

Yes, ~~it was~~ Major-General Alexander A. Vandegrift who took Henderson Field on Guadalcanal, ^{took it} ~~away~~ from the Japs,

^{and then} who commanded the brilliant, stubborn defense against

~~tremendous odds which ended in victory.~~
~~Guadalcanal that ended in victory.~~

~~He steered rigidly away from every attempt to~~

~~spread eagle the story.~~ ^{Gen. Vandegrift modestly} He even [^] said that what he and

his men had done was nothing unusual. ^{Which} ~~Then~~ he explained:

^{by saying that} "It was not unusual in ~~that sense~~ ^{just} they were [^] out there

with a ~~job~~ ^{And} to do, [^] They had to stay there until

conditions warranted their being relieved."

The ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ news men had a tough time

getting anything out of ^{the Marine Corps general.} ~~Vandegrift~~. He answered some of the questions they asked, but not all; and ^{volunteered} ~~said~~ nothing of his own accord. Painfully they extracted from him the statement that American forces can hold Guadalcanal, and there was never any thought that they could not. ^{He said he} ~~He~~ had no colorful yarns to tell. ^{And} In answer to questions, he said laconically that his men had worked all day improving their defenses and building roads. ^{And then} All night they fought.

One remark nettled General Vandegrift. A reporter mentioned that some dispatches hinted that morale had slipped for a time ~~an~~ Guadalcanal. Vandegrift replied instantly: "There was never a let-down in morale on the island."

So another reporter asked, how about that day in the middle of October when the marines were being bombarded constantly by heavy Jap warships?

To that ^{the General} Vandegrift replied: "Well, it would be silly to say that anybody could be bombarded by fourteen inch and eighteen inch shells for three hours and come out of it like ^{coming out of} a motion picture." Then he added:

"It left us a bit stunned for a day or two. After all," he explained, "there is something about the explosion of a Navy shell that ^{even a} ~~no~~ thousand pound bomb can ⁴ ~~1~~ equal."

The taking of the airfield on Guadalcanal, said the General, had given the marines valuable experience in amphibious tactics. "But," he added, "there is nothing in the nature of the landing that we have not practiced for years. ⁷⁷ ^{of the Solomons} Vandegrift then said something particularly interesting. "If you take the French and Indian Wars and bring them up-to-date with modern weapons, you will have what I consider a solution of how to fight jungle warfare." He meant,

~~they were~~ fought by ^{Geo} Washington and ^{by General Jeffrey Amherst and others,}

About the Japanese, ^{s, the now famous} ~~Vandegrift repeated~~
Marine Corps general repeated
what other returning officers have said - Do not

under-estimate them. They will do what they are told
or die trying. ~~he said.~~ "They are ~~experienced~~ experts
on camouflage and never think of leaving their
positions. You just have to kill them."

Guadalcanal, on
Up to the time he left ~~the island~~ which

~~was~~ December Ninth, his men had taken about five
hundred Japanese prisoners. "Most of them," he explained,
~~are~~ "labor troops," and he said further: "The Jap
soldier will not surrender until he is practically
unconscious from wounds. Most of those we captured,"
~~he~~ ^{went on to say,} ~~continued,~~ "were so badly wounded that they were
unable to kill themselves."

spoke
So ~~say~~ Vandegrift of the Solomons.

JAPAN

There are many who

~~Most people~~ believe that the Japanese, with all their conquests, must now be having a ~~much~~ better time

of it, with plenty to eat and plenty of ~~conveniences~~ ^{comforts. For} their conquests have indeed been vast.

This idea was knocked in the head today by none other

than the Japanese Premier ^(Hideki) ~~Tojo~~. ~~He told~~ ^{In a speech to} the Diet ~~that~~,

Tojo said: -

"until victory is won, the Japanese must face discomforts and hardships. The Japanese nation must accustom itself to the simple life."

Tojo also made public a promise to give the Philippines independence. ~~But the~~ ^a promise ~~has~~ ^{with} a string

^{That} to it. They will have independence provided they collaborate with Japan in the creation of a common prosperity sphere in Eastern Asia.

