

L.T.--SUNOCO, TUCSON, MON. DECEMBER 20, 1943

RAILROADS

This afternoon President Roosevelt held another conference in an attempt to avert a Nation-wide railroad strike. It was unannounced--a White House talk with the leaders of the unions. This follows a previous conference, Union and management--so far as we know the net result remains the same--the dead-lock unbroken.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am at an oasis in the Great American Desert tonight. In fact I've been reveling in the balmy weather here at the Arizona Inn--sitting under an orange tree. Which is quite a contrast to the frigid Manhattan Island that I left a few days ago--and a still more frigid Chicago.

Now for the news of the world as it came in to me under my orange tree!

The word in Washington tonight is that the president's ideas are now focused on questions

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of over-time paid to railroad workers. Along the line of overtime the railroads differ from other industries. Other industries have a forty-hour week with overtime for anything more. Railroad employees however, get overtime for work beyond a forty-eight hour week. But, suppose that were changed to forty hours? Then they'd get more overtime.

BOLIVIA

The revolution in Bolivia quite naturally makes us cast^t our eyes ~~in~~ in the direction of Washington -- the overthrow of President Penaranda being of distinct ^{interest} ~~concern~~ to the United Nations. And from Washington we hear that government officials are much concerned about the insurrectory triumph of the Bolivian Nationalist group. ^T Secretary of State Cordell Hull withholds comment, but other officials took public note of the resemblances between the Bolivian overthrow and the ^{Ramirez} ~~previous~~ military revolution in Argentina. Both were staged by Nationalist Army officers, expecially the younger ones, and in the case of ^{the} Argentinian affair - it brought no appreciable good to the United Nations.

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Bolivia, unlike Argentina, is in the war on our side, President Penaranda having placed his country in support of the United Nations. And the first indications today were that the successful revolutionaries were opposed to the Penaranda-Bolivia policy in the war.

However, these earlier disturbing hints were followed by later and more reassuring news. The head of the nationalist group that takes power announces: "The new government will respect the international situation, supporting the United Nations in their fight against the Axis".

And the latest tonight, a United Press interview in which the leader of revolt states that there is no relation between the Bolivian and the Argentine revolution.

As I discovered on my recent trip to South America, the causes of today's Bolivian revolution might easily have had ~~xx~~ very little to do with international affairs the United Nations, and Bolivia's part in the war. In Peru I heard rumbling from high in the Andes, Bolivian complaints against the administration of President Penaranda, These centering largely around an industry so important in the region high in the Andes -- mining.

Bolivia, of course is one of the world'

of the younger officers of the Bolivian Army. The civilian spark-plug, however, has not become President. He announces the naming of a military officer as provisional President - Major Alberto Villarroel.

The Bolivian dispatches do not indicate the severity of the fighting that accompanied the revolution, but from the Argentine we hear that there was a desperate conflict, though a brief one -- four hours of savage fighting in the streets of ^{picturesque La Paz} the city known to fame as the highest national capital in the world.

The young Army group won out, and President ~~Rax~~ Penaranda was placed under arrest and was forced to sign a statement of resignation.

In any case the statement certainly sounds like something forced ^{d.} It reads:- "I have resigned
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MARSHALLS

The non-stop bombing of the Marshall Islands
went through its twelfth straight day over the weekend
-- with long range Army bombers assaulting a Jap air
base on Mili atoll. An attack on Mili was announced
last night, ^{and} the news was scarcely out when another
wave of bombers hit the air base ~~atoll~~ ^{there.}

SOUTH PACIFIC

Allied advances are reported on both Bougainville and New Britain -- in the south western Pacific.

On Bougainville, invaded by ~~XXXXXX~~ American forces some while ago, our troops have driven across the mouth of the Torokina River, and pushed on for a quarter of a mile beyond the stream. This extends the American beach head to a distance of eight miles.

