

ADD ITALY

L.T. - Sunoco. Friday, Oct. 8, 1943

Here's an official announcement that for the first time since the surrender of Italy, the Italian fleet has gone into action against the Nazis. The word comes from the allied radio station at Bari, which states that the Italian warships are manned by <sup>their</sup> Italian crews ~~that are~~ operating under the orders of the Badoglio government. They are in action in the Adriatic Sea and are bombarding German positions, aiding the Yugoslav guerrillas who are fighting in the Nazis.

ITALY Much more important than  
that, (Tonight in Italy General Clark's Fifth Army

Capua to the sea. The capture of Capua was an important event, because of the road situation between Naples and Rome. There are two main trunk lines leading from Naples to the Eternal City, and these cross Capua -- the bottleneck. In fact, Capua is so important for transport that there is an assumption that the Germans will abandon the line of Volturno and pull back in the direction of Rome. This the more so because of a flanking threat that might cut to the rear of the river line.

However, as things stand, the Fifth Army tonight is along the Volturno -- and that's a mighty wet place. It has been raining heavily in southern Italy, keeping the heavy bombers of the air force down, turning the countryside into mud, and causing floods.

The Volturno itself, is a swollen ~~the~~ torrent, with flood waters brought by the heavy rains. ~~Naturally,~~ The river ~~is not~~ great, ~~is I believe,~~ ~~is the second largest~~ river in Italy -- next to the Po. From Capua to the sea it is normally from one hundred to two hundred yards wide, but now it has spread out, and in some places is pouring over its banks.

however, to my recollection, the rains in Italy at this time of year, are not prolonged, and may be expected to end soon.

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Here's an historical parallel concerning the Volturno, a rich coincidence. I picked it up in New York, which is an excellent place to gather interesting information about the present stage of the battle in Italy. ~~I ran across an old friend,~~ Fortune Gallo, impresario of the San Carlo, ~~Opera Company,~~ which is opening ~~a season~~ in New York, ~~and he~~ exclaimed in a tone of joy: "They've captured my old home town". He had just heard that American troops had occupied his native village which is not far from the banks of the Volturno.

*Then he*  
~~Fortune Gallo~~ told me of another battle fought along that stream, *and he* by Garibaldi. ~~He~~ reminded me how the great liberator during the struggle for Italian unity and freedom, fought a campaign which sounds in a way as if it were out of the news of recent days. Garibaldi invaded Sicily, conquered the island, and then invaded the mainland. Advancing north he captured Naples, and thereupon a ~~big~~ *big* test came along the River Volturno. And that does sound like a summary of General Eisenhower's campaign thus far.



Garibaldi won his decisive battle on the Volturno -- and that would seem to be a good omen. <sup>And,</sup> ~~He would~~ the impresario of the San Carlo <sup>added this. Said he!</sup> ~~Opera Company told me --~~ "for the Italians of today, General Eisenhower is the modern Garibaldi".

On the other side of the peninsula, the Adriatic side, General Montgomery's Eighth Army is advancing again; -- has regained the initiative. It is now disclosed that the recent Nazi counter-attacks made a critical amount of progress at one time -- and drove to ~~xxx~~ within two hundred yards from the railroad station of the city of Termoli; <sup>A</sup> the British in a desperate position for a while.

Concerning this we have an odd detail. The fire from the German artillery was unbelievably accurate. The Nazi guns picked out targets in the town with a precision which puzzled the British command, -- until the secret was discovered.

The Germans <sup>d</sup> ~~has~~ <sup>A</sup> left an ~~xx~~ observer in the ~~xxx~~ steeple of the church at Termoli, and he was giving artillery directions by radio. They finally spotted his radio signal and got him. Thereafter the Nazi artillery fire was not nearly so correct. And now the British have beaten off the counter-attacks and are advancing again.



## ITALIAN TERRITORY

From London we have word about an interesting and possibly troublesome angle that has developed with the Allied invasion of Italy. Claims are already being made for Italian territory -- claims by the exiled government of Yugoslavia and Greece. The Yugoslavs talk about demanding the harbor of Fiume, and the Istrian Peninsula, including the important city of Trieste. The Greeks have their eyes on the Dodecanese islands, historic Greek islands off the coast of Asia Minor. However, Italy years ago seized the Dodecanese from Turkey, and the Turks also lay claim to those former isles of ~~Greece~~ Greece.