This comes through an Italian broadcast recorded in London. It says further that Tojo also promised independence to the Burmese this year at the

^{The word is that} latest. The Tojo Government intends to create a Burmese state in the areas now under jurisdiction of the Japanese.

JEFFERS

Fourteen months after Pearl Harbor, and not a pound of synthetic rubber has come out of a government-owned plant! That statement was made public today by a spokesman for William M. Jeffers, United States Rubber Director. It came out in the course of the otherwise exceedingly polite exchange of compliments between Jeffers and War Information Director Elmer Davis. ^{TR} *all*

this was over the scorching remarks that Jeffers made at Baltimore on Monday. ^{Elmer} Davis protested because Jeffers had said that his failure to obtain priorities on steel for rubber plants was due to government interference ^{and} *what he called* ~~and~~ army and navy loafers. On the following day, Jeffers explained that he had not made those charges at the public hearing before the Council of Governors, *but had* ~~made those~~ remarks in answer to questions from reporters. At any rate, Rubber Director Jeffers will not retract a word of it.

Reporters asked Secretary of War Stimson whether he knew anything about interference of Army officers in the rubber program. Stimson's reply was to ask the reporters whether he had ever indulged in arguments with the heads of other departments. To which he added: "Nobody is more anxious to have Jeffers make a success of the synthetic rubber program than I am."

TIME

The State of Georgia turned its clocks back one hour today after the Governor signed ^a ~~the~~ bill passed by the Legislature to that effect. Reporters asked Attorney General Biddle whether this called for action by the Department of Justice, as this action is contrary to an order issued by the President. Biddle replied that, for one thing, the Attorney General could not act unless a complaint were made.

A middlewestern correspondent writes ^{me} that city folks do not understand why the farmers object to War Time. O.F. Foster, Manager of the Lakefield Farms, Clarkston, Michigan, says it is not a question of getting up in the dark, it is a question of loss of time. Cultivating, haying and harvesting cannot be done when the ^{dew} ~~sun~~ is on, no matter what the Congress and the War Production Board may say to the contrary. Mr. Foster adds: "No one has yet given a single

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logical reason why a change ~~xxxxx~~ of time would slow up war production. Most plants work around the clock and daylight or dew makes no difference in their work.

As for the saving of electrical current, War Time wastes instead of saving it. If food is so important, why continue to hamper the farmers?"

Farmer Foster adds ~~trying~~ ^{that} that he wonders how city folk would eat if farmers decided on a forty hour week or even a forty-eight hour week.

QUESTION

Until this week, a sixty-four dollar question was tops even in a radio quiz. Sixty-four dollars for answering a question - ~~as the lady said in the anecdote -~~

"nice work if you can get it ^{"to do."}~~to do.~~

Well, as you all no doubt know, a lady in West Brighton, New York, has more than fifteen thousand dollars for missing a question on Saturday night's "Truth and Consequences" program.

Mrs. Dennis Mullane was unable to tell how many Kings of

named Henry
England there had been. ~~named Henry, which would~~
And you can't
blame her for that. And
~~certainly make the late King Henry the Eighth turn over~~
nobody did.

~~in his grave.~~ Mrs. Mullane had ~~xx~~ explained that she

wanted ~~to try for~~ the sixty-four dollar ~~question~~ in

order to buy a bond for her son Harold, who is a

~~leathernick~~ private *in the Marines.*

To console her for missing the sixty-four

dollar question, ~~Ralph Edwards, the~~ *the radio's* quiz master, asked

her to tell her address and invited the listeners to

send her a penny each, so ~~that~~ she might buy that War

Bond. That was on Saturday night. ^{By} ~~On~~ Monday, ten

842
thousand letters arrived at Mrs. Mullane's home, and the

local post office branch had to put on extra men to

handle the traffic.

Late last night Uncle Sam's mail trucks had delivered a hundred and thirty-three thousand pieces of mail to the Mullane's, and the National Broadcasting Company had to send a special staff of fifteen clerks to help Mrs. Mullane open and count the money.

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Hugh, ^{ask me} ~~could you miss~~ a question. ^{I want} ~~for fifteen~~
~~thousand dollars?~~ to miss it!