

L.I. - Sunoco - Thursday. June 25, 1942.

NORTH AFRICA

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^{are now}
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^ looks like a dash aimed at the Suez Canal.

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^ everything that he had. After the defeat of the British Army in
Libya, and the swift capture of Tobruk, he gave his opponents no
time to rest and get set. The Nazi Panzers must have been worn
out by their swift successes -- or maybe the Germans are getting
more mechanized reinforcements than could have been expected.
Anyway, no sooner had the British pulled back out of Libya to the
border of Egypt, than Rommel struck again.

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Word from Cairo would indicate that it was a flanking
affair, and not a frontal attack on that old and strong line of
British defense -- the Salum and Halfaya sector. The German
~~armies~~ Armed Forces went around the southern end of that
line, and crashed through at ~~a place called~~ Sidi Omar. And the
outflanked British had to withdraw to keep from being encircled.
They pulled back beyond Sidi Barrani, ~~that was~~ the furthest advance
point gained by the Italians in their hapless invasion of Egypt,

Twelve of them from the Greenwich Boys Club were fishing in the harbor. The other day at low tide, they noticed rubber sticking up in the mud. They started digging and inside of three days had three-fourths of a ton of old tires as well as old fire hose that the Fire Department had thrown there in Nineteen Thirty.

A man at Atlanta, Georgia, actually tore up his home to help the rubber drive. He is Agnew Field, a veteran of the first World War. His home, it so happened, was made largely of rubber. He built it in the days when used tires were cheap. Staircases were made of old tires, even flower beds and fences. He dismantled his home and his yard and came to town with somewhere between eight and ten tons of rubber, at least a thousand used automobile tires.

8 1/2
So if your house is made
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which ended in disaster. The Germans now have struck still further -- sixty-five to seventy miles inside of Egypt.

The question now is - where will the empire forces make a stand? The best surmise that we get from Cairo is Mersa Matruh; that is a hundred and forty miles inside the Egyptian border, and is the terminus of the railroad line from Cairo. They say that Mersa Matruh provides the next natural defense line to which the British can retire.

One supposition is that Rommel will try to cut around to the south of the Mersa Matruh and attempt to outflank that defense line -- as he has done in the case of the Salum-Halfaya position.

TP The strategic elements of the North African battle are simple -- the Mediterranean Coast to the north and the desert to the south. That invites flanking movements cutting around the south - and circling up to the coast, threatening to pin the defenders against the sea.

Military commentators in London are envisioning an even more drastic line of strategy by the Nazi commander. They think he *- drive through there -* may undertake to drive across the deep desert, all the way to the

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Nile. This would be enormously difficult -- far down from the coast, away down in the blistering heart of the burning sands. But the London commentators think it might be possible.

All of which suggests a fantasy of heat in the desert. The season of the most intense heat is on in Africa, and today's accounts tell of battle in fiery temperatures and swirling sandstorms. Previously, it had been taken for granted that warfare was not possible on the desert in the summer -- ^{--- too} unbearably hot, in an inferno.

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It was taken for granted that the North African ^{Campaign,} ~~Campaign,~~ which had lasted all winter, would automatically cease when the summer heat had begun to flame. So can it be that Rommel has made it part of his strategy to attempt what was considered impossible -- veritably using the summer heat of the desert as a weapon?

He is supposed to have air-cooled tanks -- nothing impossible. I believe that there are American air-cooled tanks. But even so, infantry has to be used -- and maybe one Rommel trick is to have infantry that can take the worst of heat. It is known that the ~~British~~ Germans trained their Afrika Korps to endure high

temperatures -- heat hardening.

However all that may be, the issue of Egypt is in a
supreme crisis tonight. The British Army is being reinforced.

We have reports of troops being drawn out of Syria and Palestine to help Egypt. Axis sources tell of an American ~~mechanized~~ mechanized unit being hurried to the Egyptian Front.

