

AIR WAR

L.I. - Sinoco. Tuesday, June 22, 1943.

The war today was little more than air war - with action concentrated on the two sides of Europe, north and south.

Nazi Germany took another heavy night and day battering. Last night was the shortest of the year - June Twenty-First being the summer solstice, the time of the longest day and shortest night. But the comparatively few hours of darkness were filled with activity in the sky. R.A.F. bombers hurled two thousand tons of high explosive on the City of Krefeld, one of Germany's great industrial centers. More than seven hundred British planes were in the assault, and forty-four R.A.F. bombers were lost.

Today, American Flying Fortresses assumed their part in the day and night attacks - their specialty being daylight bombing. ~~Today~~ They hit a vital spot - one of Germany's big synthetic rubber plants. Twenty Flying

Fortresses and four fight~~ing~~^{er} planes were lost. These, added to the forty-four R.A.F. bombers, give a twenty-four hour total of sixty-eight planes lost - which indicates the severity of the enemy opposition. The Fortresses were under constant attack for ninety minutes, until on their return they came into the range of fighter plane ~~protection~~ protection. ^{TP} The Fortresses wreaked tremendous havoc on ~~the~~ plant in the Ruhr which produces about twenty per cent of German synthetic rubber.

↳ The returning pilots tell of enormous fires and explosions. Bombardier Lieutenant Charles Williams of Arlington, Virginia, relates what he saw as follows:-
"When I looked through my bombsight, all I saw was a sheet of flame glaring up at us ~~like~~ as if someone had opened a blast furnace door down there. I never saw so much red flame," ~~xxxxxx~~ And he adds:
"It looks like the Germans might as well build a new plant."

On the southern side of Europe, Allied bombers have been ripping the mainland of Italy all the way from the toe of the boot to the city of Naples, two hundred and fifty miles up the coast. At the toe, they hit the terminals of the ferry between the peninsula and Sicily.

This we heard last night - ^{low} ~~about~~ two hundred and seventy-^{thousand} five pounds of bombs hit those ferry terminals. At Naples,

^{today} three waves of bombers smashed at military targets -

railway points and arsenals. The first wave was British, flying to Naples before dawn - night bombing according to the British style. Then came American daylight raiders - two waves of them, a hundred planes in all - Flying

Fortresses. ~~They concentrated on a Neapolitan airport /~~

~~were~~

~~The American bombers attacked by Axis fighters, but~~

~~only one Fortress was lost - while three of the enemy were~~

~~shot down. Enemy light bombers tried the trick of dropping~~

~~explosive on the For~~

~~And~~ twenty-five big fires were set in the ^{area} ~~area~~ of Naples, and one is described as sending up an enormous burst of flame, a flash a mile in diameter, *as if from the crater of Vesuvius.*

The American bombers were attacked by Axis fighters, but only one Fortress was lost - while three of the enemy were shot down. *Axis* light bombers tried the trick of dropping explosive on the Fortresses from above, ^{*again*} but it didn't work.

FRENCH

In North Africa, today, the feuding French factions came to an agreement on one important subject. Who is to control the French armed forces fighting the Nazis?

This has been one of the critical points of dispute ~~between~~ between ~~General~~ Giraud's North African administration and ~~General~~ DeGaulle's Fighting French.

At Algiers, the French National Committee, on which both factions are represented, ~~have~~ been debating the problem. And ~~they have~~ ^{has} been under pressure to patch up a settlement. The American and British governments ~~have~~ told the quarreling French that their wranglings and bickerings ~~ought to~~ ^{should} terminate, ^{and} that some sort of harmony must be established ~~among them~~ - in the interests of the war.

So now the Committee has made the decision in the question of who shall command the French army. And ~~presumably DeGaulle will accept~~ ^{the decree.}

The Committee today named Giraud as the
Commander-in-Chief of the French forces in North and
West Africa, and named DeGaulle as Commander-in-Chief
in the other territories of the French Empire. Of course,
the North African forces are by far the most powerful
and important -- and Giraud would ~~xxxxx~~ seem to have
won the advantage. Presumably, DeGaulle as
Commander-in-Chief of the other territories, might
establish his own headquarters at some other place.

