

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1943.

Carman

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Putting the best news first, General
Montgomery's British Eighth Army ^{now has a wedge} ~~has got a firm foothold~~
inside the Nazi-held Mareth Line. Those veterans of the
desert have torn great holes in Rommel's positions.

The first phase of their attack has been ~~cheerfully~~
successful. They have taken all the objectives they aimed
at as a start and ^{on} they are still pushing. So far
Montgomery's assault on the Mareth Line has followed the
pattern of his great victory at El Alamein [^] almost step
by step.

This has been synchronized with a swift advance
by the American Army pushing down from the northwest.

Montgomery attacked on a six miles ² front, near the

sea. In typical Montgomery fashion, the show started at night, his favorite tactic. It began with thousands of colored star shells lighting up the battlefield. From aloft, Wellington bombers dropped brilliant flares.

Besides all that, a bright moon lit up the scene. The Nazis had sown dense minefields, ^{IP} But those were nothing new to the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ sappers of the Eighth Army, who had had the experience of clearing mines ^{all the} away across sixteen hundred miles of desert. ^{So} In short order they ^{opened} ~~cleared~~ the way for the heavier forces.

The Afrika Korps is fighting back fiercely, but Montgomery's men have ~~obviously~~ made a big dent in ^{it.} ~~them~~

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Patton's American Army is rolling along to take the Mareth front in the rear with tanks and infantry. Patton is also taking a due east course toward Maknassy, ^{a place} ~~That is~~ vital to the

~~xxxxxx~~ safety of Rommel's army, ~~It is~~ a big ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

communications junction only thirty-two miles from the coastal road.

According to the Berlin radio, the British attack began a ~~XXXXXX~~ week ago. But the Afrika Korps counter-attacked so strongly that General Montgomery had to relax his pressure for the time being. ^{TP} Radio

Berlin also announced ^S that the American forces ~~were~~ ^{are} very strong, ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{with} amounting to an entire army ^{in the field.} ~~by German~~ ~~count.~~

~~We may expect to hear of the capture of Maknassy~~

~~almost any time.~~

Both the British and American armies

are backed up by what is described as the most

formidable ~~XXXX~~ array of air power ever seen in Africa.

~~It is~~ The combined strength of the western desert air

force plus R.A.F. squadrons from French Africa and the

^{U. S.} ~~United States~~ Air Force. The Allied air fleets are

reported to be virtually without opposition. They have

swept the entire Mareth Line area, burned out Rommel's pill boxes, and destroyed many batteries of cannon.

In northern Tunisia, General von Arnim's army attacked the British ferociously and dislodged their First Army from Nefsa. It is twelve miles to the south of the northern coast of Tunisia. But the British are holding out in their more important positions.

~~The Americans are driving to the sea in a two pronged advance. They have captured a place called Bouhamram. That is only fourteen miles away from Maknassy. The northern American column has covered thirty-three miles from Gafsa, the southern column is attacking the road to Gabes east of El Quittar.~~

RUSSIA

As you perhaps know by now
Adolph ~~Fuehrer~~ Hitler ^{came to life and} loudly announced yesterday that the Russian crisis was over so far as Nazi Germany is concerned. The Eastern front, he declared, had been stabilized once more. ^{And —} There is enough news from Russia today to corroborate his boast ^{to some extent,} ~~at least partially.~~

There is no question about the German advances in the South. They are taking back more and more places which the Red Army had so recently recaptured; and now they threaten ^{even to re-} take Kursk. If they do ~~that~~, they will

^{have} clear ^{ed} a hundred and twenty miles of ^{the} main railroad between Kursk and Karkov.

^{It} Experts say that the fall of Belgorod imperils the Russian Army at Kursk. The Soviet forces took ^{that place} ~~it~~ away from the Nazis with much travail, only a few weeks ago. Belgorod is only seventy-seven miles ~~away~~ from Kursk. ^{It} ~~And~~ It is admitted in Moscow that German communications are getting better; ^{and that} Russian communications are getting worse.

Altogether, the situation along the Donets front ~~well~~
has improved for Hitler's forces,
~~justifies us in feeling uneasy.~~

Further north, however, ~~it is a horse of~~
~~another color.~~ The Red Army is ^{still} fighting its way ~~closer~~
~~towards~~ *and closer to* Smolensk. *The latest victory being the*
~~capture of Durovo, an important~~
~~railroad junction fifty-seven miles northeast of~~
Smolensk. Meanwhile, a second ^{Red} column has closed in
on Yartsevo, which is only thirty miles northeast of
Smolensk. ^{Which} ~~That~~ means they ^{Russians} ~~have forged ahead thirty-eight~~
~~miles from Vyazma along the main railroad from Moscow.~~
~~They~~ now have a firm hold on the upper reaches ^{of} the
Dnieper River, and ~~they have several important~~
~~subsidiary railroad lines to use.~~ ^{It also, tonight} Today there is a ~~real~~
probability that the Russians will ^{soon} capture one of the
three main defense bastions before ^{Smolensk,} the city ~~which~~ has
been so often a crucial place in Russia's war history.