Meanwhile, we hear more and more of the heavy concentration of Nazi parachutists and air-borne troops in Crete -- apparently ready for a blow in some direction. If the British ~~do~~ diminish their strength in Syria and Palestine, the Nazis might strike at those places by air. Or ~~maybe~~ they may try to hurl their sky units into Egypt -- in an attempt to outflank the British Army there. ^{TP} All of which is a grave dilemma -- as the ~~empire~~ empire forces muster ^{for} their first stand at Mersa Matruh.

They are striving by every means to impede the advance of Rommel's columns. And this means -- air action. Today combined Royal Air Force and American squadrons struck incessantly at Nazi supply basis and advancing troops. Our own giant consolidated bombers were in the thick of it -- smashing at the enemy far and

wide across the desert.

Today in Washington, the question of Egypt was in the forefront -- as President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill continued their conferences. They had a White House talk with the leaders of Congress. And then later in the day they held a session of the Pacific War Council. In both cases the proceedings were secret, and we have only meagre reports of what transpired. These are all in accord in stating that the President and Prime Minister gave to the Congressional leaders and the Pacific War Council an encouraging picture of the ~~general situation~~ ~~situation~~ situation. For example, Congressman Sam Rayburn, speaker of the House, said this :- "It was a review of the world situation by the President and Prime Minister, and made in a fashion that was very pleasing to all of us."

Churchill stated his confidence that the British can hold ~~gypt~~ Egypt against the Nazi mechanized drive. Congressman Joe Martin of Massachusetts said:- "He indicated that Britain will hold and that there is no danger of losing Egypt".

We hear that in the conference with the congressional leaders, Churchill was asked some critical questions. Why is the bulk of the British Army in England? Why are several million trained soldiers kept at home? The Washington News Dispatch states that Churchill warded off these inquiries - "fenced with his questioners", is the expression used.

In the Senate today, the question of the British Army at home was the theme of a violent verbal attack. Senator Allender of Louisiana ~~sp~~ spoke of what he called- "The apparent apathy of British leadership in its inability to cope with the Axis". And then he said:- "I believe that a large majority of the British and American people are nauseated and disgusted, or at least tired, of the continuous inactivity of millions of soldiers stationed in the British Isles, waiting for an attack that may never come".

But, of course, Senator, that attack may come. *And,*

And what about an invasion of the Nazi controlled continent -- that second front?

The Louisiana law maker, having delivered his blast, went on with a striking demand -- that President Roosevelt should assume the supreme war leadership of the United Nations. The President, he said, ^{has} ~~had~~ the vision, the courage, and skill. "We must designate a real leader," cried the senator, "And place in his hands absolute power of command." And the leader he suggests is -- President Roosevelt.

In London ~~there~~ there are demands for a new kind of leadership the attacks on the Churchill Government are continuing, and the Prime Minister faces a hot reception when he gets back. London has no doubt that he'll win a vote of confidence in Parliament. The British have not the slightest idea ^{of} ^{ing} ~~to~~ see Churchill ousted as Prime Minister; but, there ^{is} ~~is~~ plenty of belief that he should not keep so much of the direction of the war concentrated in his ~~own~~ hands. ^{Churchill} ~~He~~ is not only Prime Minister but also Minister of Defense. ^{all} ~~which~~ gives him command of British War strategy.

Many think he should give up the defense post, and turn it over to a military leader. Two names are mentioned in today's dispatch from London -- General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander in Chief in India and Canadian Lieutenant-General Andrew McNaughton, Commander of Canadian Forces in the British Isles. They say that General McNaughton is coming to the forefront more and more as a ~~gixg~~ big figure.

4 { Britain's discontent with its present leadership was ~~illustrate~~ illustrated today in two speeches, one by Lord Strabolgi, and the other by Alfred Edwards, M.P. These two addresses are quite independent but they expressed the same scathing idea. Both referred to the ^{Nazi} ~~German~~ Field Marshall who has been winning the North African victories.

Lord Strabolgi said sarcastically ^{today: - German Field Marshall} "Rommel started as a private soldier. If he had been in the British Army he might by this time have reached the rank of ~~xxxx~~ sergeant." Member of Parliament Alfred Edwards put it in these terms: "Had Rommel been born in England, he would have been sergeant Rommel --- not Field Marshall Rommel."

