

RUSSIA

L.J. - Sunoco. Friday, May 15, 1942.

The news about Russia all day long told insistently of great Soviet successes in the Red Army drive against Kharkov. The British radio tonight reported that General Timoshenko's<sup>K</sup> forces had penetrated the second line of Nazi defenses in front of that city, which is so important a point along the battleline of the Ukraine.

Stockholm chimed<sup>S</sup> in with word that the Seventy-Ninth German Infantry Division has been annihilated and that a hundred and fifty Nazi tanks have been destroyed during the past two days. Red Army units are said to have driven across the Donets River and have advanced ten miles beyond that stream. The Soviet ~~advance~~<sup>offensive</sup> is described as being on a thirty-five mile front, with a break-through that is putting in peril the whole German ~~defense system~~<sup>front</sup> all the way to the Black Sea.

Just as significantly, London states that the Russians have gained complete mastery of the air - with British Hurricanes and American Tomahawks and Aira-Cobras fighting alongside those armored Soviet tank destroying planes -- the Stormoviks.

It becomes more and more evident that the Red Army, instead of waiting for that much heralded Hitler offensive, is taking the play away from the Nazis. The idea being -- to stop an enemy attack in advance by hitting him first.

In the Crimea, the Kersh peninsula, the Germans claim that their own offensive in that region is pushing along. Berlin announces that Nazi troops have reached the outskirts of the town of Kersh, on the narrow strip of water, across which lies the Caucasus.

LAFAYETTE - GENERAL HERR

At Lafayette College today, one of the older and one of the greatest institutions of learning in this country, I sat with Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones, <sup>Governor</sup> ~~General~~ James of Pennsylvania, Industrialist Thomas J. Watson, Doctor William Mather Lewis, and others, and listened to an eloquent defense of cavalry, and the value of the horse in modern war. The speaker, Major General John Herr, who says that the German army right now uses more than eight hundred thousand horses, fifty thousand of them for cavalry. And, says General Herr, although the old cavalry practice of riding boot to boot, swords flashing in air, no longer is done, ~~that~~ the horse is still of immense value in war time to an army.

General Herr says that in the Russian army, right now, they are using some two million horses, five hundred thousand of them in the Russian cavalry, more than forty cavalry divisions. <sup>and</sup> ~~But~~ they are raising and training vast additional mounted troops, <sup>that</sup> ~~that~~ The Cossacks ride again.

~~General Herr told us that cavalry is the ideal arm to evade the airplane and the tank, and in turn to strike at road-bound motorized units.~~

In this country, says he, "We appear to be obsessed with the delusion that no matter what the job may be, the motor is synonymous with progress, and the horse out of date. General Herr, who by the way is credited with being the first to sponsor the <sup>J</sup> Jeep in this country, insists that we have swung too far in our rush to mechanize our forces, and that we are in serious need of more cavalry divisions.

NAZI CLAIMS

There is no confirmation whatever of the German claim that Nazi bombers have sunk an American cruiser and destroyer. According to Berlin, the air attack happened along the Arctic supply line to Russia. We have not known of American warships operating that far on the other side, but the German dispatch speaks of - "a United States squadron." They describe the cruiser they claim to have sunk as of the PENSACOLA class - a nine thousand ton vessel. The destroyer is not described in any detail.

And the Germans say they sank a merchant vessel.

A Nazi claim - no confirmation.

BURMA

The British in Burma announced that they have succeeded in escaping a Japanese trap near Lashio. *in north east Burma.* They have withdrawn to new positions. This dispatch was in conflict with another, which stated that the British had withdrawn from Burma altogether, their forces retiring into India. But the contradiction is cleared up by a London statement that there is no *the story of the retirement of* truth in ~~this latter story~~. The British ~~have not pulled~~ *fray* ~~out of~~ Burma.

The Japs pushing into China have reached Tengchung, *meaning they have advanced* ~~and this shows them to have pushed~~ into China for a hundred and twenty-five miles along the Burma Road.

SUBMARINE

A striking episode of the war in the Philippines was revealed today - how an American submarine took away from Manila an immense treasure, before the city fell. <sup>TP</sup> The Japs were closing in on the capital of the Philippines, when the sub stole into harbor with a cargo of anti-aircraft ammunition. - This was unloaded, and then a cargo of gold, silver and securities was put aboard. The gold stock of the Philippine Treasury was at Corregidor, where the Philippine Government maintained a well guarded vault. <sup>TP</sup> That part of it was easy, ~~But~~ there was also a huge store of wealth <sup>in</sup> ~~from~~ the twelve Manila banks - and this had to be gathered in a hurry. ~~It was.~~ They rushed it to the submarine, which thereupon stole away through the Japanese naval blockade. - ~~and~~

<sup>TP</sup> ~~Never~~ before had an undersea craft carried <sup>such a treasure</sup> ~~so much wealth.~~

~~The Japs never suspected what was going on. And probably don't know about it until now - with the official publication in Washington of the declaration of the crew.~~

WAR TALK

President Roosevelt made a statement today, and so did Prime Minister Curtin of Australia - both on the same subject. They talked about talk - loose talk, too much of it. Last weekend, the President told the Pacific War Council in Washington that loose talk was, as he said, "providing information of real value to the enemy."

