

RUSSIA

L.I. - Sunoco. Friday, Oct. 9, 1942.

The state of military affairs in Russia is a sheer paradox tonight. The Nazis have confessed virtual failure at Stalingrad, but the Soviets deny it. Yesterday Berlin stated definitely that the Hitler war machine would make no further effort to storm and capture the city on the Volga - they ^{would} contend themselves with artillery-fire to blast the Soviet defenders. And today the word out of Berlin consistently supported this view. Today, ^{the latest} for example, ~~the~~ bulletin issued by the German high command made no mention of the Battle ^{of} in Stalingrad, the first time that Stalingrad has been left out since the desperate conflict ^{for} of the industrial city began.

Mowcow, ~~on the other hand~~, tells of the fiercest kind of fighting in Stalingrad, stating that there ^{is} ~~was~~ no let-up in the incessant German assaults. And the Russians say that the Nazi attacks ^{today} ~~have~~ had some success.

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In the northwest section of the city, the Germans scored advances. The Russians in describing their own situation there use the word - "deteriorated." Moscow reports today had a less optimistic tone, and sharply denied the Nazi propaganda statements that the assault on Stalingrad has been abandoned in favor of siege warfare - artillery.)

All of which does make a paradox indeed. It may be, of course, that the Germans do intend to give up their assaulting tactics, but have to improve their ~~present~~ present position in Stalingrad - which might keep them on the attack until such purpose is accomplished.

Or, it all might be some twisty turn of Nazi propaganda.

Maybe bearing on a Second Front.

~~London military opinion, to quote one source, is not~~

~~inclined to be as optimistic as might be warranted by~~

~~last night's Nazi confession of [^]firtual failure at~~

~~Stalingrad.~~

One ominous development is a German drive to the south and east of the city. Panzer columns are pushing out into what are called the Kalmyk Steppes. These are the great plains of the Kalmyk Tartars so famous of old.

Moving in this direction, the Germans could push down ^c
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on the Volga toward the Caspian, ~~Sea~~. And one might

easily surmise that, no matter what happens at

Stalingrad, ^{they} ~~they~~ feel they must occupy the rest of the

Caucasus all the way to the Caspian - this before winter

^{sets}
~~steps~~ in.

Already at Stalingrad the hot weather has turned cold, the ground is frosted - signs of bitter Russian winter.

PRISONERS

The ominous question of British-German reprisals on war prisoners ^{brings us this word in} ~~leads~~ today's dispatch from London: ~~to say~~ - it is only a question ^{of} how far both sides are willing to go. ^{To} what extremes will they push the tactics of retaliation?

The Nazis have put one thousand, three hundred and sixty-seven British officers and men in chains. They were fettered at noon yesterday. This, claims ~~Berlin~~ Berlin, is in retaliation for British treatment of German soldiers captured in the Dieppe raid. London has announced reprisals, and states that an equal number of Nazi prisoners will be manacled - unless the Germans remove the shackles from the British. The deadline is noon tomorrow. ^{To} this, Berlin today replies, saying - that if the British carry out their threat, three times as many prisoners in Germany will be chained. So, with this kind of grim competition, the question

would indeed seem to be - how far are both sides willing to go in the shackling of prisoners?

London today states that in the matter of ^{re}parations, no distinction will be made between Germans and Italians. This points to the fact that the Germans have ^{many more} ~~more~~ British prisoners than the British have Germans. But, on the other hand, the British have still more Italian prisoners - these being mostly the huge numbers captured in Africa. Adding up totals, the British have a ^{heavy} preponderance of Axis captives. [#] So, by chaining Italians as well as Germans - they can out-shackle the Axis. One British comment is that, by including the Italians, they may cause bad feeling between the Germans and the Italians. Rome, on its part, announces that if Italian prisoners are manacled, the same thing will happen to British prisoners in Italy.

One rather grotesque feature is the question -

where to get the manacles? London reports that there are not enough handcuffs and chains in England to shackle all the prisoners that might be involved in the retaliation. There is even talk that the medieval fetters in the Tower of London might be used. ^R On the other hand, it is pointed out that in the reprisals, Canada will be mostly involved. Because thus far the Nazis have shackled prisoners taken in the raid against Dieppe and most of these are Canadians. Also - the bulk of German prisoners of war captured by Great Britain are interned in Canada. London reports that consultations on the subject have already been started between British and Canadian authorities.