EUROPEAN THEATRE

Here are some words to be scanned with attentive interest. "A European Theatre of operations for United States forces". The expression is used by the War Department in announcing a new military command, which includes all American troops in Europe - in North Ireland and Britain at present.

The term "theatre of operations" gives ^a hint of a good deal more than waiting around. It certainly sounds like a ~~mere~~

~~technical expression for a second front. The designation~~

~~of this new American Army area is in logical accord with~~

~~increasing American and British cooperation in the war. It~~

~~need mean nothing more than that, but it certainly does sound~~

~~like a prelude to activity.~~

The ~~new~~ European theatre of operations has a commander, and he was designated today - Major General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who hitherto has been on the war Department General Staff, General Eisenhower is a ~~Texas~~ Texan, as are quite a few of our high ranking officers. He is a West Pointer, fifty-two years old. He arrived in London today, after having conferred with President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Winston Churchill on Monday. Travel is quick this war-time.

TAXES

Today the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives completed its work on the new war tax bill. The program ^{re}commended by the Committee falls nearly three billion dollars short of the amount suggested by the Treasury. The Treasury goal was eight billion and seven million dollars to be raised by taxation during the next fiscal year. The Committee figure is five billion, nine hundred million.

Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau stated today that the Ways and Means Committee is now considering a last minute plan for deducting income taxes at the source of income -- take tax money out of wages. The proposal is to withhold five percent of wages under a pay-as-you-earn system. Starting with income earned in Nineteen Forty-Three

RUBBER

From Washington comes a call for a last minute round-up - - a round-up of rubber. The campaign ends on June thirtieth - - so let's make the last four days of it a big climax. This appeal was issued today by the Chairman of the petroleum industry war counsel, who urges rubber-conscious Americans in the following words:- "Check and double-check your attics, garages, cellars and back yards for possible pieces of scrap rubber that might have been overlooked in the first ten days of the drive.

KISS

From Hollywood comes a headline both romantic and financial -- kisses at fifty thousand dollars each. Patriotic too -- because the kisses were accompanied by war bonds. The lady in the case is Lana Turner, one of Hollywood's most beautiful stars -- also one of the most blonde.

When Lana started on her bond selling tour, her studio provided her with some written speeches -- sales talk. But they weren't Lana's kind of oratory. "They were swell speeches," she says, "All about friends, Romans and countrymen. I told the head men," she continues, "That I couldn't talk that kind of stuff." They responded -- well, in that case ~~if~~ she could say it with kisses, give a kiss to each buyer of fifty thousand dollars' worth of bonds.

"I said I thought it was ~~km~~ kind of cheap," she relates. "They said --"not at fifty thousand dollars per kiss, it wasn't cheap!" And Lana had to agree. "A kiss at fifty thousand dollars," she said today, "is really very expensive. Believe me, it isn't worth it."

The truth of that remark would seem to be illustrated by

what happened. "The first fifty thousand dollar customers," she states, "Were two nice old ladies. That," she adds, "Was a jolt. But I took their money and kissed them both," *says Lana.*

Another fifty thousand dollar customer is described by Miss Turner in the following words:- "He was about eighty years old. He walked with a cane. But he had his fifty thousand dollars," she explains, "And he wanted a kiss."

However, there was a break of luck for Lana. "Next," she exclaims, "Came a twenty-one year old boy," He, however, didn't have fifty thousand dollars. A twenty-one year old seldom has, as most girls know. He had only five thousand, which was sufficiently surprising. "I didn't see how such a young boy could have saved up five thousand dollars," says Lana, "But there it was, so I gave him a kiss."

The newsreel man insisted that she do it all over again. So she gave him two kisses. Consequently, he got twice as much for five thousand as the others for fifty thousand, which would seem to indicate that there is some advantage in being twenty-one. Or maybe his patriotism was greater.

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Anyway, the kiss-me-again, buy-a-bond tour was a great success. Lana Turner sold more than five million dollars' worth. I wonder what Helen of Troy, or Cleopatra would think of that -- five millions dollars worth of kisses?

And now, Hugh, as they would say at Oxford Harvard, Will younbring your kisser up to the mike.