

RUSSIA

L.J. - Sunoco. Thursday, May 14, 1942.

The war in Russia takes the form of a blow on one side, and a counterblow on the other. In this exchange, the Nazis began the punching, with their drive in the Crimea - trying to seize the Kerch peninsula. ^{TP} The Red Army counterblow is up to the north of this - in the Ukraine. ^{TP} Essentially, the two areas are parts of the same thing - the battle for southern Russia and the Caucasus. The much expected Nazi offensive is still in a preliminary stage - the Kerch peninsula being a logical prelude. That finger of land, reaching almost to the shore of the Caucasus, would necessarily be the route for one prong of the two-pronged Nazi drive. The other would be ^{some distance north,} ~~up on the mainland,~~ with Kharkov as a key point. And that is exactly where the Soviets are driving. ^{TP} So, while the Nazis start their punch in the south, the Red Army hits a counterblow in the north - ^{with} ~~for~~ the obvious purpose of beating the Germans to the

punch there and stopping the northern wing of their offensive before it gets going.

Moscow denies the Berlin claim of a startling victory in the Kerch peninsula. A Romanian bulletin states that the German-^uRomanian forces have captured the town of Kerch. If so, this would mean that the peninsula was virtually occupied. But a late Berlin broadcast states that the capture of Kerch is not confirmed by the German military authorities. And, of course, Moscow denies it. The Soviets say that, under the pressure of heavy attacks, the Red Army forces have retired to new defense lines across the Kerch peninsula.

Around Kharkov, the Soviets have crashed ^{through} ~~with~~ the first Nazi line of defense, and are driving on. So states Moscow, and describes the drive as being led by tanks, and a special kind of Red Army plane for fighting against enemy tanks. The Soviets announce the

capture of an important town, which may indedd be Kharkov itself. But it is likely enough to be some other place.

London says -- and this is just in -- that the Nazis are in full retreat, in the Kharkov area.

BURMA

The Japs, driving from Burma, have now pushed ninety miles into China. After set-backs, they have been reinforced and are trying to capture the town of Teng-Chung, where the Burma Road crosses the Salween River. The Chinese say they cut enemy communications at three points, but new forces of Japs have reached the fighting front in China, and are trying to advance against fierce Chinese resistance.

MARTINIQUE

At Martinique, in the West Indies, French war vessels are being immobilized. They are being put in such condition that they cannot be used in this war. ^{Such} ~~This~~ is the word we have from Washington; and it would ^{indicate} ~~represent~~ a concrete result of negotiations between our State Department and officials of the Vichy government who are in control of Martinique.

It is emphasized that ~~the~~ Vichy ^{— in France —} ~~government in France~~ is playing no part in the arrangements. ^{We are} ~~They are~~ not letting Laval and his collaborationist outfit have any say.

At Martinique there is a big aircraft carrier, a twenty-two thousand tonner, also a light cruiser and a training ship. Apprehension has been felt that these might fall into Axis hands. But now that danger is being averted -- the ships immobilized. ^P ~~There are also a hundred and fifty~~

SABOTAGE

Today Chief of the F.B.I., J. Edgar Hoover, made an official statement concerning sabotage. In some ways it is rather surprising - when we consider the sensational cases of enemy agent plotting during the previous war - German spies ^{committing} ~~plotting~~ all sorts of sabotage. J. Edgar Hoover today gave a figure - one hundred and ninety-eight. The F.B.I. has uncovered that many cases of deliberate damage done to war industries. The figure covers the time since January, ~~of~~ Nineteen Forty, - two and a half years.

TP Of the hundred and ninety-eight sabotage cases, not one has been traced to enemy agents. Some were the doing of Axis sympathizers ~~xxxxxx~~ on their own initiative. In others, disgruntled employees were responsible - spite or just general cussedness. workito get even with a company, J. Edgar Hoover

summarized by stating that in the present war, sabotage has been kept down to a minimum in this country. And I suppose that most of us have been a little surprised

by
~~at~~ the lack of headline crimes along the line of enemy agents and sabotage.

So how would you account for it all?

J. Edgar Hoover cited the great amount of efficient precautions that have been taken. Key industries were surveyed, and measures were taken to block activity by suspicious persons. J. Edgar Hoover failed to state how largely the precautionary work was done by his own outfit, the F.B.I. However, we on the sidelines can fill in the deficiency. They are still those same G-men who so firmly stamped out the wave of banditry and kidnapping some years back. Now they have been doing their stuff by protecting our war industries against enemy agents.

