

L.T. - Sunoco. Thurs. July 23, 1942.

RUSSIA

In the battle of Russia it would appear that the Soviet Forces are systematically retiring to the line of the Don -- the big bend of that river. Right now the Red Army may have pretty well completed its withdrawal to the river front. Today brought new Moscow admissions of continuing German advances ~~x~~ into the area of the big Bend. Place names are given, which show that the Nazi ~~Panzer~~ Panzers are nearing the line where they'll have to fight a decisive battle -- if they intend to get to Stalingrad and the Volga.

The German push eastward has bypassed Rostov, gateway to the Caucasus -- at the mouth of the Don. The Germans claim to have driven across the river to the east of Rostov, and said they have the city surrounded on three sides. One enemy report proclaims that Axis troops have broken through the Rostov defense lines and are on the outskirts of the town. Moscow does not confirm any such thing, but the indication from the Soviet capital is that the key to the Caucasus is not likely to be defended in any important way. It's in a hopeless position, and is no longer of such great consequence -- now that the Nazi war machine has pushed on to the east.

The Russian war news is dark with danger -- dark also with secrecy. We have only a few precise facts, just enough to ~~xx~~ suggest an ominous picture of the grave danger of ~~the~~ Germans driving all the way across the Caucasus -- and separating Soviet Russia from its oil.

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## EGYPT

The conflict in Egypt was described today as -- "A battle of material." That is -- the rival forces are hammering away at each other's equipment. No complicated strategy, no clever maneuver<sup>s</sup> on the chessboard of war. Just a question of smashing armor against armor -- and see which lasts the longer.

Heavy fighting is going on all along the forty miles from the Mediterranean Coast to the Quatarra Depression. The British have scored advances. They hit the Axis troops hard, and pushed ahead. ~~T~~ The German Panzers counterattacked, These assaults were beaten off and again today the British pushed their lines forward. However, Cairo tells us that the offensive by General Auchinlech's imperial forces is of a limited nature -- not a major attempt to smash through Rommel's line and drive the Nazis out of Egypt. It's a conflict of limited objectives for the moment.

Berlin denies the rumor that Field Marshal Rommel has been wounded -- Nazi propoganda saying the story is a British invention. However, the rumor that Rommel was injured in battle came from Scandinavia and London took it with plenty of doubt.

## CONVOY

The biggest convoy of American troops even<sup>^</sup>~~er~~ sent from the United States arrived recently in Northern Ireland. This was stated in London today. The convoy was the climax of a series of transport fleets that have been taking our soldiers to the British Isles. There is no indication of how numerous ~~that~~ the American soldiers over there may be, but it is obvious that by now they constitute a powerful force.

HULL  
MESS

Tonight's broadcast by Secretary of State Cordell Hull promises to be one of the most important pronouncements ever made over the air. The secretary's broadcast has the public endorsement of President Roosevelt, and is expected to be a statement of number one importance concerning the progress of the war. 9:30

tonight.

## LABOR

The administration ~~of~~ labor policy was attacked in the Senate today, with Senator George of Georgia uttering sharp criticism against labor board action in permitting increases of wages. Senator George stated that the wage increases make it -- "Impossible for price controls to operate."

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Meanwhile President Roosevelt was conferring with labor ~~ixdx~~ leaders at the White House, chiefs of the A.F. of L., and C.I.O., "The little labor cabinet," as they call it. The union leaders told the president that they remain consistently opposed to any blanket control of wages -- any freezing of wages.

Upon emerging from the White House, William Green, President of the A.F. of L. stated <sup>d</sup>~~x~~: "We came away from the conference with the impression that the President reacted favorably to our proposal."

On the other hand, the President is said to have informed congressional leaders that the inflation peril is grave indeed, and that the United States faces the worst economic upset in its history. This -- unless there is an ironclad rule against increases of both prices and wages, such as are against the public interest.

Today's White House Labor conferences was accompanied by a meeting of spokesmen for both management and the Unions. They

pledged themselves to full support of the American war effort.

