

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1941

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The British report a big tank battle on the desert - the clash of armored forces that has been tensely expected. It occurred at the place where we last night surmised it would - south of Tobruk, which is on the coast, there is a powerful British Garrison. It has been standing siege since last Spring, In front of the large area of Tobruk fortifications are the Nazi siege lines. There, apparently, the Major power of the German panzers gathered for battle -- to have their clash with the British armored column swinging around through the desert.

Cairo states that in a series of engagements, a hundred and thirty-five German and forty-five Italian tanks were destroyed. Thirty-three German armored cars knocked out, and several hundred prisoners captured. What are the British losses in this conflict of mechanized equipment? We are not told in general, but Cairo says that in the first clash of the series of engagements the Axis lost twenty-six tanks, the British - twenty.

With the battle in front of Tobruk still raging, London believes that the beleaguered stronghold will soon be relieved. Today Admiral Sir Dudley Pound used the words, "almost immediately." Last night empire units were only ten miles from the outer defenses of Tobruk, and they must be closer tonight. Indeed, over there on the North African desert, Tobruk right now may be relieved - the empire troops within and without joining forces.

The focus is on Tobruk, but the scope of the desert battle is much larger - much longer. The campaign is strung out along the coast, the margin north of the blistering depth of the desert. East of Tobruk, toward Egypt, there are fortified German and Italian strongholds, where savage fighting is going on. The Axis troops at these points are in danger of being cut off, isolated - unless they succeed in retiring and joining their main army in the Tobruk area. And there's action to the west. British armored units have driven on beyond, by passing Tobruk. The spearhead - most advanced issaid to have pushed a hundred miles from its point of starting in Egypt.

This new campaign on the desert is now described as

having the largest kind of plan and intention. The relief of Tobruk, only a preliminary detail. Take all of Italian Libya, and oust the Axis altogether from North Africa. But that is said to be only part. The drive by the British Imperial armies may go on into the French North African possessions -- all the way to West Africa, to that all-important Atlantic port of Dakar.

Hitherto, the Germans were saying scornfully that the drive was mostly a propaganda affair, something to pacify Stalin and meet the demand that the British do something. But today military quarters in Berlin described the Imperial drive in these words:- "An extremely strong attack, which cannot be regarded as a purely propaganda affair."

ADD DESERT WAR

late
A ~~late~~ dispatch has just flashed from Cairo.

It states that a whole German armored division has been
~~is~~ trapped south of Tobruk and is being battered to pieces.

The Nazi Panzer ~~division~~ division was surrounded in a quiet
~~an~~ manoeuvre and appears to be doomed -- so says Cairo.

The dispatch emphasizes ^{the} work of American-made air-cooled
tanks -- tanks air cooled for desert war.

FRANCE FOLLOW DESERT WAR

The battle of the desert has a large place in speculation concerning events in France. Today there are rumors that Marshall Petain is going to confer with Hitler next week. They say that the aged Premier of the Vichy Government, accompanied by his Vice-Premier Admiral Darlan, will journey to occupied France. There they will meet Nazi Number Two man Goering, and he will take them to see Hitler.

Today's report adds that when they meet, Hitler will ask Petain for further concessions, and that these will be granted.

The nature of such concessions is the subject of word from London, which mentions - Tunisia. This French North African colony lies just across the water from Sicily, about eighty miles. If the Nazis could land at Tunisia reinforcements - short supply line. As it stand now, the Axis transports have to go from Sicily to Tripoli, a distance of over two hundred miles - a long supply line, open to attack by the British Fleet.

And London surmises that Hitler's immediate motive in forcing the new changes in France is to get control of Tunisia - to help in fighting the campaign on the desert.