~~The advance across the mouth of the Torokina was not much more than a ~~lx~~ bridging operation -- thanks to the artillery. American cannon had laid down such a ~~xxxx~~ destructive barrage that the Japs had cleared out.~~

On New Britain, where our troops landed in that recent brilliant amphibious operation, the Americans are rolling on for the full occupation of the Arawe Peninsula. They are approaching ~~xx~~

the kind of goal that counts so very much in this war -- an air field; ~~This is~~ a landing strip ~~which~~ ~~the Japs~~ built by the Japs and blasted by the Americans. Our bombers have made it useless for the enemy, but when we get it we'll soon ~~be~~ repair it. ~~This air field is two hundred and sixty from Rabaul, the great enemy base at the other end of the island. And from the landing strip our planes will be within easy flying distance~~ ~~of Rabaul.~~

BURMA

From the enemy radio tonight comes a fascinating bit of news -- and one that may be of large eventual importance. It tells of what must be a magnificent thrilling episode ^{of war undertaken} by American and Chinese. -- And the Japs do the telling. The Tokyo News Agency states that a Chinese regiment commanded by American officers has crossed the Patki Hills into Burma and is now fighting against the Jap Army along the upper regions of the Chindwin River.

Now how did those Chinese soldiers and their American officers get there? The Patki Hills are on the border of India and Burma, one of the ~~most~~ remote ~~forbidding~~ regions ^{of} the world.

The Chindwin River is a tributary of the mighty Irrawady, that majestic stream which dominates Burma. The Chindwin derives its name from a group of tribes -- the Chins, who dwell in ^{the} secluded mountains and

of the Chin Hills,

forest I've travelled through ^{some of} that country and

can vouch for the ~~ferocious~~ difficulties ^{of the}

~~terrain, jungles, and rocky summits and the~~ *incredibly dense jungle clad mountains; and, the*

formidable qualities of the ^{tall chin} ~~Chin tribes~~ tribes ^{men - if}

they are not on your side.

~~and war like~~ I refer to all of this to emphasize

the puzzle of how the Chinese-American outfit got there -- as is reported by the Japs.

Well, the Japs gave us the explanation.

They say the invading force crossed the Patki Hills

by way of the new Lido road which American and

Chinese engineers have been building ~~across the~~

~~wide spaces of~~ ^{from} Assam ~~and~~ into Burma. This Lido

highway is designed to connect eventually with the

old Burma road, when this is reconquered. The

significant thing tonight is the revelation of how

far the new Lido Road must have progressed -- with *this*

Chinese and American regiment ~~by~~ travelling it, *and*

penetrat^{ing}_^ed into upper regions of the Chindwin River
which is all of ~~fa~~ one fourth ~~of~~ the distance
across upper Burma. ^{and}_^ That's where they are fighting
the Japs right now. ~~the~~ Deep in conquered Burma.

BOMBING

Today United States Heavy Bombers flew from Britain and ~~socked~~ ^{hammered the great part of} great military targets in north ~~Bremen,~~ ^{western Germany.} But this was only half of the ~~punch~~ ^{punch the Nazis had to take.} The other half being dated -- yesterday. So we've got to revert to yesterday's news to give an account of what amounted to the ~~whisk~~ old one-two punch.

The time has inevitably come for systematic two-way air attack on Nazi Germany -- from the south as well as the north. And yesterday's bombers struck ~~from~~ from the Mediterranean. Flying Fortresses and Liberators hurl^{ing}ed their bombs on two key ~~key~~ targets. One, ~~was~~ ⁱⁿ Augsburg, southern Germany, a center of ~~German~~ aircraft ~~in~~ production; The other, ~~was~~ ⁱⁿ Innsbruck in the Tyrol, the great railroad center of the Brenner Pass - the Nazi bottle neck of transportation ~~taxik~~ into Italy.

So the one-two punch, the boxer's left, followed by the right, takes the form of Mediterranean air power striking from the south on one day, and the British based bombers swinging down from the north on the next day.

