

TUNISIA

L.I. - Sunoco.

Wed., Feb. 17, 1943

One meaning of the German thrust in southern Tunisia was made clear today, when it was announced that American flying forces have evacuated three advanced air bases. Rommel's North Afrika Korps, pushing through Faid Pass, has driven forward for thirty-five miles. ~~Rommel's~~ armored columns penetrated the American lines, ^{and} threatened a pincers movement, ^{which} ~~and~~ forced a withdrawal. Their goal, ~~is~~ the town of Sbeitla, ^{of which} ~~and~~ they have reached the outskirts. The evacuated American airfields are near that place, and North African headquarters tell us that the German advance had come too close for safety. So our air force has pulled back to flying fields further in the rear. The withdrawal was accomplished without any particular loss - merely a little gasoline, some rations, a few trucks and some damaged planes which were being repaired.

While Rommel was ^{advancing in} ~~hammering an advance in~~ the American sector, his forces were giving way further south, where the British Eighth Army is pushing toward the fortified Mareth Line. The British, after their long ^{push} ~~advance~~ from Egypt, are encountering ~~a~~ little resistance - patrol skirmishing mostly. So

It's ~~is quite~~ clear that Rommel is pulling up into the Tunisian pocket, and is fighting to widen that - scoring a thirty-five mile advance. - pushing out.

RUSSIA

Moscow announces the capture of a whole string of towns northwest and south of Kharkov. Which means that the Soviet troops are fanning out from that captured stronghold, ~~are~~ pressing their advance to the utmost. ~~Among the places captured are six strong points of key importance.~~

All of which emphasizes the swift withdrawal of the Germans. The whole thing would seem to be a combination of planned retreat and of having to *pull back* ~~retreat~~ under smashing blows. ^{TP} There are still no indications of how far the Nazi war machine intends to withdraw; but, it is pointed out that the country until they reach the River Dnieper, is perfectly flat. ~~Those~~ ^{Those} endless Russian Steppes, ~~and~~ offers no natural line of defense - until the broad river is reached.

Military observers concur in the surmise that the German Generals, not Hitler, are now in charge of

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things. ^{Having} ~~They have~~ taken over the command ^{from} ~~for~~ the
Nazi Fuehrer, ~~and~~ they are decisively putting their
own ideas into effect - the idea of an enormous
withdrawal in southern Russia, so as to shorten the
front, which is immensely long, even at its shortest.

~~point.~~

PEACE RUMORS

Hints of peace have been coming from Fascist Italy. It has been expected that the Axis would try to launch some kind of peace moves, and now the expectation materializes - at least in the case of Italy. It is a mere hint, dropped by Gayda - well *now not-so-talkative* known as Mussolini's [^]mouthpiece. He suggests that Italy would like a compromise peace with the United States and Great Britain - but not with Soviet Russia.

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Comment on this was made today by Elmer Davis, Director of the Office of War Information. He described the Gayda business as - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ "a talk offensive." He indicated that it was all an Axis maneuver to cause dissention between the English-speaking powers and ^{the} Soviet ~~Russia~~. "The Axis," said Elmer Davis, "is trying to drive a wedge between Great Britain and the United States and their Allies."

and keep the lid on. Home Secretary Herbert Morrison will speak in defense of the Cabinet tomorrow, and he warns his fellow Labor members that if they press a vote on the Beveridge issue, and the vote should go against the government - it would mean the immediate resignation of Winston Churchill and his Cabinet.

BATH

In the London House of Commons today the M.Ps debated the following question -- is a great statesman more entitled to a bath than a common soldier? The problem was raised when a labor member stated that bathing conveniences ^{en} ~~had~~ ^{— the jolly old tub —} had been installed in a plane used by a lofty personality of war who does a good deal of traveling by air. The name was not mentioned, but undoubtedly it was p-- Churchill. ^R The Minister of Aircraft Production, Sir Stafford Cripps admitted that the air liner in question had been equipped with a bath. To which labor member Emanuel Shinwell pointed out that the air troop transports have ^{tubs installed} no ~~bath at all~~ and aren't they ^{soldiers} ~~by way of~~ being flown to action, as much entitled to a bath as anybody else?

