

L.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, Aug. 27, 1942. C ✓

RUSSIA

The war news from Soviet Russia takes a new turn tonight -- with bulletins, not about the German drive, but about a powerful Red Army offensive. The Nazis are ^{still} pushing on in the south, the Stalingrad area and the Caucasus. ^{And} The Soviet Attack is away to the north, the city of Rzhev -- northwest of Moscow. That stronghold is of number one importance in the German line, and today we hear that Red Army forces, driving toward the city, have reached it -- and there is fierce fighting in the streets.

~~Today's~~ Moscow ~~news~~ ^{today} discloses that the battle has been going on for days -- though we have heard little about it. The Red Army offensive, say the Russians, was totally unexpected by the Germans. The Nazis were caught so much by surprise that they put up little opposition at first. The hundred and sixty-fifth German infantry was caught flat-footed, and there were mass surrenders. Officers fled in their night clothes, some so fast that they left their breakfasts half eaten on the table. The Soviet onrush was so swift that the advance covered as much as twenty-five miles a day.

The Germans rallied, and began a stubborn defense. Next the weather intervened -- heavy rains that slowed down the attacking Soviet units. Rain day after day, and the country became a quagmire --

~~hogging down the mechanized equipment.~~

bogging ^{down} the mechanized equipment. But in spite of it all the Russians kept pushing on, and today we have word that they are battling in the streets of ^{Rzhev,} the key city northwest of Moscow.

From London we have the opinion that this offensive might possibly put a crimp in ~~the~~ Nazi plans. British military observers maintain what the news dispatch calls -- "a cautious optimism."

At Stalingrad the Germans have been checked considerably in the tremendous battle that has been going on for days. They are still advancing to the north and south of Stalingrad, trying to close around the city -- but they are being slowed down by the stubborn Russian defense.

^{To the} ~~away down~~ south in the Caucasus the Nazis continue to push towards the great ~~gr~~ Grozny oil fields, and are approaching dangerously close to ~~the~~ ^{of} rich area of petroleum. If they take Grozny, they will be on the last lap of their march toward the Caspian Sea. ~~Their~~ ^{of} reaching, which, would cut ^t the southernmost Russian Forces completely off from the Red Army to the north.

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In sizing up the whole situation, we may take into account an opinion expressed today. The speaker -- Stalin. He put his estimate

in these words: "The military situation remains ~~in~~ very serious.

History has perhaps never known so gigantic a battle," says Stalin.

~~INSERT THE FOLLOWING IN THE RUSSIAN STORY AFTER THE QUOTATION~~

~~FROM STALIN~~

-- and from Moscow today we hear new reiteration of those familiar words -- Second Front. ~~It is~~ a Soviet call made in the strongest of terms -- the most urgent and insistent demand for a British-American invasion of Nazi Europe that I have seen thus far. And it is printed in the official newspaper of the Communist Party -- Pravda. It goes like this: "Every living man in Europe and America, every city, every tree," says Pravda, -- "now demands an offensive." Which certainly is calling for a Second Front -- with even trees doing it.

FOLLOW RUSSIA

Meanwhile, the Soviet Air Force has been in busy action -- and last night Red Army planes hit Berlin. This was revealed today by Moscow. Nine Great ~~E~~ fires were started by incendiary bombs in Hitler's capital. And other Nazi cities, ~~too~~, were aflame. The Soviet Air Force blasted the important ~~maxxb~~ harbors of Danzig and Koenigsberg.

The Nazis got it from the other side too -- the west. Today a great British Air Fleet went winging over the Channel, and bombed enemy positions in France. Observers who watched the R.A.F. sweep across, say the force of fighting planes was the largest to be sent against the Germans since the Commando ^{raid} ~~raid~~ on Dieppe ~~in~~ and the great air battle that accompanied the landing.

And, Today's air activity produced more action in the Dieppe Area -- ships bombed. British hurricanes hit four German vessels near the one-time seaside resort that was the Commando target. And the R.A.F. smashed the number one Nazi airport in that neighborhood -- at Abbeville. Boston bombers escorted by fighters devastated the air base -- bombs demolishing buildings and ripping up the runways.

Here's the latest in the line of war news, hot off
the wire. Today American Flying Fortresses blasted the ship-
yards of one of the greatest ^{ports the} ~~xxxx~~ ⁱⁿ Nazi control --
Rotterdam. This was a climax of the all-day United Nations
air assault. The Fortresses raided in daylight, and once
again they sustained no losses. This is the sixth time
that our giant bombers have gone into action -- and not
a one shot down. Today's ^{Flying} Fortress raid is announced in a
late ~~at~~ afternoon bulletin issued by the Army.