In each case the American bombers were escorted by fighters and fierce air battles were fought. ~~We lost eleven in both raids of the one two punch.~~ ~~While~~ In the blow from the south alone the Fortresses and Liberators battled their way through a swarm of one hundred German fighters and shot down thirty-seven -- and twenty-two more probably destroyed. *eleven American bombers lost.*

The latest today tells us that the American bombers based on Britain ran into a lot of those German rocket guns. Twin engine fighters hurled their rocket projectiles trying to break up the bombers ~~by~~ but the American fighter escorts beat them

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off. "Completely smothered the enemy attack" says today's London dispatch, ~~and placed their bomb burst squarely on the targets. Tonight it may well be that the British are following up with one of their own night attacks. London reports that the Berlin radio went off after the hours of darkness -- suggesting another R.A.F. blow hurled through the darkness.~~

FOLLOW BOMBING

London tells us that American Flying Fortresses and Liberators may soon be able to raid Berlin by daylight -- and with fighter escorts. This is made possible by super long distance American fighter planes that have recently made their appearance in European skies -- fighter planes of a range that will enable them to escort bombers all the way to Berlin and back.

ITALY

In Italy two columns of American troops are ~~now~~ driving ^{on} ~~at~~ the town of Cassino, that historic site of the first Benedictine Monastery and an important highway junction on the road to Rome. After having captured the village of San Pietro, ⁱⁿ ~~after~~ a desperate melee of blood and violence over the weekend, General Clark's troops went right ahead and pushed on -- for an advance of two miles. And the latest is that they are launching a two-pronged drive toward their major goal, Cassino. The Germans are still fighting furious rear guard battles but the enemy resistance shows signs of cracking under the relentless pressure exerted by the Fifth Army.

On the other side of the Peninsula Montgomery's Eighth ~~Army~~ is hurling armored force against the Germans. First they captured an important road center and then drove the Nazis out of a village called Consalvi. That's the latest.

JUGOSLAVIA

Here's news from Yugoslavia, ~~that Balkan~~
~~country torn by revolt against the Nazi oppressor~~
~~and the ~~is~~ civil strike among the patriot forces.~~
Major Marshall Tito, head of the Partisan Guerrillas
today announced the formation of a Yugoslav National
Committee of Liberation. The name obviously is adapted
from that of the French ~~Committee~~ Committee of National
Liberation and is a further claim on the part of Tito's
forces to be the legitimate government of Yugoslavia.

~~The Partisans are of a communistic tinge and are~~
~~bitterly hostile to the government headed by young~~
~~King Peter. In fact, Today Marshall Tito demanded~~

that the Allies stop ~~is~~ supporting the royal government
in exile, together with its minister of War General
Mikhailovich and his Chetniks. All of this is awkward

for the Allies who recognize King ~~is~~ Peter's regime.

And it seems to be the ~~most~~ ^{more} disconcerting because

of an announcement ^{issued} ~~followed~~ by the allies today.

British and American military officials have been conferring with the Tito people and announce^d that an agreement had been reached, an agreement providing that ~~Great~~ Britain would give military support to all forces fighting the Nazis in Jugoslavia. All forces ~~were~~ taken to mean King Peter, Mikailovich and the Chetniks as well as Tito and ~~the~~ the Partisans. Immediately after which Marshall Tito protests the aid given to the rival ~~Jugoslav~~ ^{TP} faction. The Jugoslav puzzle becomes constantly more puzzling.

RUSSIA

The significance of the Soviet drive ~~in~~
the northern sector of the ^{Russian} ~~base~~ battle front is not
only strategic -- it also has a large meaning in
terms of temperature, frost and icicles, ^{it} ~~and~~ marks
the real beginning of this year's winter war. ~~Thus~~

Far, the bulk of the battle has been in southern
Russia, the Ukraine. And there winter conditions
have hardly begun. The frozen season is late this
year ~~in~~ in Russia, and fighting along the front of the
River Dnieper has been along conventional lines, ~~and~~
not in that fearful and grotesque parody of battle,
the Russian winter war.