London states that there is a scramble for the spoils of war, but London adds that neither Great Britain nor the United States will listen to any of the demands that are being made - not now, anyway. British<sup>2</sup><sub>4</sub> official sources are emphatic in stating that there will be no discussion of territorial claims until the war is over.

Moreover, it is pointed out that the position of the exiled governments is by no means one hundred percent. The allied point of view is that both the Yugoslav and Greek regimes must be

confirmed by their own peoples, when these have been liberated,  
*Which*  
~~Such~~ confirmation is by no means certain.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill has said that he hopes King George of Greece and King Peter of Yugoslavia will be re-established on their thrones after the war. However, we hear that, while King Peter is popular with the Yugo-slavs, the exiled Yugoslav government is under attack as not really representing the Yugoslav people. This ties in with the feud between the Chetniks of General Mikolovitch and the Communist partisans in Yugoslavia.

As for King George of Greece we hear that there are strong ~~minority~~ elements among the Greeks who are not in sympathy with him ~~and~~ and his present ministers. All of which complicates the question of the demands that the exiled governments are making for Italian territory -- with London saying that these questions will have to wait until after the war.

Prime Minister Churchill has stated that Italy has lost its colonial empire, and British military men are of the firm opinion that the British life-line of the Mediterranean must

never again be threatened by hostile attacks from Libya.

Some London observers suggest that Italy's former colonies should be under international control after the war - and they think that such an arrangement might well include Tunisia -- that French colony, which has so strategic a situation in the Mediterranean.



## AIR WAR

Today in European skies flew a ponderous air fleet. Huge flying fortresses, a squadron which the London dispatch describes as -- "very large". And the Fortresses were escorted by a swarm of Thunderbolt fighters. This powerful air-mada roared its way <sup>through</sup> ~~through~~ the blue to a number one target - Nazi Bremen, a seaport that figures importantly in German action down below the sea and high up in the air. Bremen is the site of great submarine-building yards and aircraft factories. The Fortresses dropped hundreds of tons of bombs - explosive havoc at Bremen, a key point for the Nazi war of the undersea and the air.

Such was the target for today -- and what about the targets for last night? In the hours of darkness, the R.A.F. was at it again, and its objectives were ~~an~~ of a strategic variety too. Stuttgart, the South German railroad center which is ~~an~~ a key point for Nazi transport to Italy. Stuttgart was hit by a force of heavy bombers which London describes as -- "comparatively small". But the raid was intensely concentrated -- fifteen minutes, <sup>and</sup> ~~hundreds~~ of tons of bombs. In the <sup>brief</sup> ~~brief~~ minutes high explosive rained down on Stuttgart in a dense shower.

Another R.A.F. target was Munich, <sup>birthplace of</sup> ~~the city where~~ Naziism, ~~was born~~, and where the Germans have great armament plants. Speedy low flying mosquito bombers hit Munich.

Target number three. Friedrichshafen, on Lake Constance, way down on the border of Switzerland. <sup>Friedrichshafen</sup> ~~Stuttgart~~ has been famous for years as the home of the Zeppelin works, where Germany's <sup>giant</sup> ~~great~~ dirigible ~~balloons~~ were made. But last night the big Lancaster bombers of the R.A.F. were not gunning for zeppelins, which have cut no figure at all in this war. The target was something else -- something a-number-one. For the Nazis have turned the ~~Zepp~~ Zeppelin works to the manufacture of that almost miraculous ~~new~~ device of the present war - Radar, which picks out planes and ships when they cannot be seen. So last night the Lancasters of the R.A.F. smashed at Germany's Radar.

The Nazis tried a retaliation raid on London last night with fifteen bombers dropping thirty tons of high explosive on the British capital. The raid was designed apparently for Nazi propaganda, to give Goebbles a chance to tell the much-bombed Germans that the British were getting it too. Most of the explosive hit a working ~~xx~~ class quarter and did a lot of damage to old buildings. ~~in~~ London just took it philosophically, as in the case of a cockney woman who today stood looking at her shattered home. "At least", she remarked, "it's a pleasure to imagine ~~wh~~ what we do with a thousand tons in Berlin if they can do this to us with thirty tons".



