

CONFERENCE

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Sunoco.

~~The latest news concerning that latest~~

~~There is late~~ word from Washington, ~~that~~
~~reliable sources close to the Government as saying that~~
the confabulation between Turkey and the Allied powers
will lead to the entrance of the Turks into the war,
eventually - but not right away. We hear that Messrs.
Churchill and Roosevelt on one side, and Turkish
President Inonu on the other, agreed that the Turks
will not take the plunge until both they and the Allied
powers feel the time is ripe. "That time," says the
Washington dispatch, "may be weeks or months hence - it
will not be at once."

The information is that Turkey requires
ironclad guarantees, ~~that~~ if she goes into the war, the
Allies will provide ~~full~~ protection from the land and air
attacks that the Nazis will instantly launch. In other
words, the Turks demand complete and effective military

support. The Turkish army is good, so far as manpower is concerned, but it lacks mechanization and military aviation. And the Germans are reported to be massing forces in that section of satellite Bulgaria nearest the Turkish border. ^{TP} These forces are described as motorized infantry, supported by air power - the sort of army adapted to a blitz assault. The Germans are only a short distance away from the Dardanelles, and would undoubtedly stage a headlong drive toward that vital strait. And Istanbul, ancient Constantinople, is nearby, with Ankara, Turkey's Number Two city, only a few flying hours away.

From the text of the official announcement issued tonight, the conclusion is being ^{that Turkey} drawn _{now} enters a new phase of policy in the war - a phase of benevolent non-belligerence, instead of the strict neutrality that Turkey has hitherto preserved.

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That sort of non-belligerent is familiar in this war - and rather peculiar to it. Fascist Italy was a non-belligerent supporter of Nazi Germany before plunging so disastrously into the conflict. And we, the United States, were non-belligerently supporting Great Britain before Pearl Harbor. From Cairo we hear ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ tonight that as a result of the Roosevelt-Churchill-Inonu talks, Turkey will support the Allies - "short of war." We are familiar with that phrase - "short of war." And to the American mind *it has the* ~~meaning~~ meaning of eventual entrance by Turkey into the global conflict.

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before the present war. This Turkish participation gives, in the words of the declaration, "striking testimony to the strength of the alliance which unites Great Britain and Turkey."

So now let's switch for a glance at that alliance. In Article Two it states: "In the event of an act~~ing~~ of aggression by an European power leading to war in the Mediterranean area, in which Britain and France are involved, Turkey will collaborate actively with those countries and will lend them all the aid and assistance in her power."

Well, obviously, there were acts of aggression by the Axis in the Mediterranean. Yet Turkey did not enter the war. The British did not ask it. The Nazis were then too strong and the position of Turkey too dangerous. But now the Turks reaffirm their allegiance to the treaty, which certainly must mean that they ~~are~~ now

intend to carry it out and join the Allies - whenever the time is considered expedient. Meanwhile - they are benevolent non-belligerents.^{TR} All of which is emphasized by another ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ statement in the declaration, which concerns this country and Russia. The pronouncement refers to what it calls "the firm friendship existing between the Turkish people and the United States of America and the Soviet Union."

This new^{set} conference, the third of a series of three, was held in the same place as the first one-- at Cairo, and in the same ~~place~~^{hotel at the Pyramids} where Churchill and Roosevelt parleyed with Chiang Kai-shek. We are told that Turkish President Inonu was flown to Cairo by President Roosevelt's own plane, and the latest from Egypt is a bit of comment given us by Major George Durno, ~~the~~ press officer attached to the Roosevelt party. He says that F.D.R. was greatly impressed by

the forceful character of the Turkish chief of state,
and adds, "In Inonu the President feels he has made
a new, firm friend."

The whole thing has a tone of friendship, —
~~which has~~ a highly significant tone ~~and~~ gives one
the feeling that Turkey is virtually considered one
of the Allies already.