But now the new Russian surge forward is
concentrated at a place called ² Nevel and that's up
in the north where the country is ^{already} in the full grip
~~of freezing blizzards. This is the third winter~~
campaign for the Nazis, who lunged at Russia with the

The Germans have hung on grimly

with their war

the near vicinity of the second largest Russian

city, but now the Soviet thrust at Nevel drives

a wedge that may ^{cut} ~~come~~ in behind the Leningrad German

front, with major out-flanking possibilities.

In the south, the largest event announced

is the Soviet capture of the city of Kherson, the southern anchor of the German front in the Ukraine.

The Nazis evacuated Kherson and it looks as if the

loss of the anchor may ~~compel~~ compel another ^{long} ~~retire~~ *German*

retirement.

INTERNATIONALE

Now here's a question that might seem to be an easy one to answer. What would a Communist do without the Internationale? The answer -- nothing!

Impossible! A Communist ^{simply} couldn't do without the Internationale. However, millions of comrades will

have to [^] in Soviet Russia. Because today Moscow announced that the Soviets have given up that ^{red} anthem of Communism, ~~the Internationale~~. Why? Because,

says Moscow "it does not conform with the ~~xxx~~ socialist principles of the Soviet state". ~~So says the Moscow~~

^{And wait that}
cause a flush of red to appear on the cheeks of Reds and Pinkies in other countries!

The Internationale! -- hymn of ~~the~~ world

proletarian ~~—~~ dished.
~~communist~~ revolution [^] ~~It will be heard no more as~~

~~the official song in the one time battle of world~~

~~revolution~~ No more ~~xxx~~ will the Bolsheviki ^{i from} ~~of~~
the Neva to the Don
~~Russia~~ sing "arise ye prisoners of starvation".

What then will they chant? ~~xxxx~~ Moscow tells us

→ that a new Soviet national anthem has been written and its opening line goes this way:-

"Great Russia has forged forever the indestructible union of new republics". ^{Now} That doesn't sound quite

so liltingly lyrical; but, the Communists of Russia

1/2 will have to sing it if Uncle Joe says so!

And now what has Tleson's ace announcer Uncle Ben Black got to say? Uncle Ben:-

NEWSPAPER

I'm deep in the Arizona Desert tonight but at an oasis fortunately -- Tucson, where the desert blossoms like the proverbial rose -- especially at the Arizona Inn where I am stopping. This is legendary western country with cactus and coyotes, and bleak mountains and the rich mining. The desert has likewise great air training areas with tales of war in flying told by veterans who have come back. So I thought I'd pick up a colorful story blending traditional Arizona with modern battles of the sky. But what did I get?

I dropped in at one of the two local newspapers, the TUSCON DAILY CITIZEN. There I encountered owners Bill Honnson formerly of the NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE and William Small who in the old days was with the NEW YORK WORLD. And I ran across Bud Kelland, SATURDAY EVENING POST fiction star, long a figure in writing articles of the big town back East. I met Major General Ralph Smith who commanded New York troops at the

conquest of the Guilberts.

The result of which was the swapping of New York newspaper stories, instead of desert legend and modern aviation, I picked up a funny one about an old-time newspaperman -- who had more luck at writing than he had at marriage.

Bill Johnson related how this old friend far in arrears with his alimony, in fact, was the inside of the alimony fail. Bill s heard about this and was also told that the wife, with her two children, was in a needy condition. He talked this over with some newwppaper pals, and they decided to do something to help. Bill went down to ascertain the facts about the wife and children, and found them living in a shabby place crammed with old junk--antiques. The wife obviously had the antique fever. What they needed was food and clothing. So he reported back and the group decided to throw a benefit for the wife. This took the form of a golf game in which they raised two hundred collars. This amount of money was promptly deliveredd to the wife who

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received it with all suitable gratitude.

A week later Bill Johnson, like the Good Samaritan who wants to see the result of his goodness, paid another call on the wife and children.

"Wehn I took a look at the place" he said, today "I saw at once what had happened." Of the two hundred dollars she invested one hundred and eighty in some more antiques and about twenty for food and clothing.

Which is just another little instance to show the romance of newspaper men's lives and tomorrow I'll try and produce something about the Arizona desert and the war flying that's going on down here.