INDICTMENT

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In Washington the attorney general today made public the indictment of twenty-eight persons. They are accused of conducting a nationwide conspiracy to interfere with the war effort. Twenty-seven of those indicted are men. One woman -- Mrs. Elizabeth Dilling, author of the Red Network. Among the others are William Griffin, publisher of a New York newspaper, the Enquirer; Gerald B. Winrod, who once ran for Governor of Kansas; William Dudley Pelley, who is already under indictment for sedition; <sup>and</sup> George Sylvester <sup>Viereck</sup> ~~Viereck~~, who is serving a prison term for not having registered properly as an enemy alien.

The twenty-eight indicted are persons who in one way or another were connected with agitation against the war. They are charged with conspiracy to impair the loyalty, morale and discipline of the United States Military and Naval Forces.



PETRILLO

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The Government is taking action ~~ag~~ against Petrillo, head of musician's Union. Attorney-general Biddle announced today that he has authorized the filing of a suit for an injunction under the anti-trust laws -- this with reference to Petrillo's order forbidding Union Musicians to make transcriptions and recordings for radio ~~station~~ stations and other public uses. A month ago Petrillo gave notice that members of the American Federation of Musicians would no longer be permitted to play for any mechanical ~~repe~~ reproduction of music that was used publicly. This order did not apply to phonograph records sold to private persons.

Petrillo's action is now being attacked on the ground that small radio stations in ~~men~~ rural areas depend on electrical transcriptions, and if these are forbidden the stations will not be able to handle war programs that are considered essential to civilian morale. This argument is advanced by officials of the Department of Justice, as the Petrillo order is attacked legally as an infringement of the anti-Trust Laws.

Moreover, the Federal communications Commission is looking into another order issued by union Chieftain Petrillo. This concerns

his decree whereby the National Broadcasting Company cancelled a musical program which was to have been played by the national high school orchestra at Interlochen, Michigan. Petrillo objected to the broadcasting of music played by amateurs.

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Today Chairman Fly of the F.C.C. sent letters to Petrillo and the N.B.C., requesting a full statement of the facts. The Fly letters are in accordance with a request made by Senator Vandenberg of Michigan, who asked for an inquiry into the cancellation of the highschool orchestra program.

There's one special kind of art called -- military oratory. You know -- the general addressing his troops before the battle. Napoleon declaiming: "Beyond the Alps lies Italy."

Today a new species of military oratory found its way into print -- emanating from our newest army unit, the WAACS.

Today at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, officer candidates training for the women's army auxiliary corps were addressed by their commander -- Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby. She delivered a <sup>i</sup>stirring address, and ended with the following peroration -- which certainly was adapted to <sup>w</sup>omen soldiers: "You have taken off silk and put on khaki," declaimed Mrs. Hobby; and then she added, "You have a debt and a date -- a debt to democracy, a date with destiny."

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All of which inspired the WAACS to a fervent enthusiasm -- except possibly for the thought that their dates might be limited to the one with destiny.

We all know the importance of letters in an army camp -- receiving letters and writing them. And today we are told of a letter champion. He is Private Joseph Sturm in camp at Fort Niagara, New York. It isn't stated how many letters Private Sturm receives.

His championship is in the writing. During a period of thirteen months in the army he has written twelve hundred letters -- most of them three or four pages in length. He has penned an average of more than three of these lengthy epistles a day.

Private Sturm, who used to be a school teacher, admits that he likes to handle the pen. But it's more than that. He vividly enjoys that idea of free-postage-for soldiers. After years of having to paste a two or three cent stamp on each letter, he finds it exhilarating to mail letters for nothing.

PLANE

At the Philadelphia navy yard today official commendation was bestowed on Lieutenant Ralph Weaver, pilot of a navy plane. Lieutenant Weaver's exploit of courage was a novel kind of thriller -- happening last night in Pennsylvania's blackout.

Anti-air raid precautions were <sup>b.</sup> observed over a great area -- and were most ~~xxx~~ effective. The lights were out, complete darkness. Lieutenant Weaver was flying in the blackout -- when something went wrong with his plane. He had to bail out, and let the plane go on to crash.