Sir Stafford Cripps responded in the following measured words: "In relation to the alleged privilege of the bath," said he, "people concerned in the higher direction of the war do require, if they are to perform their duties, a certain degree of comfort in long travel."

Manny Shinwell

To which ~~the~~ Labor M.P. [^] shouted: "Class
privilege!"

Sounds like a ticklish question. A soldier,
of course, is more likely to get dirt^{ier} than a
Prime Minister. But, on the other hand, we do want
our statesman, ~~to be clean -- though not all washed up --~~
when they go to historic conferences, [^] to be clean
-- but not all-washed up.

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NAVY

Tonight's Navy bulletin takes us down below the surface of the water for a visit to American submarines. Far across the Pacific we can imagine ourselves inside the iron shell, gazing bewildered at the masses of intricate machinery. We can fancy ourselves standing with ~~a pig boat~~ ^{the} commander at the periscope, as he aims the torpedo. And, the torpedo hits. ^{TF} More briefly - the Navy announces tonight that our submarines, striking at the Far Eastern supply lines of the enemy, have sunk five Jap supply ships and transports - and probably a cruiser. One of our subs torpedoed the cruiser, which appeared to be sinking when last seen by the submarine.

An earlier Navy bulletin today told of air raids against the Japs in the northern Solomons. The sky blows, launched from Guadalcanal, were aimed at airdromes in the area of the Shortland Islands -

three hundred miles northwest of Guadalcanal. The

Japs in that sector seem to be ~~xxxxx~~ organizing their

forces for ^{defense} ~~an advance~~ against N new American assaults -

like the one that captured Guadalcanal.

MADAME CHIANG-KAI-SHEK

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This afternoon at Washington, President Roosevelt and the First Lady waited to greet a guest arriving by train. The guest was Madame Chiang Kai-shek, wife of the Generalissimo.

They took her
~~She rode then~~

to the White House, where she will stay during her

visit to Washington. *TR* We learn that China's First Lady

came to the national capital from Hyde Park. She

had been ^{at} ~~the~~ the President's Dutchess County home for several days - ever since she left a New York hospital.

Madame Chiang Kai-shek has been in this country since last November - receiving medical treatment.

In China, as the wife of the War Lord, *she*

~~Madame Chiang Kai-shek~~ plays a most important political

role - one that entitles her to be ranked as the

world's greatest stateswoman. (In Washington, she is

expected to engage in important talks with the

President on the course of the war and to confer with

3 { various other high officials. Tomorrow, she will appear before the Senate and before the House of Representatives - and later will make appearances in New York, Boston, Chicago, and on the Pacific coast.

SUIT

In New York today two concerns were sued for a million dollars each. The claim for all that money is made by the National Maritime Union, which today filed a libel case against the Hearst Newspapers and against the Associated Press. The huge damages are demanded because of the publication of the story that union sailors refused to unload a ship at Guadalcanal because it was Sunday. They are alleged to have said that union rules forbade Sunday work, and their refusal compelled sick Marines to unload their own supplies.

The complaint filed today denies that the Maritime Union has any rules against Sunday work or ever had. And it quotes Admiral Halsey, United States Commander in the South Pacific, as denying that merchant marine seamen ever refused to unload cargoes.

A Congressional subcommittee has been investigating the story that was published, and its chairman stated today that a formal report will be made ^Soon. The
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subcommittee, during its hearings, was told how the story began. It was first published in Akron, Ohio.

And Akron newspaperman ^e~~man~~ testified that they'd got it from Marines. These Marines made the statement that at Guadalcanal sailors refused to unload a ship because of union rules.