RUSSIA

In Russia today the Soviets observed the second anniversary of their war with Nazi Germany. The events of the day were mostly verbal, with a conspicuous quiet reported ^{along} the fighting lines. Neither the Russian nor the German communique reports anything more than skirmishes here and there, and sporadic artillery bombardments. ^T This time two years ago, Hitler launched the surprise attack that was supposed to overwhelm the Red army, with a succession of stupendous blows. Today the question was -- when will the third summer campaign break out in full fury? There is ^{now} little to indicate whether ^{or not} the Germans will attempt another full-scale blow or whether the summer's offensive drives will be launched by the Soviets, or whether both sides will remain more or less quiet.

Today Moscow's anniversary observance featured renewed calls for a second front, reiterated appeals to ^{the} Americans and British to invade the Nazi fortress of Europe.

SABOTAGE

There is a curious twister in a story of sabotage at Rochester, New York. ~~There~~ ^a fireworks manufacturing company has been making aerial incendiary bombs and hand grenades for the army. Today, the president of the company and six other officials. and workers were arrested by the F.B.I., and the plant was taken over by the Army. The accusation is that the defendants sabotaged the bombs and grenades by not loading them properly. In some cases they put in an insufficient amount of powder, and in others the powder was defective. The result was that the bombs and grenades, when used in action, were likely to be ineffective - duds.

The twister in the case is this. The president of the fireworks company is named Antonnelli. He's a naturalized Italian, and his father is said to have been the royal ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ pyrotechnician to the King of Italy. That is - the maker of the royal fireworks.

Well, Fascist Italy is having a lot of fireworks
right now - though hardly to the King's taste, nor
apparently to the taste of the son of the royal
pyrotechnician, ^{Who} ~~he~~ is under arrest for sabotaging the
^{military} fireworks that he ^{himself} was making. ~~It~~ Odd, that a man of
such antecedents should have been granted such a war
contract.

This afternoon the War Labor Board appealed to President Roosevelt to use his authority and compel the Mine Workers Union to obey the order issued by the Board. What the W.L.B. directed was that the Union and the coal mine operators should renew their previous contract - with some small modification. The order was issued, and nothing happened - John L. Lewis and his Union not condescending even to communicate with the Labor Board. The W.L.B., itself, has no power to enforce anything, ~~that~~ ~~any decree, and~~ so all it could do was to ask the President to use his power to make the Union yield. ~~This the Board did this afternoon.~~

Shortly before this - John L. Lewis had a conference with Solid Fuels Administrator Ickes, the second in two days. There is no formal statement about what they discussed, but the word is that they talked about plans whereby the government would operate the

mines, and do business with the Union as an employer.

The Government of course seized the mine^s some time ago, but it has taken the attitude that the Union should make an agreement with the coal mine owners as the employers.

Lewis has been saying recently that the miners, having failed to come to a contract agreement with the operators, wanted to work for the Government.

One course of action that President Roosevelt might take would be to have the Government deal directly with the Union and make an agreement concerning miners' wages. That is - Government operation of the mines. *But*

some say that
~~But to agree with~~ this would be too much of a surrender to Lewis, who is demanding just that sort of policy.

Or the President might appeal to the miners and try to win them away from their allegiance to John L. Lewis. The President did appeal to the miners early in the long drawn out series of coal crises.

It did not seem to have much effect then, and the supposition is that it might take a long time for the President to persuade the miners to accept his leadership - repudiating Lewis.

Or the President might order the draft boards to induct striking miners who have been deferred from Selective Service because of essential occupation. However, the Union points out that most of the miners have reasons of family and age limit for deferrment.

Finally, the President might sign the anti-strike bill which is on his desk - the bill which would make Lewis and the Union leaders liable to jail sentences.

All in all - there is mighty little indication of what the White House is going to do, although the impression in Washington is that some kind of presidential action is about to be taken. ^{TR} Action is needed - with this third coal strike now in its second day. ~~With the~~

Production of coal at a halt, the production of steel is gravely threatened. Steel - the Number One sinew of war.