RUSSIAN AIMS

One of the big post war questions is:

"What will Stalin want? What territory is he going to claim in Europe?"

An article in the Communist weekly, the ~~Leaf~~ ^{Leaf} gives a preliminary idea. For NEW MASSES, ~~gives interesting information~~. That weekly sticks pretty close to the Moscow line, ^{Hence} ~~so~~ what it says ^{on such matters} ~~on that point~~ is worth hearing. It is considered an unofficial spokesman for the Moscow Government.

50
Among other things, Uncle Joe is going to demand a sizeable slice of Eastern Europe. ^{That is he} ~~He~~ is going to ask for everything that ^{formerly} ~~used to~~ ^{ed} belong to the Czars, including Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Eastern Poland, Bessarabia, part of the Rumanian Province of Bukovina. ~~He~~ ^{he} also wants the territory that the Finns gave up after the Russo-Finnish War.

Aside from that, he wants world peace reestablished, ^{plus} ~~also~~ the principle of collective security

among nations. And he is going to ask self-determination
for all peoples. ^{far} ~~In that he is~~ ^{All of which seems} pretty much in accord
with the Atlantic Charter. But, ^{Stalin wants} ~~Uncle Joe is going~~ to
extend the principle to the whole world, including
colonial areas. ^{So says The New Masses, TP} ~~Then~~ ^{And then,} he wants to reestablish normal
international trade, ^{followed by} ~~and he will try to bring about~~
universal disarmament.

AUSTRALIA

The Japanese are going to strike hard in the southwest Pacific, and before long. Australian War Minister Forde insists that the Japs are getting set for an all-out go at his country. And that they are piling up men, munitions and war machines in the arc of islands north of Australia. War Minister Forde said that it can only be assumed the Nipponese generals are about to launch an attack on a scale more ferocious and determined than any that has gone before. There is an even more difficult period ahead, he adds, and we should not let recent Allied victories in Papua and the Bismarck Sea lull us into a sense of false security so far as the Southwest Pacific is concerned.

And, this is corroborated at General MacArthur's headquarters. High officers there think the Japs are getting ready for a large scale attack on Port Moresby. Military experts, some of them, think that would be a

logical move. For so long as the Allies hold Port Moresby, which has been built up into a great air and naval base, the Jap positions in northern New Guinea and the Solomons will remain insecure. And, if the Japs could take Port Moresby, then it would not take them long to conquer all of New Guinea. Which in turn would make their key base at Rabaul safe and also put them in a position to attack the continent of Australia.

We are told that the Nipponese have increased their air strength in the zone to the north of Australia by eighty per cent in less than four months. And that it is now greater than ever since the Pacific war began. At Rabaul, in New Britain, they have concentrated from one-third to one-half of their entire reserve tonnage. That's the story. Also that they have transferred some of their best trained divisions from other war front to the islands north and northeast of Australia.

All this has been pointed out in Washington by Lieutenant-General George Kenney, whom MacArthur sent home to persuade President Roosevelt and the high command to send MacArthur more planes. Military men declare that much depends on the success of General Kenney's mission in Washington.

General Kenney is one of the most impressive of all our military leaders. Small in stature, eyes that seem to look through you, face burned almost black by the tropical sun, and a booming deep voice. He has a great sense of humor, a sentimental side, and ^{an} affection for the flying lads who serve under him, which impresses you greatly.

If you give him half a chance, he'll tell you some of the most tremendous stories you have ever heard, of the deeds of his boys, air battles over the Solomons, and the wild mountains and jungle of New Guinea. Here

is one that is just a sample: He told it to me the other night. Or rather, he told it to Colonel Erik Neilson, Colonel Les Arnold, two of the first men to fly around the world, Burdett Wright, President of the big Curtiss-Wright plants in Buffalo, and myself, and our wives. It was just one of a hundred stories that kept us spellbound, far into the night.

He said that just before MacArthur wiped out the Japs at Buna, a squadron of Jap planes landed at the airdrome near Buna. One of our reconnaissance planes spotted the Japs. So he sent an American squadron over to do something about it. And one of the miracles of this war is the distance to which you can hear radio conversations. For instance. General Kenney way back at his post headquarters could hear our pilots talking to each other, up there in the air as ~~them~~ they flew over New Guinea. He could hear them when they got to

Buna, where they surprised the Japs and caught them all lined up on the flying field.

He heard the American squadron leader call down to the Japs and say: "Come on up Nips, and fight it out with us. You might as well take off and have a go at it. We can wipe you out down there where you are on the ground, but if we do that our General won't give us any decorations. So come on up and fight!"

