

GERMANY

L.I. - Sunoco. Friday, Oct. 29, 1943.

24  
The German radio today declared that in southeastern England there is a great mobilization of invasion forces. The Germans report a concentration of troops and planes, including air borne forces. Also - intensive mine sweeping in the English Channel. The clearing out of enemy-laid mines would, of course, be a necessary preliminary for an invasion thrust across the narrow waters to France. Berlin thinks that landings ~~on the coast of western France~~ might happen at any moment. <sup>TP</sup> The Germans, to be sure, are not certain. They are trying to surmise.)

^ "Maybe," says the Berlin radio concerning the invasion preparations, "maybe this is merely window-dressing." <sup>But</sup> The Nazi spokesman today thinks that possibly the date of the invasion of western Europe has been advanced, and gives the opinion that it had been originally planned for next Spring.

47  
This is only one example of Nazi worry about invasion. In the Mediterranean theatre, Rommel is said to anticipate landing thrusts at various places - but can't tell which. The Germans are reported to be hastily building defenses along the Riviera, the coast of southern France. Also - the Balkans, where the Nazis ~~are reported to~~ have increased their strength recently from eight divisions to eighteen. And Rommel is afraid of landings behind the German line in Italy - the leap-frog kind of move to establish bridgeheads behind the Nazi fighting front.

Rommel is pictured as being worried about the real meaning of the present campaign in Italy. Does it represent a really serious Allied blow? Or is it a feint in preparation for larger strokes of war to come in other sectors?

Such are the guesses that our enemy in Europe

is said to be making- worrying and surmising, not knowing what to expect. All of which would seem to be the result of Allied strategy based on the old principle of - keep 'em guessing.

ITALY

48  
The news from Italy pictures Allied thrusts at both extremities of the line across the Italian peninsula - the west coast above Naples and the Adriatic shore on the opposite side.

General Clark's Fifth Army plunged ahead for a gain of two miles. The Fifth Army is thrust<sup>ing</sup> along the main road to Rome, and is threatening a town called Teano, which is a junction point where subordinate roads join the principal highway to the Eternal City. ~~Teano is~~ held by the Nazis, and is one of their advance outposts. The town is thirteen miles inland, and is at the foot of one of the highest peaks of that mountainous country, Mount Massico, which is <sup>the</sup> Number One natural feature in the German series of defenses.

Today's Fifth Army advance was accomplished under the most difficult conditions, the worst of weather - a deluge of rain. It was supported, on the other hand,

by a naval bombardment - Allied warships hurling salvos against enemy troops and strong points fourteen miles behind the fighting line. The naval squadron bombarded the coast along the Gulf of Gaeta. *Guy-a-tah*

Across the peninsula, ~~General~~ Montgomery's Eighth Army forged ahead for an advance of four miles - ~~sludging and sudging~~ ahead in the rain. ~~British troops~~ captured some more towns, and engaged in heavy fighting at a place called San Salvo, which is a few miles inland from the Adriatic. There the Germans are putting up a fierce fight to keep Montgomery's forces from ~~enlarging~~ enlarging a bridgehead that they have established across an important river.

It must be made clear that none of the Allied advances reported today constitute in any sense a penetration of the new defense line the Germans have established. The advances mean that they are coming up *against the main defenses.*

## RUSSIA

The spotlight of the Russian war focuses tonight on a spreading area of flat land, called - "the Nogiask Steppe," ~~that is~~ a typical section of the vast ~~mountainous~~ plains of Russia - the Steppes. This one in particular is in the angle ~~of~~ that the River Dnieper makes with the coast, as it flows into the Black Sea.

In their series of drives to trap and crush the Nazi forces in the bend of the Dnieper and on the peninsula of the Crimea, the Soviets are smashing across the Nogiask Steppe. And there they are scoring their maximum of success - as pictured in the news. ~~today~~ <sup>late</sup>

Moscow reports advances of as much as fifteen miles today, with the capture of eighty towns. The Germans on the Nogiask Steppe are said to be in a state of disorganization, ~~in~~ <sup>with</sup> their retreat assuming the proportions of a rout, with huge losses of men and equipment.

50

The Nazi war machine, on the other hand, seems to be holding its own at that key point farther north, the iron center of Krivoi Rog - midway across the bend of the Dnieper. As we heard the other evening, they've got to hold Krivoi Rog to keep open an escape route for their large forces in the bend. ~~otherwise,~~ the Soviet trap will snap shut behind them. We've been hearing that the Germans are defending Krivoi Rog with tenacity and desperation, and ~~today's~~ today's Moscow bulletin mentions enemy counter-attacks, instead of Red army advances. Moscow states that the Germans today lunged forward with heavy infantry and tank assaults, but these counter-attacks were beaten back.