BOMBING

Today the American air force in Europe staged its biggest bombing raid against the Nazis. More than a hundred United States bombers, many of them flying fortresses, blasted Nazi targets in France. The weather was good, visibility excellent for high altitude ~~precision~~ precision bombing - and that's what the fortresses are famous for. ^{TP the} American bombers were escorted by American fighters; and, flights of British planes took part in the huge air operation, ^{which was} ~~which was~~ daylight raiding - plus. ^{That is} Every hour of daylight was utilized, the British-American raids continuing from dawn to dusk. ^{TP} One important target was a big locomotive works, with the communique stating - "many bursts were seen on the target." Four bombers were lost - but not a fighter - although it was a series of air battles all day long.

NAVY

This afternoon's Navy bulletin tells of more heavy air attacks against the Japs in the Aleutians three days ago. Army bombers escorted by fighters blasted Japanese occupied Kiska with fifteen tons of bombs. Seven tons of high explosive hit the sea plane base the Japs have established and eight other tons devastated their camp on the island.

Among other Jap losses was a cargo ship -- left on fire and sinking.

ZERO

Here's something that might seem to have a startling sound. A Jap Zero fighter plane ~~had~~ flew to the United States today. At the controls, however, were United States Navy men. The Zero was forced down and captured in the Aleutians, and was repaired.

So they took it winging ^{— to California —} to this country where it will be put through exhausted ^{we} ~~it~~ tests to determine its strong and weak points. This will provide valuable information for our war pilots battling the Japs.

The Zero, having arrived at the Pacific Coast, will be flown across country. ^{and} ~~It~~ should attract plenty of attention.

WILLKIE

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At the White House news conference this afternoon, President Roosevelt was asked about Wendell Willkie, and replied that he assumed that Willkie was doing all right. He referred to the fact that he had asked his Nineteen Forty election rival to do certain things on his far-flung trip to many war areas, and assumed that Willkie was carrying out these things extremely well.

Newspaper men had in mind ^{the} ~~various~~ blunt statement^s that Willkie has made ~~in~~ -- like the one supporting the Stalin demand for a second front, and the other in China calling for the independence of all Asiatic countries. So one news conference question was -- ^{would} ~~did~~ the President say to what extent Willkie was his personal representative? The president replied -- no, he would no make a definitive statement about that. And he added that during the past week policial use had been made of his relationship with Willkie.

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What kind of political use? One newsman asked -- would the President give an ~~ill~~lucidation of his somewhat cryptic statement concerning politics. The President declined. He cautioned the newsmen against trying to ~~ill~~lucidate, and said the country is not interested in the ~~ill~~lucidation of things that are not absolutely true.

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All of which ~~would~~ did little to make the Willkie business any more lucid than it was before, because -- how can you have things lucid unless you ~~ill~~lucidate?

LABOR

The commander of the American Legion uttered strong words today before the convention of the American Federation of Labor at Toronto. He ^{de}announced strikes in war industries as ^{indefensible}infeasible and unpatriotic, and said that war industry strikers should be treated as you'd treat a Hitler or a Mussolini.

Legion Commander Roane Waring stated that in times of peace he would fight for labor's rights, but in times of war there are, as he expressed it -- "No rights, no grievances that are comparable to the rights of your son and my son who are lying on the sands of Africa or the cold wastes of the Aleutian Islands."

TAX

The Senate today voted its okay for the Victory Tax. This is a levy of five per cent on all individual incomes above twelve dollars a week -- and is the largest single tax increase in the history of the American taxpayer. The new levy is to be collected at the source of the income. That is to say -- deducted from pay checks.

The Victory Tax is to be in addition to the regular income tax, which in itself is the biggest ever.

Part of the five percent levy is to be refunded later on -- handed back in the form of rebates.