In Pennsylvania and Alabama, war plants manufacturing steel report that their stocks of coal are running dangerously low. And today the War Production Board disclosed that because of the strike, it has been compelled to postpone a drive to step up the ^{output} ~~production~~ of steel. The W.P.B. planned a vigorous move to boost ~~the output of steel~~ ^{this} by a million tons during the third quarter of this year. (The demands of the Army and Navy necessitate the boost, but now, with the coal miners on strike, the W.P.B. finds that it has to delay its drive for more steel. ^{TR} Officials of the W.L.B. stated today that the delay would be for a week or ten days, maybe more - depending on the coal strike.

HANGING

At Cincinnati today the Sixth United States Circuit Court reaffirmed the condemnation of Max Stephan, the Detroit restaurant keeper, who ~~was~~ under sentence of death for treason. With the United States at war, Stephan, a German born citizen, gave aid to a Nazi *flyer* prisoner ~~of war~~ who had escaped from Canada. The restaurant keeper has been turned down three times by the United States Supreme Court, after which he appealed to the Circuit Court for a new trial. That too is rejected, with the court ordering that the sentence of hanging be executed on July Second. The convicted traitor's only remaining hope now is the possibility that President Roosevelt may commute the sentence - and this is not considered likely.

RIOT

Detroit was quiet today, quiet on the riot front - and also in some of the war plants. With heavy forces of army troops on guard, [^]soldiers sent in by President Roosevelt - the fighting between ~~whites~~ whites and blacks is at an end. And the aftermath is a slump in production at Detroit's many armament factories. This - because of the absence of negro workers. Deterred by the orgy of violence, thousands failed to show up at their jobs today.

The Ford Company reported that several thousand of its negro workers were missing - about thirty-five per cent of the employees in the foundry. General Motors announces that more than fifty per cent were away from work today. Chrysler - nearly thirty-five per cent. And so on, with the same sort of thing for other companies.

Today's count of casualties indicates that twenty ^{-eight} ~~six~~ were killed in the reign of terror - and

most of these were negroes. Seven hundred were injured. Six hundred were arrested, and today the first jail sentences were imposed - when thirty-~~two~~^{four} negro rioters got ninety days each.

White and negro leaders met with the Mayor today to plan measures that will avoid a recurrence of the savage street fighting. They blamed - fifth column elements. A statement by white leaders declared: "This was not an isolated incident arising from a chance fist fight. It was part of an organized national fifth column conspiracy," said the statement. The Ku Klux Klan was accused, and the demand was made for what was called - "an immediate round-up and arrest of all known Klan and other fifth column leaders."

Governor Kelly of Michigan stated today that most of the actual disturbance was caused by boys.

"Seventy-five per cent of the trouble," he stated, "was caused by kids between fifteen and eighteen years of age, who came downtown to see the show."

POTATOES

Here is a thing that ought to bring an echo of loud cheers from the direction of the Army - kitchen police without peeling potatoes. The idea is protagonized by the soldier newspaper, STARS AND STRIPES, and we hear that the Quartermaster Corps has a plan that will put an end to potato peeling. That is - over in the European theatres of war, where the idea will be tried out. ^{TP} The Quartermaster's ¹experts point out that in army potato peeling, about sixteen per cent of the spuds are wasted. So why not save food by cooking them in their jackets? And can't you hear the boys on kitchen police give three cheers! No, you can't - at least, that's the word from England today. ^{TP} An inquiry was made among the warriors who do the potato peeling, and the result was rather surprising.)

"You can't mash potatoes with their jackets on," said one ¹ "and these Joes in the army like mashed

potatoes. You can't just go around and made these Joes eat potato peelings," he concluded.

Private Michael Manfredo of Brooklyn and Private Cecil Harrison of St. Paul, Virginia, were busy with ~~xxx~~ pans full of spuds when they were questioned. "Peeling potatoes ain't bad," said Manfredo. "Did you ever have to scrub pots and pans? Honest," he declared, "they can get more pots and pans dirty around this kitchen than they've got barrage balloons in England."

"Yea," chimed in Private Harrison, "when you scrub pots and pans and the floor and sink, peeling potatoes is wonderful relaxation."

~~Hear that, ladies?~~ You ought to be grateful for that wonderful relaxation - if you can get any potatoes, nowadays. *Hear that Ladies?
Hear that Hugh?*