TAX

The President today asked Congress to impose a special war super-tax on incomes of more than twenty-five thousand dollars a year for single persons and fifty thousand dollars a year for married couples. This ties in with the idea of limiting wages to twenty-five thousand ~~dollars~~ a year. Right now there is a congressional move against that salary limitation, and the Ways and Means Committee advocates a substitute for it. One argument concerning the twenty-five thousand ~~dollar~~ salary limitation is that it does not affect incomes that are not salaries. ^PThe President's recommendation today covers that point - calling for a war super-tax on any kind of annual income of more than twenty-five thousand for the single and fifty ~~thousand~~ for the married. His idea is for the government to take everything in excess of those sums. The President writes: "I believe that in this time of

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great national danger, when all excess income should go to win the war, no American citizen should have a net income, after he has paid his taxes, of more than twenty-five thousand dollars."

If, however, Congress refuses to take all the excess income in the form of a one hundred per cent super tax, the President hopes that the legislators will agree upon a plan to take a minimum of fifty per cent, going up to a maximum of ninety per cent.

BASEBALL

Joe DiMaggio joined the Army today - and a legend was shattered. Jolting Joe gave up his forty-three thousand dollar a year job on the Yankees, and enlisted as a fifty dollar a month private.

^{The} legend was shattered, when the mighty hitter of baseball took his physical examination. The doctors gave him a test of eyesight, and reported that the DiMaggio ~~eyes were,~~ ~~eyesight was,~~ in their words, "only average."

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One theory has been that the DiMaggio ability to whale the horsehide ^{was} ~~is~~ because of abnormally acute vision - meaning that Joe could jolt the ball so hard because he could see it so well. Nothing to it, said the Army doctors today, ^{giving} ~~with~~ an eyesight rating of - "only average."

Joe was taken into the Army and promptly sent off for training, with a sergeant remarking that he would speedily be assigned to some kitchen police.

VERONICA LAKE

I suppose that Motion Picture Actress Veronica Lake had an upswept hair-do, her blond tresses up high and coiled tightly - when she read the following letter today. It was from the National Safety Council and thanked her for abandoning the hair style that made her famous - the Veronica Lake way of having about half of her hair down over one eye. That was Okay in Hollywood, but not so good in war production plants - where a lot of women workers imitated the down-over-the-eye-hair-do. Not so good when you bend over whirling machinery. There were a number of accidents - hair getting caught. So Veronica abandoned the one-eye hair comb - hoping that women war workers ^{would} ~~would~~ follow suit.

The National Safety Council, in applauding, uses elegant phraseology, saying: "With a stroke of your hairbursh, you saved the scalps of American women

war workers who seek to emulate your charms and thereby invite the uncrowning of their crowning glory." And I always used to think the National Safety Council was a solemn and stuffy sort of outfit!

The Safety Council goes on and ~~xxxxxx~~ asks Veronica to do something further - suggesting that she might show women war workers they can still be beautiful by wearing the right kind of safety clothes. Veronica is asked to stage a one-woman fashion display, and model the styles considered safe in war plants. ~~xxxxxx~~ "To demonstrate," says the Council, "that a gal doesn't have to check glamour at the factory gate."

In other words, they want Veronica to assure the women war workers that they can take their glamour right in the factory gate and keep the glamour gorgeous as they grease the bearings of a truck.

MISSIONARY

Out in Detroit, thousands of people have been thrilled by a great story of missionary adventure - a tale culminating with tortures at the hands of the Japs. How would you like to hear a woman tell about eighteen missionary years in China - how she traveled through dim spaces of Central and Southern Asia, and made perilous trips along the Burma Road? ^{HP} The story has a sentimental throb when it comes to a reunion - the woman missionary finding a long lost son at Shanghai, a son whom she had believed to be dead. ^{Then followed} ~~Then~~ the dark horror of war and the Japs, - how she was tortured by the Far Eastern fiends, ^{HP} ~~To~~ provide a touch of spice. ~~And~~ you can add this: - before those eighteen years of missionary adventure, the lady was a dancer at Monte Carlo. At that gilded ^d haunt of gambling ^{and sin} she swayed and stepped to ^{over heated music of the can-can -} ~~langorous music~~ ^{and then formed the} resolve to convert the heathen.