This latest of the three conferences -
Cairo, Teheran, and then Cairo = all over again, was
attended by the usual ^{kind of} news mix-up ^{that} ~~which~~ stirred up an
acrimonious argument in the case of the other two.
The Roosevelt-Churchill-Inonu declaration, which we
have just been discussing, came through earlier in
the day, but was not permitted to be released until
seven thirty P.M. Eastern Wartime. We over here
couldn't use it until then. But nearly two hours
before, five fifty ~~QxMd~~ P.M. our time, enemy Berlin

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put out a broadcast stating that the Turkish news agency had released an official communique concerning the conference. And Berlin went on to publicize the text of the official announcement - the one that was not released over here until seven-thirty.

RUSSIA

News from Soviet Russia is both good and bad for the Red army. Moscow reports success in the great bend of the River Dnieper, where huge forces of Nazis are in danger of being encircled. The Russians are closing in on a place called Znamenka, which is described as a dominating road junction along the German railroad line of escape.

But, in front of Kiev, the Soviet forces have withdrawn again. ~~This continues news of previous days,~~ tidings of powerful German ~~XXXXXX~~ ^{launched} thrusts from the strongholds of Jitomir and Korosten, which they captured early in their counter-~~thrust~~ ^{offensive.} Moscow states that, faced by massive armies of Nazi men and machines, the Red army has evacuated several places in front of Kiev.

The Russian war news today gives us a mention of "Winter Fritz." And a w^refully bedraggled scarcrow

is Winter Fritz! He is the German soldier who in the Russian winter war is an absurd rag-bag of tattered overcoats with women's shawls around his head and feminine skirts across his shoulders.

During the warmer months the Germans systematically looted the Russians and stole every kind of clothing they could lay hands on, women's included.

And now, with the cold closing down once more

Russia, it is the same story all over again.

Apparently, the German command has not been able to equip its soldiers with proper clothing for the Russian winter. They know its rigors full well by now, but simply have not been able to get together enough warm garments for the millions of Nazi troops. And on the Russian front Winter Fritz has appeared once more - with his wretched bundling of clothes - women's shawls around his head and skirts across his shoulder.

ITALY

In Italy, British troops of the Fifth Army have captured Monastery Hill once again. That strategic position is on Mount Camino, and has changed hands repeatedly in bitter fighting. The British captured it and lost it, and that sesaw was repeated all over again, and today/once more they took possession of the hill - which is a flaming ruin, its monastery set afire by German mortar shells.

Earlier news told us that the Fifth Army has ^d captured all but one of the peaks of the German line of Mountain defense - that one exception being Mount Camino. But now Monastery Hill has been taken once again, ~~and that~~ ^{which} would seem to indicate that the Nazi mountain positions are pretty thoroughly in Allied hands.

Another of the peaks is Mount Maggiore, which

Today the Americans scored an advance on Mount Maggiore, and captured high ground which gives them domination of flat territory to the north. American troops there are supplied by air, as they hang on and consolidate the position. The point about Mount Maggiore is that it commands a valley leading northward - an important gateway on the road to Rome.

WAR CRIMINAL

It was disclosed in London today that a commission for the investigation of war criminals has already been set up, and in fact has held a meeting at the British Foreign Office. This was ~~disclosed~~^{revealed} by Lord Chancellor Viscount Simon, who told the House of Lords that the commission plans to employ British standards of legality and justice in the punishment of war criminals. He said they would take affidavits, consider evidence, and call witnesses, to determine who is guilty of the barbarous atrocities. This might appear to be, what he called - "humdrum", but added that it was, in his words, "the only way in which British tradition and the British people would in the end stand for the punishment of ordinary war criminals." ~~And he added that he hoped the United Nations would not wait until after this war to impose the penalties, as they did after the last one.~~

The Lord Chancellor emphasized that there must be no mass executions - merely because the Nazis have been wholesale killers. This is in opposition to a proposal attributed to Lord Vansittart, who emphasizes a relentless policy. Vansittart urges that there should be mass executions of Nazi war criminals; but that was opposed in the House of Lords today,

CHINA

The latest from the Far East is an announcement that China has lost what the ^{Chinese}~~Japanese~~ call their "rice bowl city." After a siege of fifteen days, the Japs have stormed Changteh - the vital highway junction in one of China's greatest rice producing areas. The Chinese put up a desperate resistance, but ~~an~~ overwhelming force~~s~~ of the Japs have taken the city of rice.