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^{Now}
~~There is little news~~ about the Battle of the Solomon Islands.
^{on the sea and in the air its}
~~the great conflict of sea and air is~~ still going on, and is expected
to continue for ~~still~~ a while. The day after day duration of the ⁺ clash
of ships and planes is to be found in the character of the struggle.

Word from American Naval headquarters in New Zealand indicated ^S
that it [^] is no single concentrated battle centered in one area. ^{Rather,} It is
an interminable series of sea and sky fights, spread over [^] the vast
extend ⁺ of ocean. The theatre of operations is immense, with such
a myriad of individual engagements, that it [^] is impossible for a decision
to develop promptly - as in the battles of the past.

~~Out there~~ Things appear to be going all right for our side,
and at ~~the~~ American headquarters ⁱⁿ New Zealand the belief is
confident that prolonged action will result in a large victory for
the American Forces.

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It was encouraging today to read Tokyo's bulletin about
the Battle of the Solomons. This time the Japs are claiming no ~~prodigious~~
prodigious victory ^{as they usually do.} and they are ~~usually~~ the claimiest braggarts on
~~early earth.~~ Tokyo today withholds its usual big stories about the
sinkings of ships. Its only claims are of vessels damaged --

including injury to two American Aircraft carriers and a battleship of the Pennsylvania class. And today for the first time the Japs

acknowledge that their own fleet has taken losses -- one destroyer sunk and an aircraft carrier damaged. From the restrained tone of

the Tokyo announcement, we ~~may~~ gather ^{that} the Japs feel they have ~~mighty~~

little to shout about.

FOLLOW SOLOMONS

The Japs, on the other hand, are trying to strike a blow to counteract the American invasion of the Solomon Islands. They have landed a force in Southeastern New Guinea -- Milne Bay. ^{And} That ^{is} ~~is~~ moving in the direction of the United Nations' stronghold in Southern New Guinea -- Port Moresby. The Jap invasion force at Milne Bay was battered severely, but the enemy managed to get a small force of troops ashore.

BRAZIL

Here is quite an international combination. A former president of Argentina has become a Brazilian General. He is Augustin B. Justo, one of the ace figures of Argentine politics. Senor Justo served a term as President and some have surmised that he might become the Argentine president again. And he today was enrolled as an honorary general in the Brazilian Army -- which created a sensation along the banks of the Rio de la Plata.

The meaning of it all is obvious. Brazil has declared war against the Axis enemies of the United States, while Argentina remains neutral -- stubbornly stands ^{ing} aloof. This is the official policy of President Castillo, and only a couple of weeks ago, Castillo in a defiant speech denounced the Argentine interventionists. He suggested that, instead of calling for Argentina to get into the ~~xx~~ war, they should go and join up with nations that are at war. So ^{we} ~~you~~ see the point of significance ¹intoday's action by the Argentine ex-president. Justo has taken Castillo at his word, has joined up with a nation in the war -- has become an honorary general in the Brazilian Army.

Thereby he dramatically aligns himself with the opponents of Argentine neutrality. And, with Justo's large political influence, reverberations and repercussions are expected to follow.

NELSON

Here is something that concerns a question that we hear about now and then -- the respective powers of the War Production Board on the one side and the Army and Navy on the other. There have been rumors of something of a tug-of-war between the W. P.B. and the armed forces for the control of that stupendous thing -- war production.

Today we have word from Washington that the board is going to take over one important function that hitherto has been in the hands of the Army and Navy. This concerns priorities, ~~the~~ the decision of how industrial materials are to be distributed, who gets what.

One large phase of priorities is what they call -- "Field supervision," ^{which} ~~that~~ has to do with the checking of priorities at the local scene throughout the country. Control of this "field supervision" has hitherto vested in the Army and Navy, but now production Chief Donald Nelson announces that it will be removed from the jurisdiction of the armed services and will be placed ^d under control of his own board -- the W.P.B. Nelson has so advised the War Department and the Navy Department.

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Last Saturday, the Production Chief announced that he intended to strengthen the control of the W.P.B. over priorities, and his move today is action along that ~~like~~ line.

KAISER

The name of Henry Kaiser appears in the headlines again -- the shipbuilder with the huge plan for the shipyard building of giant air transports in mass production. There has been a lot of debate about ^{the} feasibility of his program. After much argument, he came to a provisional agreement with the Government, whereby he will put into mass production the super transport plane, * that leviathan of the air called "the Mars."