RUSSIAN WAR

Late news from the Moscow front. The blitzkrieg has broken through to the north of the city. This is stated in a dispatch from the ~~the~~ temporary Soviet capital. The ~~point~~ point of the break-through is sixty-five miles northwest of Moscow, and the Red Army ~~bulletin~~ bulletin uses ~~these~~ these words: "The Germans threw in eight divisions, and attacked from several points - succeeding in breaking through the line of our defense and penetrating to the rear of our Army;"

TP Violent fighting is going on, and the Soviet forces are ~~gradually~~ gradually withdrawing - under terrific pressure. The Nazi Panzers crushing through to the North of the city, trying to drive a northern wing of encirclement.

Also to the south of Moscow - a Nazi advance; ~~They're driving~~ driving a wedge ~~so~~ deeper and deeper into the Soviet line in the Tula area. ~~This~~ ^{ing} threatens a southern wing of ~~the~~ encirclement. *TP* The battle for Moscow seems to be approaching its climax.

FINLAND

A dispatch from Finland tells us that there ~~is~~ is a chance of an armistice between the Finns and the Soviets. These words are used:- "a good chance". The information is attributed to what are called - "well informed quarters". And these go into some detail concerning the prospect of an end to the war between the Soviets and the Finns.

The possible truce, we are told, would probably not be anything formal, with a treaty and all that. It would be what they call "a tacit armistice". That is, by a sort of informal understanding the Finns and the Red Army forces might stop fighting. They say there can be no real peace between the little republic and the Soviets right now. But there might be a fight stoppage - to adapt a phrase from American labor union useage. If there can be a work stoppage - why not a fight stoppage?

In such a case, the Finns would rest on their arms until a general peace conference after the war is over. Before calling a halt, however, the Finns ~~would~~ would expect the United States and Great Britain to guarantee Finland's

frontiers against the Soviets. They refuse to put any trust in a treaty merely between themselves and Stalin.

But how would Nazi Germany regard a fight stoppage between Finland and the Red Army? The well informed quarters in Helsinki ~~say that Berlin might agree, might approve of a tacit armistice.~~ They explain that Germany and Finland had an advance agreement about how much Finland should ^{do -} ~~do~~ the task the Finnish Army should accomplish in the war against the Soviets. And now the Finns have virtually ~~done their part,~~ completed their task against the Red Army. Hence, they've fulfilled their contract with Berlin, and are not required to keep on fighting.

Today's advices add that negotiations right now are being ~~as~~ conducted ~~at Helsinki, negotiations~~ between all parties that are concerned. ^{which} ~~This, of course,~~ would seem to include the United States - with Washington demanding that Finland stop fighting the Soviets.

LAUNCHING

~~We have an interesting bit of reporting of a ship launching down in Virginia.~~ Today the giant United States battleship Indiana slid down into the water, and for the United Press the assignment was covered by Richard C. Hottel. He's that same newspaperman who, as United Press correspondent in Berlin, was arrested by the Nazis and kept in prison - a headline case of a year or so ago. ~~xxxx~~ Previous to that Hottel had attended the launching of the great Nazi battleship - the Tirpitz. So now he compares the two ships going down the ways, the Indiana ~~in~~ and the Tirpitz.

He reports that today ~~xxxx~~ so signs of ~~xxx~~ rivets were visible on the great steel bulk of the Indiana, which meant - welding, the ultra-modern way. By welding you can save the weight of the myriads of rivets, and put that weight into extra armor, greater strength. When Hottel saw the Tirpitz launched, he notices an abundance of rivets - the construction not so ultra-modern as that of the Indiana. All the more interesting as the Tirpitz is reported to have made its way to the Far East to join the Japanese, which might be important if trouble should come between the United States and Japan.

Today's launching occurred at Newport News,
Virginia. I say this with emphasis - because ~~for~~ in a
~~NEWS~~ newsreel picture at Movietone a little while ago
we placed a gala ship launching at Norfolk, when it really
happened at Newport News. And that mistake drew a blast.
The two towns just across from each other - and you know
how warm local ~~rival~~ rivalries can be.

(~~Note: Movietone implies this more than ever~~).