The Moscow conference is a tremendous success - so stated President Roosevelt today. At his regular news conference, he spoke with enthusiasm about the current confabulations of American Secretary of State Cordell Hull, British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, and Soviet Foreign Comissar Molotov. The President declared that agreements have already been reached, and will be signed shortly. What sort of agreements?

~~The President~~ <sup>He</sup> said it was still too early to be specific, and added that when the documents are signed, the terms will be announced, probably in Moscow.

~~The excellent results of the conference thus far, argued the President, are an answer to cynics who were saying that the talks of the foreign ministers would be clouded by suspicion and mutual distrust, and that little would be accomplished in Moscow.~~

He was asked whether the present confabulations would



lead to that big time conference, that headline pow-wow, which has been talked about so much - a meeting of the three star actors on the stage of war, Roosevelt, Churchill and Stalin. The President replied that he didn't know any more about that than he did a couple of weeks ago.

He tied his remarks about the foreign ministers in Moscow with a closely allied theme - the resolution for international cooperation that is being debated in the Senate. He said that Messrs. Hull, Eden and Molotov had got together without being pledged to any very specific program in advance, ~~had started in with general ideas so that they could work without too much restriction.~~ And so their success, reasoned the President, <sup>is an example of the advantage</sup> ~~is an example of~~ <sub>of</sub> having things in rather general form - without being too specific. <sup>TR</sup> In consequence, he thought that the

Senate resolution should be in generalities, without going into excessive detail, because if the terms were too closely defined, they might have to be changed in the light of later events. And this seemed to be a presidential okay of the resolution as it stands before the Senate right now - couched in generalities. The President did not give his approval in so many words, but it was implied.

2  
All of which would seem to give White House backing to the middle-of-the-road Senate resolution which has been attacked from both sides - by some who want something more definite and specific, and by others who don't want any post-war resolution at all.

~~The more internationally minded Senators, like Pepper of Florida, have been demanding that the Senate should go on record as favoring the application of international force for the preservation of peace. In other words,~~

## AMERICAN SUBMARINES

Mark down some more Jap ships to the credit of American submarines - ten more sunk, as announced by the Navy today, and four others damaged. This latest list of enemy ships destroyed by our undersea fleet includes freighters, tankers and transports - whittling down the tonnage the Japs need so badly.

## RUBBER

Today we have an announcement of a new and vitally important development in the ~~making of~~ <sup>manufacture of</sup> synthetic rubber. A discovery has been made which now permits synthetic rubber to be turned out many times faster than was previously the case. The news comes from the great Sun oil plant at Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania, where Eugene Houdry, the French-born chemist, has been working in collaboration with Sun Oil engineers. (He has been improving the method that he invented, and now comes forth with a new process which they call - "adiabatic." This process cuts down the period of time needed for combining ~~the key substance, called~~ butadiene, with other components. The chemical wedding of the substances used to take at least twelve hours. Now, by the use of the adiabatic process, it is accomplished in what the announcement calls - "a matter of minutes."

Today, newspapermen were shown how it works - how butadiene is combined with styrene - by the use of heat, pressure and catalyst. And out came a white stuff that looked like tooth paste. This was put into a beaker and ascectic acid was poured in, with the result that a mass of stuff like a kind of gum developed, and this was synthetic rubber - as if by some magic of alchemy. For us non-chemical plain citizens it means that synthetic rubber can now be turned out many times faster than heretofore.

Switching from the Sun Oil at Marcus Hook, to the War Production Board in Washington, we come upon a most important article made of synthetic rubber - important for the ladies - a new type of girdle. Today the W.P.B., exhibited a ~~type of~~ girdle that is expected to be put on the market early next year. It is described as pink in color and made of satin and

elastic. The qualities of the girdle ~~are~~<sup>were</sup> described by a girl employee of the W.P.B., who has been trying it out, wearing it day after day to work - a sort of girdle ~~quinea~~ pig. And today she gave a report. She said it was, in her own words, "quite satisfactory."

The new synthetic rubber girdle is still not yet quite perfect, which fact ~~the~~ ~~girdle~~ ~~quinea~~ ~~pig~~ <sup>Bertie</sup> put in the following words: "There are still a few bugs in it to be worked out," said she. *Bugs in the girdle.*

~~About which one can only guess, "bugs in the girdle". I'll leave the rest of it to your imagination~~

DE MARIGNY

Today in the deMarigny trial, <sup>the</sup> attorney for the defense scored a neat point in cross-examining a prosecution witness. It had to do with the marks of burns that figure so prominently in the case of <sup>the</sup> Count, ~~Alfred deMarigny,~~ <sup>the</sup> son-in-law of the murdered Sir Harry Oakes - singed hair having been found in deMarigny's beard and on his arms, which led to the contention that the singing had occurred when the bed of the murdered man was set on fire with an inflammable liquid.