## RUSSIA

In Russia, Soviet troops are converging on the ancient Ukrainian capital of Kiev. They have forced three crossings of the River Dnieper, on which Kiev is situated. The Dnieper is swollen by the rains of autumn, and still Red Army troops got across and established three bridgeheads. Moscow says that this was accomplished by skillful coordination of regular army troops and ~~ir~~ regular forces of guerrillas ~~that are~~ operating behind the German lines, <sup>^</sup> a combination of the regular and the irregular.

From the three bridgeheads established on the German-held side of the Dnieper, the Russians are advancing steadily, with a converging movement designed to cut across to the rear of Kiev and force an evacuation of the city.

## PACIFIC

In the southwestern Pacific the Japs are retreating in the two areas of battle. In New Guinea enemy ~~xxx~~ troops are falling back through the jungle toward <sup>the</sup> a place called Madang, ~~which is~~ <sup>which</sup> one of their bases along the coast ~~and~~ <sup>^</sup> is the next allied objective.

Allied headquarters tells us that the occupation of Markham Valley is complete, and that during the past months the Australians and Americans have driven the Japs back for a distance of forty miles.

In the Solomons the ~~enemy~~ <sup>is</sup> fleeing northward on Kolombangara Island. The Japs are deserting the once important base at Vila, which is now a ruin -- bombed so often by American ~~pit~~ planes. Only a remnant of the former garrison of ten thousand remains on Kolombangara, and the flight north from Vila is part of an attempt to evacuate -- a thing that the Japanese have been trying for days. A communique from General MacArthur's headquarters today states: "For the past several nights, by barge and small warship, an attempted evacuation has been progressing. Many barges have been sunk with great loss of enemy life", says the bulletin, <sup>which</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>^</sup> adds that some Japs probably got away.

The allied capture of Kolombangara, which is at hand, will spell the doom of the Japs who are still fighting on nearby islands, like Arundel and Vella Lavella, and will give our forces full control of the central Solomons.



## TAXES

The word from Washington is that the administration may be willing to accept a ~~much~~ smaller tax bill than the one proposed to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury -- the one calling for Ten Billion ~~and~~ Five Hundred Million Dollars. (The sentiment in the House of Representatives is hostile, as the Ways and Means Committee considers the question of taxation. We are told that one important committee member is of the opinion that the ten and a half million dollar tax bill to be handed to the public is impossible of fulfillment and that four and a half billion is the top limit of what the public can pay.

Another committee member is represented as ~~not~~ holding Five Billion to be the top limit. And) The latest is that the administration might be willing to scale down the stupendous amount that it asks and be content with something like Five Billion.

The compromise would be for the purpose of preserving the Administration tax structure. That is -- the way the money is to be raised. The Administration wants a drastic increase of income taxes, while there is a lot of sentiment in Congress for a sales tax.

KILL FOOD PROGRAM AND SUBSTITUTE THIS

Word from Washington is that the big farm organizations have split with the administration on the question of food subsidies. The White House plan is to pay a Billion Dollars in subsidies to food producers, but the farm leaders don't want this -- they prefer a raise in the ceilings on the prices of farm products. Today Albert A. Goss, master of the National Grange, gave the President an official notification that his farm group ~~would~~ would not accept the subsidy plan, and in this he was joined by other important farm organizations.

From the American forces in England we have news of a name being changed. In one instance they have altered that Army term made familiar in the days of the last war - shavetail. In the ~~mm~~ old A.E.F. and in our present Army shavetail has been the soldier's expressive name for a Second Lieutenant. But over in Britain this has now been changed in the case of a certain kind of officer -- a Second Lieutenant in the WACS. If you think it over seriously, you will find various reasons why it is inappropriate to call a girl officer - a shavetail.

So she has been given another name, as is told by Major Anna Walker Wilson, Staff Director for the WACS in the European theatre. In a cabled story, she informs us that the troops now call a Second Lieutenant of the WACS a dovetail -- dove being so sweet and gentle and nice. Girlish, in fact - the gentle dove.

All of which gives us cause to meditate on the appropriateness of calling a Second Lieutenant of the WACS a dovetail. So let us think it over after we have heard Hugh James.