From East St. Louis, Illinois, comes a news dispatch to illustrate a phase of J. Edgar Hoover's report. It tells of sabotage ~~in~~ *— and* forty winks of sleep. On trial are four employees of a chemical plant that produces

5) material for polishing precision tools in the war industries. The workers are charged with deliberately damaging vital pieces of machinery. ^{TP that} ~~They say~~ their practice was to throw ^{bits} ~~pieces~~ of wood or metal into the chemical that was being processed, and this caused the mechanism to break down. ^{TP} Why did they commit the sabotage? Because the machines remained idle for a couple of hours while being repaired. And during this time, they themselves would be left idle. They could rest for a couple of hours, have a nap. Why were they so tired? Because of the night before - that morning after feeling. The Federal Prosecutor today put it in these words:- "The men's angle was to catch forty winks of sleep after a big night."

So now they are on trial for industrial sabotage, and it looks as if they might have a much needed vacation in a place where there won't be any big

nights and where there will be enough time to catch
a good deal more than forty winks of sleep.

ARMY PAY

The Army pay bill to raise wages in the Army and Navy, is in Congressional conference tonight.

The lower House passed a measure providing a basic pay of fifty dollars a month for the lowest rank in the Army and Navy and Marine Corps. The Senate form of the bill would make that basic pay forty-two dollars a month.

A good many believe that the Senate will accept the lower House proposal of a basic wage of fifty dollars a month, instead of forty-two. Some members of the Senate Military Affairs Committee have expressed strong support for the higher figure.

TAX

In Washington they ^{are} ~~are~~ considering a plan
for a nominal head tax to be collected from every
income tax payer. That is -- every income tax payer
would have to chip in with a fixed small sum. This
proposal was made by Senator George of Georgia,
Chairman of the Finance Committee, and it is being
studied by the Treasury Department. ^{TP} The purpose of
the head tax would be to cover the expense the
government incurs in examining income tax returns.
Obviously, the job of handling ^{of} returns is a big one
and requires the services of a lot of people. Right
now the government stands that expense. The new
idea would be for the income tax payers to assume the
burden. And ^{this} head tax, or examination tax, would
amount to a small sum for which every tax payer would
be assessed. All this was announced
by the Secretary of the Treasury.

GASOLINE

News from the gasoline front in the Eastern states. ~~These~~ ^{These} days ~~where~~ the subject of motor fuel is *a realm of news* ~~in a realm of news realm~~ all by itself. ^{So} Here is how the wind is blowing - or would you say gas? ^R People are talking about the A. B. and X cards. A new kind of alphabet - A.B.X - see? It's a theme of discussion for everybody - man, woman and gal - gal for gallon. And three ~~xxxxxxx~~ gals for three gallons I suppose. *Everybody* ^{out} ~~They are~~ trying to figure how much mileage ^{he} ~~they~~ can get out of the weekly ration - and it would be rash to say. In other words, these Eastern states have broken out into a rash of discussion. But now let ^{'s go from} ~~us have~~ ~~done with the gas, and go on~~ to **some** facts.

Price Administrator Leon Henderson today announced a concession to motorists who are away on trips when the rationing starts tomorrow. Maybe the amount allowed them on their tickets won't get them home. *They're to get enough gasoline*

54

GASOLINE - 2

for the return trip - say from
Florida to Maine,
~~home,~~ Also - favor will be shown to persons who have

to take small children to school by car, cases in which
the kiddies are too small to walk and no
~~the school is not within walking distance and where no~~
bus transportation is available. ^{Their parents} They will be allowed
to have an extra quantity.

Oil Coordinator Ickes tells us that it will not
be necessary to curtail the sale of gasoline in other
sections of the country. That is - other than the
Eastern states and the Northwest. (In Oregon and
Washington, rationing by card will start on June First.
Sections like the Middlewest, for example, are not
short of motor fuel, and there is no plan right now
to impose restrictions.)

Oil Coordinator Ickes angrily denounced
a rumor about two million barrels of gasoline at
Chicago - that much motor fuel, destroyed. The story
related that in the Chicago area, there is a lack of

space for the storage of excess gasoline; ~~and that~~
hence they had to get rid of two million barrels.