Today's witness was police captain James Barker of Miami, and the prosecution puts a lot of emphasis on his testimony. He was being questioned concerning the clues in the murder mystery, when suddenly defense attorney Godfrey Higgs changed the subject, and asked: "Are those marks on your hands burns?"

"Yes," replied the police official.

The attorney for the defense then asked him how he got the marks of fire on his hands.

"I burned them while setting fire to some gasoline," responded the witness.

Whereupon the lawyer turned triumphantly to the jury. "Here," he proclaimed, "is a police officer with burned hand<sup>s</sup>. Does that mean he has committed a crime?"

A neat point neatly scored.



INDIA

Today across the cables came the sort of thing that is calculated to give pleasure to a newsman - a remarkably well written story, vivid reporting, with a gift of phrase. But this fine news story was about one of the most ~~rightful~~ <sup>doleful</sup> things in the present-day tidings of the world: With all the horror and terror of war, something is happening more ~~frightful~~ <sup>depressing</sup> still - famine, famine in India. So this excellent reporting, instead of giving pleasure, sounds a sombre note of pity. ~~a dark note only too eloquent.~~

The newspaperman is Walter Briggs, a correspondent of the United Press. He's a young veteran of oriental newspaper work, and here is something by way of a striking coincidence. Walter Briggs has just been awarded the Order of the Purple Heart for valor on the fighting front in Burma. ~~He was~~ Wounded in action. His dispatch today, however, is not about deeds of war,

but about the famine.

He writes: "Calcutta is a city of the living dead. Buzzards by the thousands," he goes on, "circle over this second city of the British Empire. Hungry natives, too emaciated even to beg, litter the streets. On Calcutta's Fifth Avenue, Chowringhi Road," he continues, "it is difficult to keep from stumbling over starving persons who stretch almost naked on the sidewalks."

"Today and tomorrow," Walter Briggs observes, "are the Hindu holidays commemorating the goddess of death and destruction - Kali. She is the <sup>many-</sup>~~four-~~armed, ~~red-eyed dark mother~~ <sup>human</sup> deity - who wears a necklace of skulls."

He goes on to tell how those who can, buy gaudy ~~images~~ images of Kali to throw into the Hugli River or into fires - to destroy the power of the wicked goddess. But Kali, the deity of death and

destruction, is having her dark way and the deaths from famine are mounting by the thousands - which Walter Briggs expresses in this symbolical phrase: "Silhouetted against the streaked rays of the setting sun," he writes, "the buzzards circle tonight."

He goes on to say that the new Viceroy of India, Field Marshal Viscount Wavell, is in Calcutta inspecting the scores of free kitchens, where the British Government and charitable organizations dole out what <sup>grain</sup> ~~is~~ is available. - Inadequate <sup>food, for</sup> ~~with~~ the starving famine sufferers of the city number a hundred and thirty thousand.

For days, ~~as we got the~~ <sup>with</sup> news of the famine in India, I wondered - why? Some while ago, I traveled out there - extensively. <sup>At that time it seemed</sup> ~~and then we supposed that~~ <sup>that</sup> India, the ancient land of famine, had finally overcome

the curse. The British-Indian government had performed

what appeared to be a miracle. The British, to conquer famine, had built railroads by which food could be transported quickly to stricken areas. And they had, moreover, constructed huge irrigation projects - greatly increasing India's food production. So, with a background of travel in India, I wondered <sup>about the</sup> ~~why was there~~ famine now?

~~It happens that~~ <sup>and</sup> I've just come upon ~~the~~ explanation - told me by a man who knows much about it, Lieutenant General Sir Alexander Hood,

Director-General of <sup>all British</sup> Military Medicine. ~~In India~~

<sup>Gen. Hood</sup>

~~He~~ said the reason was twofold - Burma, and hoarding.

He explained that Burma was normally a large producer of food for India - India's rice bowl. And the Japs now have Burma. But that alone would not have caused the famine. There has been widespread hoarding - people who could buy food procuring it and hiding it away. When

the Japs took Burma, India's rice bowl, they became  
frightened - ~~and~~ <sup>and ever since</sup> they've been hoarding. ~~this is xxxxxxx~~ <sup>all of which</sup>

has taken vast quantities of rice out of circulation

in India. ~~and~~ The result, ~~has been~~ - famine, <sup>once more.</sup>  
The old curse of Kali, for whom  
Calcutta is named.

OLD LADY

Here's ~~xxxxxx~~ a pathetic bit from Chicago.

8 1/2 An aged woman today went to an escalator in Chicago's new subway. It was a descending escalator, coming down. She wanted to go up, and she started climbing it, going the wrong way. She was just able to hold her own, getting nowhere. She kept at it until she collapsed with exhaustion.

And now Hugh I'll turn this verbal escalator over to you.