President Roosevelt asked the Senate to permit the Social Security payments to be increased -- doubled. At present, the old-age benefit tax is two percent, one percent paid by the employer and another one percent paid by the employee. The President's contention is rejected. This afternoon the Senators voted to freeze the Social Security tax

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at its present level. The vote was fifty to thirty-five.

SCRAP

The Navy announces that it will probably be necessary to break up the old battleship OREGON for scrap metal.

Well, the picture of all that mighty tonnage of steel going for scrap in one chunk should be an incitement to all of us -- to turn in that extra bit of junk metal.

Today a Gallup poll was made public -- a test to determine the effectiveness of the great newspaper campaign. The poll sent the following question: "Have you heard about the present drive to collect scrap metal?"

The result comes out as follows -Yes, ninety-four percent. No, six percent. In other words, the newspapers have put over their scrap metal message to ninety-four percent of the people of this country.

NEWSPAPER WEEK

This is newspaper week, ^{about} ~~probably you~~

~~have all been reminded.~~

which H. I. Phillips in the New York Sun makes some appropriate remarks, ~~on the subject.~~ Such as:-
"Your newspaper means that here, in one of the few surviving countries of which it is true, you enjoy that priceless heritage, the freedom of the press."

"No. Goebbels edits its copy or proclaims its policy. No Mussolini ~~forxxxxix~~ chooses its features, colors its news; deletes its cartoons. No Gestapo keeps its editors and writers in deadly fear".

And then he adds:- "Think it over".

PRISON

In the midst of a war, a prison break loses a good deal of excitement, but the one that occurred today has gaudy reminiscences of flagrant days - the old prohibition gang era. Then, one of the toughest of the mobs was a criminal outfit led by - Terrible Tommy Toughy. And today Terrible Tommy escaped from the supposedly escape-proof prison at Joliet, Illinois.

TP With him fled his former gang lieutenant, Basil Banghart, called "The Owl". And, two other prisoners, ~~went with them~~ The late news dispatch says they fought their way out, though few details are given.

Terrible Tommy Toughy was sent to prison for the kidnapping of ^a ~~the~~ Chicago ^{notable} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ called "Jake the Barber." Terrible Tommy claimed that he was innocent, and swore that he would break out of prison and get "Jake the Barber" for framing him. Today, in Chicago, when Jake learned ^{of the} ~~that he~~ escaped, he asked

for police protection. The police, in addition, are
looking for the fugitives; in one of the biggest
manhunts.

SAILOR

Sailor Edwin Schumacker of the merchant marine ~~has~~ has been torpedoed twice. Once off Nova Scotia, ~~The~~ The explosion that sank the ship knocked him into the sea - with the ship's compass still in his hands. Then he drifted for five days in a lifeboat. The Navy afterward gave him an official commendation - because of the way he kept up the courage of his fellow survivors by telling them stories and singing them songs. No doubt they were songs about Betty, sixteen year old Betty Peynado in New York.

However, when Sailor Schumacker got safely ashore after his last voyage and started off to see Betty, he found the adventure to be rather worse than being torpedoed by Nazi U-boats.

He was paid off in Boston, got ninety-eight dollars, and hitch-hiked a ride to New York on a truck.

Near their destination the truck driver robbed him,

and tossed him out into the street.

The unlucky sailor hiked down to the headquarters of the National Maritime Union, and there he found a letter from Betty. So he went to see her, but she and her family were not home. He left a note for her, killed some time, and returned. Still nobody home. He left another note, and again waited.

Finally the hapless mariner decided he would get into the apartment of Betty and her family, and have some sleep - get in by the fire-escape and through a window. And that's where Sailor Schumacker made his biggest mistake.

He picked the wrong window, and climbed into the apartment of Mrs. Carrie Kleinman, who was indeed surprised to see the hero of two torpedoings at sea. She screamed and called the police, and the unhappy sailor was hauled off to jail as a burglar.

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Today his story was told in court, and to prove his innocence Betty appeared - with the two notes that he had left for her. One of these told her that he would haunt her home until she appeared. Getting in and going to sleep seemed pretty much like haunting, and the judge dismissed the case.

All of which proves that for a sailor life on land can be worse than the U-boat infested ocean. Take me back to those torpedoes!

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And now I'll turn you
back to Hugh.