Then General Kenney said that as the Japs took off, he could hear the American squadron leader give his orders, such as: "You take that first one, Jim." Then the General would hear a sharp crack. Then the squadron leader would call out: "Yours is Number Two, Pete." Then another sharp crack, and so on.

After a few of them had taken off, he heard the squadron leader say: "Hold off fellows, this one is mine." Then another crack. And they got the entire

Jap squadron, with no American losses.

That was just one of the nice stories General Kenney told us.

If we give men like General Kenney and General MacArthur the things they ask for, there is no doubt but what they'll do the job, do what we want them to do.

In the first World War, it was the Palestine campaign, the victory over the Turks, that brought the Central Powers crashing down. And the man who led that campaign was Sir Edmond Allenby, known as "the Bull." He had been preceded by two other commanders in the East, who had accomplished almost nothing. When Allenby went out there, he strode into the tent of Sir Philip Chatwood, as Chief of Staff, who had been there for many months. Said Allenby: "What do we need to lick the Turks?"

Chatwood told him so many divisions of ~~infantry~~

infantry, so many of artillery, so many of cavalry, and so forth. "Well," said Allenby, "we won't move from this spot until we get them." And that was the ultimatum that he gave to Lloyd George and his government in London. London came through and gave him what he wanted. Allenby cleaned up the Turks in one of the great campaigns of all history. ~~XXXXXX~~

Here's hoping that MacArthur and Kenney will make the same kind of demands that Allenby made, and that they will then proceed to clean up the Japs, just as Allenby knocked out the Turks. Surely, that's the way to do it, instead of frittering away our resources, scattering them all over the face of the earth.

CHURCHILL

There was ^{considerable} ~~copious~~ reaction today to yesterday's worldwide broadcast by British Prime Minister Churchill. Secretary of State Hull was asked about it, ^{and} His comment was that, for his ^{own} part, he ~~was~~ ^{is} in favor of the United States taking part in the organization of a post-war world. ~~And~~ ^{JP} Hull added the warning that any planning done by the Allies now should include nothing that might retard victory.

~~One thing Churchill said attracted particular attention. ^{He} ~~That was a~~ declaration that his government could not bind itself to conditions which no one can foresee, could not undertake anything which involved great expenditures in the future. "The business of proposing expenditures rests ultimately with the responsible government of the day," meaning some future day. In other words, he cannot pledge the government which may succeed it.~~

Secretary Hull did not disagree, but he also said that statesmen, governments and peoples ought to be considering deeply the fundamental problems that occur as the war goes on. United Nations, he said, can fairly well ascertain each other's views as the war progresses.

~~XXXXXX~~ Neither here nor in Great Britain was there any comment on Churchill's proposal that the United States, Great Britain and Russia should lead the other nations in post war conferences. ~~But the~~ Germans leaped upon it for all they were worth. They pointed to it as an indication that the Atlantic Charter is already in the discard. The German Foreign Office declared that it indicated a British-American-Russian dictatorship.

British newspapers observed in Churchill's broadcast proof that he was abandoning the Tory line and going back to his old liberal views.

MARINES

The President, as

*gave
high praise
to*

~~The~~ Commander-in-Chief, today ~~cited~~ the First

(the U.S.)

Division of Marines, commanded by Major General

~~Alexander A.~~ Vandegrift. He cited that division, for

having taken *for holding* and ~~held~~ Guadalcanal and Tulagi, last year.

The citation reads: "For offensive operations in the

Solomons between August Seventh and December Ninth,

Nineteen Forty-Two." Secretary Knox presented the

citation today to Lieutenant General Holcomb, Commandant

of the Marine Corps.

FOOD

Dairy farmers in the East are facing a new crisis. They are having such difficulty in obtaining feed for their cattle that unless they get relief quickly, they will have to butcher huge numbers of their milch cows, as much as from thirty to forty per cent. This was made known in a report released by Governor Dewey of New York today. Dewey had ordered his farm consultant, Hickman Powell, to prepare a report on the farm-food ~~problem~~. ^{crisis.}

In his report, Powell said there are many problems which need immediate attention if we are to avoid worse food shortages next year than already appear in our retail stores. He said further that the national food emergency is a composite of many smaller emergencies.

One large trouble is red-tape in various federal agencies. Immediate action is imperative unless we want worse food shortages next year. One

trouble is price differentials. These differentials are caused by ceilings established by the Office of Price Administration. ^{Powell said,}

COAL

Here is the latest on the threatened strike in the ~~anthracite~~ coal mines, a bulletin just in. President Roosevelt has intervened. The news comes through Charles O'Neil spokesman for the Northern Operators of Bituminous Mines. He said the president sent a telegram asking operators and miners not to stop production. He urged them to continue their negotiations beyond April First with the understanding that any wage adjustments shall be retroactive to that date.

The Bituminous Operators held a caucus the moment the president's telegram arrived and agreed to abide by his request.

And now Hugh.