"Such reports are utterly without foundation," growled the Oil Coordinator. And he stigmatized the rumor as "damnable scandal."


He went on to say that steps are being taken for the construction of a pipeline from the Texas oil fields to New York. ~~He said that~~ ^{also} an application for the construction job will be submitted to the War Production Board - "within the next few days", said he. Last year, the pipeline plan had to be abandoned, because priorities for steel could not be obtained. The metal was deemed necessary for armament production.

(~~Last year's pipeline project called for the use of four hundred thousand tons of steel. The one proposed today would take less - three hundred thousand tons.~~)

R Concerning the pipeline application, the Coordinator

stated, "It is the only sure solution I see at present for the East coast supply problem."

Meanwhile, the hullabaloo about X cards is continuing. Officials expressing amazement at the number of citizens who are convinced that their automobile driving is essential and therefore demand cards that will enable them to purchase ~~in~~ unlimited quantities of gas. They say that the X card situation may cause a reduction of the ~~three~~ gallons a week allowed to the holders of A cards. The amount of X card excitement might lead one to



believe that the A card people constitute only a tiny minority. ~~Maybe the pleasure drivers figure that pleasure is essential and who is to say that it isn't?~~

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The richest mixture of gasoline agitation is in Congress, for the lawmakers are exceedingly sensitive to the talk about Senators and Congressmen getting X cards. Yesterday a resolution was entered by Senator Downey of California, who proposed that the Senate pledge itself not to accept any special gasoline privileges.

But that
~~The~~ resolution was blocked today by Senator Norris of Nebraska. *He* said it would have no legal effect and would reflect on Senators who had obtained X cards. They got these by virtue of a signed statement that they would not use them except for official purposes - for automobile driving in the line of congressional business. *¶* Price Administrator Leon Henderson tells us that members of Congress are being treated like

anybody else - insofar as non-essential driving is concerned. Their X cards are to be used only for official business. The Price Administrator disclosed that about two hundred congressional X cards had been issued.

In the Senate debate, Barkley of Kentucky mentioned the two hundred for Congress, and pointed out that on the first day some five thousand X cards were issued to officials in Washington. And he added that all state and municipal officers are entitled to the unlimited gasoline. Whereupon the Senator waxed indignant about the ^{criticism} ~~existence~~ of congressional X cards. "Some newspaper," he cried, "has started another campaign to undermine the faith of the people in Congress." He intimated that headlines are constantly being made at the expense of Congress, and shouted:- "I am willing to bet my head against the hole in a doughnut that what

I am saying here won't get a headline." Well, ~~Senator,~~
~~we on the radio can't print headlines, so I can't make~~
~~you lose your bet, and I wouldn't if I could. Who~~
~~would want to see that majestic Barkley of Kentucky dome~~
~~replaced by the hole in a doughnut?~~

Today, the First Lady of the Land was asked
about her rationing card. And she answered, ^{a!} ~~"Eh?"~~

~~When the question was repeated, she responded, "A".~~

She asked for the three gallon a week classification,
and got it. But then the First Lady of the Land is

in an exceptionally favorable position - she has a
^{Mrs. Roosevelt}
bicycle. ~~She~~ related several days ago how she discovered

that she had an English bicycle presented to her last
year and also had discovered that she could ride it,

which is indeed a favorable position nowadays - on a

bicycle. Mrs. Roosevelt, at the family home in Hyde Park,

will not use her automobile to any extent - not on three

8

gallons a week. She'll push the pedal ^S instead.

The First Lady also talked about another kind of rationing - sugar. The nation's Number One hostess said the White House is feeling the pinch of the sugar shortage, like any other house - , red, yellow or blue. On the presidential table lump sugar has been replaced by the granulated variety, which is more economical. [#] And don't ~~And xxxxxxx~~ think the White House guest can dig down in the presidential sugar-bowl and ^{shovel} ~~shuffle~~ out the sweet. When the [#] First Lady pours tea, she asks - "One teaspoonful or two?" And if a visitor wistfully answered ^S ~~a~~, "Two", it isn't always certain that he will get it. "Depending on how important a person is," said Mrs. Roosevelt today. So I suppose you have got to be a royal king or crown prince or president of a Latin-American republic to get two teaspoonfuls of sugar at the White House. A Cabinet member or a high ranking Senator might get one and a half, and ~~think~~ - "How very ~~sweet!~~" ^{and now Hugh}

1/2

9