STRIKE

In the coal ~~stri~~ strike, Governor James was asked today to send the state police^a to Lafayette County. That's the focus of violence, as the strike continues to spread. The big ~~affray~~ in Lafayette County occurred today when a hundred and fifty pickets were fired on by non-union miners. The attack was a surprise, the non-union ~~mi~~ miners hidden behind piles of coal mine slag - and blazing away with their guns. Twelve pickets were wounded. This was followed by belligerent statements from the United Mine Workers - they will resist the attacks of what they called "professional gunmen".

All of which brought the state of affairs in Lafayette County to such a dangerous condition that the local authorities called upon the Governor to send the state police to preserve peace. A late dispatch from ^{Harrisburg} ~~Harrisburg~~ gives us a statement by Governor James ^{that} he will send the state police. "It's the usual practice," said he.

In Washington a bill was introduced in Congress today to restrict labor's right to strike in ~~for~~ defense ~~indust~~ industries.

ADD STRIKE

Congress is tense with increasing demands that something be done - and plenty of indignation. Today's anti-strike bill was introduced by Senator Connally of Texas, an administration leader, and it was backed by under-Secretary of War Patterson and Under-Secretary of the Navy, Forrestal. They said that the law to curb the outbreak of strike activity was essential to national defense.

Thus, the bill has strong administration support, although President Roosevelt as yet has not spoken. The President is preserving silence - pending a meeting tomorrow between John L. Lewis and the two hundred man policy committee of his union.

Meanwhile, at the C.I.O. convention in Detroit, Philip Murray was reelected president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. The vote was an ovation.

PAINTINGS

There's an ironic twist in the theft of works of art from the home of Doris Duke Cromwell - the multi-millionaire heiress. The robbery was committed Armistice night, when an unemployed laborer broke into the mansion of the four thousand acre Duke estate near Somerville, New Jersey. He got in through a window and took away two paintings and a print. - ~~He~~ must have been an art lover. *Bonyhow*

he was caught today, in a familiar sort of trap. He demanded money for the return of the artistic loot, and there was a pretense of handing over the cash. *But that was done by* ~~but it was~~ the police.

The irony was this:- The robber demanded fifty thousand dollars, and now it's revealed that the value of the two paintings and the print was - eight thousand. Apparently the burglar had a high opinion of art. He should have taken an appraiser along with him.

INSULT

I've been reading a book on the cheerful subject of insults. It's a compilation of witty cracks that notable people have taken at each other.

In it I found an historic tale with a tragic undertone. It's about British Statesman Lloyd George and the great British Explorer, Captain Scott, who went to the South Pole and perished.

George Lloyd ~~George~~ in those by-gone days was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and was cordially hated by the British wealthy classes because of the taxes he put on them. Captain Scott was preparing for the ill-starred South Polar adventure that was to cost him his life.

He went to the Chancellor of the Exchequer for advice about financing the expedition. Lloyd George suggested that Scott go to see a certain wealthy ^{English} ~~English~~ land owner who was ~~it~~ interested in exploration. Scott did so, and a little while later he saw Lloyd George again.

"Were you successful in getting the money from what's his name?" asked Lloyd George. "Why yes," replied Scott. "He's giving me a thousand pounds, but he says he'll

give me ~~five~~ fifty thousand if I can persuade you to come along to ■ the South Pole with me - and he'll give me a ~~million~~ million , if I leave you there".

Of course, the Chancellor of the Exchequer didn't go - and it was the heroic Captain Scott who was left to perish on the polar ice.

Then there was the fat and elderly British statesman who at a party was weeping in his beer. "I feel the weight of increasing years," bewailed the two hundred pound nobleman, "and 'ere long I shall be leaving you for that borne from which no traveller returns."

Whereupon one witty fellow responded, "and then the fat will be in the fire."

Hugh, I wouldn't insult you like that for the world.

Hugh: You are always kind, Lowell. And here is a message for folks who want to be kind to their car!