GILBERTS

Delayed stories are coming in, giving details of that epic of battles - the conquest of Tarawa.

~~Combat correspondents of the marines who were in the thick of the fighting are sending in their eye witness~~

~~accounts.~~ ^{FR} One of these is Technical Sergeant Gene

Ward of Jackson Heights, ^{L.S.} ~~who~~ writes: "I was with a

company pinned down in the shallow water off shore

for over an hour. We were caught in machine gun cross-

fire, and the entire trip into the beach was made

crawling on our bellies through the shallow water ~~and~~

and over jagged coral.

~~"One man," he continues, "went through that hell with a heavy machine gun tripod and brought it~~

~~safely to shore.~~ ^{he says} "I saw marine after marine" run into

snipers' fire to help ^{the} wounded to ^{the beach.} ~~shore.~~ One of the

men with me was Private Rufus Abbe of Walters,

Oklahoma. A bullet ripped through his helmet,

tearing a jagged hole in the crown. It cut a few locks of his hair. He kept going."

The account tells how the spirit of the leathernecks made it tough for the officers. "The marines," writes Combat Correspondent Ward, "wanted to advance faster than was safe. The major would holler, 'Stay down you guys'. And over his shoulder ~~and~~ he muttered: 'They'll go anywhere, these marines.'"

It was a bitter battle; but now it's over, *and*
~~and the fighting men in the Gilberts are having a~~
~~pleasant time - exceedingly pleasant, that is,~~
~~compared with those in the Solomons. Sergeant~~
Sgt. Pete Zurlinden of Dayton, Ohio, ~~another marine combat~~
~~correspondent,~~ pictures the Gilberts as something
like the tropical paradise the South Sea Islands are
supposed to be. He writes: ~~"Malaria, bitterest enemy~~
~~besides the Jap at Guadalcanal, is not in evidence here.~~

"The dank, malarial Solomons can't compare to the equatorial dry belt, wherein the Gilberts lie. The days are hot; but the climate is bracing. Coral reefs, coconuts, taro, and the fruit of the pandana tree. And so you can picture the Marines in the Gilberts, living in halfway native style--according to the tradition of romantic souls who, taking refuge from civilization, have gone to the islands of the South Sea.

INVASION

We hear that the great assault on Nazi Germany is to be made by a minimum of five million soldiers, Russian, British and American - with another million in reserve - six million in all.

~~and~~ London gives us this information concerning the invasion plans agreed upon ~~at the Stalin-Roosevelt,~~ Churchill conference at Teheran. British military authorities explain that of the six million, Russia will provide the most, and adds that a successful invasion by the British and Americans will probably take ~~■~~ from sixty to eighty divisions - between nine hundred thousand and a million men. ^R And six million tons of shipping will be required, together with thousands of planes. London says the Germans expect this second front to be opened ~~ixxx~~ any time after the middle of February.

DEMOCRATS

A threat of secession by the South sounds more like the Civil War than the present global fracas. But today secession was mentioned in Washington, secession not from the Union, but from the Democratic Party.

Democrats in the Senate are bitter about the charges made by Guffey of Pennsylvania, a pladin of the New Deal, who alleged what he called "an unholy alliance" - an alliance of Republicans and Southern Democrats.

Today Senator Bailey of North Carolina hurled the secession threat. He spoke of what he called - "insults," and he said that these may force the Southerners to withdraw from the Party, which would have dire results for the Democrats. "They can drive us out of the Party," he thundered, "but if they do, there may never be another man elected to the presidency on the Democratic ticket."

And now George what have you to thunder?

COURT MARTIALS

Congress today declared that there shall be court martials within six months for our Commanders at Pearl Harbor when the Japs attacked. This occurs on the second anniversary of Pearl Harbor, but not as an observance of the day.

There was a blaze of charges in the Senate today, charges that the court martials have been delayed because the military legal proceedings would show that the guilt for the negligence at Pearl Harbor reaches further than the commanding officers in Hawaii, and that the guilt would go all the way to Washington --and reach the higher-ups.