He didn't want it to fall smashing into a town, among people. The thing to do was to maneuver <sup>so</sup> ~~to that~~ the disabled aircraft <sup>^</sup>would crash in some uninhabited locality. But how could the navy pilot tell -- in the blackout? No lights down there to indicate where a town or a house might be. The earth was so utterly dark that, if the lieutenant were to bail out, the crashing plane might land right in the middle of a city -- for all he could tell. So what did he do? He flew out of the black-out.

In the far distance, <sup>off to</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>there</sup> the east, <sup>,</sup> was a dim glow. That was New Jersey -- in which state there was no blackout. So,

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Lieutenant Weaver headed his disabled plane that way ~~marshing~~ nursing it along, gliding, trying to get a few more kicks out of the failing motor. And he was just able to make it.

He was just able to get to New Jersey -- where bright clusters of light on the ground told of towns and where stretches of black indicated areas without people. When he was sure his plane would come down in the black, <sup>he</sup> ~~he~~ bailed out -- and floated safely to the ground. The plane crashed in a mountain forest.

An unusual situation, <sup>and</sup> ~~x~~ a singular turn of courage -- in the blackout.

## PARACHUTIST

The odd ways in which wartime rumors can start is illustrated by a parachute story from Syracuse today. There has been an epidemic of yarns about sinister visitors from the sky, and Syracuse contributes one in which the evidence was unusually clear and precise.

Four passengers on a railroad train spotted a parachutist in a cow pasture near the town of Clay. They saw a figure pulling the shroud lines of a chute, as though he had just landed. Three of the four witnesses were soldiers, who in military training had seen a lot of parachuting. So their evidence was authoritative indeed.

A search was instituted, and here's the explanation of the mysterious parachutist. He was a boy out playing. The favorite toy of this lad is a parachute -- made of silk and eighteen feet in diameter. Not that he uses it to jump. He likes to hang a weight on the chute, and drop it from a steep hill. Great fun -- watching the parachute go drifting on the wind.

The youngster was retrieving his toy chute when he was spotted by the witnesses aboard the railroad train -- and he certainly looked like a visitor from the sky who had just landed.

In New York's big political battle within the Democratic ranks, Tammany Hall today endorsed Senator Mead for Governor. This was expected all along in a Democratic free for all, which features President Roosevelt versus Jim Farley. Of course, the actual race for the Democratic nomination is Bennet<sup>x</sup> ~~VERSUS~~ versus Mead. But the issues are far larger than that. There are national implications bearing on the next Presidential campaign -- Nineteen Forty-Four.

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Jim Farley, Backing Bennet<sup>x</sup>, got a long start -- securing the pledges of a majority of the delegates who will constitute the Democratic Convention. At first the White House and New Deal opposition was not public -- a battle behind the scenes. But now Senator Mead has announced himself as a candidate to be the Democratic ~~CANDIDATE~~ Candidate; President Roosevelt has come out in his support; and today Tammany Hall spoke up for Mead. Michael J. Kennedy, head of the Manhattan Democratic organization said: "It is a question of following or repudiating President Roosevelt's leadership."

The Farley-Bennet<sup>x</sup> force show no signs of backing down.



So it looks like a finish fight between the President and  
the man who organized the Roosevelt election ~~ixing~~ triumphs  
of Nineteen Thirty-Two and Nineteen-<sup>th</sup>irty six.

DAVIS

Today Elmer Davis, Director of the Office of War Information spoke his mind on the subject of Communists in government service. He's agin 'em, as Calvin Coolidge would have said. Elmer Davis was brief and succinct in expressing his attitude toward Communists and their fellow travelers as federal employees. "By law you can't have a Communist, and as a matter of policy you don't want a fellow traveler," he said.

The head of the O.W.I. added that he's pressing for an investigation of alleged communism among the employees of his bureau.

The story as it came over the press wires from Washington said that Elmer Davis was brief and extinct. But I know Elmer is far from extinct, What was meant I am sure was succinct -- not extinct. And now, Hugh, who also is not extinct will be succinct.