Today, however, the name of Kaiser does not appear in connection with any question of the feasibility of shipyard plane production. It concerns a thing that has achieved a sinister eminence.-- the Black market.

At Cleveland, the Federal District Court issued a temporary ^{a subsidiary} injunction to stop ~~the~~ Kaiser Company from ^{doing} ~~going~~ any further business with the Black market in steel. Attorneys for the office of Price Administration charge that the shipbuilder paid prices above the legal limit, above-ceiling-prices -- for that metal which is the number one necessity for war production. They say that the Kaiser firm paid above-ceiling-prices to a steel company at Cleveland.

ADD KAISER

Later today came

~~And now we have~~ a Kaiser explanation. The shipbuilder, speaking of the alleged Black Market operation, states:- "The transaction was completed at one of our branch offices by a former employee of the company," he says, and adds, "There has not been an opportunity to check the facts."

Kaiser goes on to state that the Black Market charge may lead to a crisis, and this, he adds, may result in a pooling of the national steel supply under Government control. He says he has long advocated the idea -- the Government to establish a war-time steel pool.

~~Note:- The first part of the story should represent the company accused as one of those owned by Kaiser.~~

An O.P.A. attorney phrased the charge against the Kaiser concern in these words:-"Eagerness to snatch steel from the other steel-famished war industries by ~~P~~aying profiteer prices." In other words -- dealing in the ~~Bad~~ Black Market.

In his accusation, the attorney employed a word that has a curiously reminiscent sound. Speaking of the Kaiser Company, he said :- "A scoff-law participation in the illegal transactions." Remember that word, "scoff-law?" Back in prohibition times the drys had a contest to find a suitable epithet with which to stigmatize the moist and jovial fellows who violated the prohibition law. There was a bit of wisecracking about scoff-laws and then the word disappeared. Now to be revived oddly, not in connection with prohibibion, but with the Black Market.

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I heard something encouraging at an Army-Navy E presentation today. Mayor Scully of Waterbury, [^] one of the big industrial cities of New England -- told me they have had no labor troubles and no slowing up of war work, ^{in Waterbury.} And, we all wish that could be said for every industrial center in the country.

This particular Army-Navy E award was given to one of the oldest concerns in the New World, the Scovill Manufacturing Company about which the Saturday Evening Post has a long special article this week. The company is now one hundred and forty ^{That means,} years old, ~~over~~ [^] since Eighteen Hundred and Two. It began with one enterprising Yankee, and now includes plants in various parts of America, and the British Isles, with some fourteen thousand employees. Nine thousand of them took part in today's ceremony. ^{TP} The Scovill people are doing a tremendous war job. And, they manufacture some three hundred thousand different products. An Army Colonel told me this afternoon that one remarkable thing they are doing is making shell casings out of steel, instead of out of brass, as in the past.

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BATTLESHIP

At the Brooklyn Navy Yard today, America's mightiest battleship slid down the ways to the water. The Iowa -- a forty-five thousand ton giant. Other of our battleships run around thirty-five thousand tons. So, ~~you see~~ the Iowa is a super-supper titan of oceanic war.

Plenty of skepticism has been expressed about battleships in this war, which is so dominated by air power -- the big boats being vulnerable to attack by planes. However, at today's launching of the Iowa, a mighty future for the forty-five thousand ton monster was seen. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Ralph ~~R.~~ Bard spoke words of ~~high~~ homage. "Here is a ship," said ~~he~~ he, "That can keep up with the swiftest task forces. ~~Here~~ Here is a ship," he declaimed, "That can fire faster and further than any other ship afloat."

And then he looked into the future. "The Iowa," said he, "may even take part in that final climactic military operation of all the war, the invasion of the continent of Europe or the Islands of Japan."

OFFICERS

Army officers are going to look different hereafter -- and the difference will be in how they wear their insignia of rank.

At present, the signs of rank are worn on the sholders of shirts and field jackets, but that has been found ~~to be~~ inconvenient. The sholder insignia ~~interferes~~ interferes with the use of gas masks and other military equipment.

So a new ruling is going into effect, as announced by Secretary of War Stimson today. The insignia will be taken from the sholders and placed on the collar of the shirt. They will appear where the letters "U.S." have hitherto been displayed. So in ^{the} future, when you want to tell an officer's rank, you will ^{have to} look at his shirt collar.

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And s-l-u-t-m-