*P* Some thought that this applied to statements made by the Australian Prime Minister, and that today drew an Australian rejoinder. Prime Minister Curtin declared that he ~~was not among the people whom President Roosevelt criticized.~~ *had* "I *had* had no rebuke of any sort or description from the President about the leakage of news in my statements," said Curtin.

In Washington, questions and answers at ~~the~~ *today's* White House press conference got around to the subject of - "loose talk." (The President declared vigorously



that our own national capital is a Number One hot spot for gossip and rumor, ~~and all around blab mouth conversation~~ concerning the war. Then he added that the loose talk trouble extended everywhere, to every continent. <sup>JP</sup> Upon being told about today's remarks

uttered by the Australian Prime Minister, the President ~~replied~~ <sup>answered</sup> that he certainly was not aiming his criticism

at Australia. Prime Minister Curtin has not been indulging in loose talk about the war, said the President.

ROOSEVELT

The President stated today that American forces are getting into the worldwide war more and more and at new places all the time. Our soldiers, sailors and marines are going in increasing numbers to an increasing number of battle areas. The President stated this in connection with the action of the government in taking over the ~~XX~~ nation's airlines -- these now to be operated under federal control for the duration. He pointed to the army need of transport planes. The army is acquiring half of all the commercial airliners now in civilian service. The President remarked that these were required as military transports to take the increasing numbers of fighting men to the increasing number of places.

## SHIP SINKING

The other evening it was the St. Lawrence River. <sup>Tonight it's</sup> ~~This evening,~~ the Mississippi. We noted what a shock it was to Canada, when Nazi U-boats sank ships in Canada's favorite stream. And tonight it's a bit startling for us Americans - although the ship sinking announced today was not in the Mississippi proper.

# That mighty river fans out into many separate streams, as it enters the Gulf. And the enemy U-boat struck its blow within a mile and a half <sup>07</sup> ~~from~~ the southwest passage.

# A big freighter ~~was~~ hit by three torpedoes in a ruthless attack that set the ship ablaze - a horror of fire.

And, ~~there was~~ a heavy loss of life.

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In Mexico today there was a demand for a declaration of war - as a result of <sup>another</sup> a ship sinking.

3 A Mexican vessel was torpedoed off the coast of Florida, and the Government of Mexico has sent an ultimatum to the Axis powers. <sup>Giving them</sup> ~~They are given~~ until May Thirty-First

SHIP SINKING - 2

to explain the sinking. The affair has caused huge indignation in the southern republic. Today a crowd of students smashed the window<sup>s</sup> of a German social club in Mexico City, and a Number One member of the Mexican Senate arose and demanded a declaration of war against the Axis. ~~powers.~~

W.A.A.C.

President Roosevelt today signed the Congressional bill, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, and promptly directed Secretary of War Stimson to mobilize twenty-five thousand women. The bill authorizes the recruiting of a hundred and fifty thousand. The twenty-five thousand is a starter. The President added that the number might be expanded later.

The Commander of the petticoat army has been named -- and the announcement substantiates the advance word we had on Wednesday. She is Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, an executive vice-president of the HOUSTON POST and wife of the publisher of that paper.

## FIRE

At Putnam, Connecticut, they have arrested an arsonist -- charged with setting forest fires. This pertains to the outbreaks of flame last week in the woodlands along the border of Connecticut and Rhode Island.

There was every appearance of deliberate incendiarism. Sabotage was charged, and it was suspected that enemy agents were aiming at huge supplies of standing timber and cut lumber marked for use in war production. Martial law was declared.

So who is it that tonight stands accused of starting the fires? Why, a volunteer fireman. They claim that, after setting the woods ablaze, he joined his fire-fighting outfit and helped in the battle against the storms of flames that swept through the trees. Apparently, he liked to put them out as well as start them.

The police explain that this volunteer fireman is a pyromaniac - a mania for setting fires.

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They say that he was responsible for the burning of a grain company building a year and a half ago. And he is being held on a whole string of charges of arson connected with the Connecticut - Rhode Island forest fires.

GAS

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The Senators today rejected the resolution pledging them against accepting any special privileges under gasoline rationing. The lawmakers took the attitude that such a pledge was a reflection on their own integrity. The vote was almost ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ unanimous - only two Senators voting for the resolution. One, ~~of these was~~ Downey of California, who introduced the proposal. The other, ~~was~~ Pepper of Florida.

The debate on the subject of legislators who have procured X cards ~~was~~ accompanied by some powerful of what were denunciation ~~called~~ - "government bureaucrats."

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One Senator after another proclaimed that those bureaucrats <sup>enjoy</sup> ~~enjoyed~~ the free use of government automobiles, and get all the gas they want - holding X cards. <sup>H</sup> Senator Byrd of Virginia stated that federal agencies last year operated nearly nineteen thousand automobiles which had nothing to do with the war effort.



And the remark was made that these presumably would have the X card rating for unlimited gas.

Senator Vandenberg said he thought there shouldn't be any X cards, and Senator Byrd declared that the names of people in the preferred classification should be published. This coincided with a previous suggestion made by President <sup>who</sup> Roosevelt, ~~he~~ said he thought the names of X card holders should be made public.

## CARTOONS

Some people say we shouldn't joke about things these days - the war is so deadly serious. We should be grim, tough - get mad. So you might not consider it quite proper and patriotic to publicize a joke something like this:- To a gas station comes a meek little fellow, somewhat like <sup>H.T.</sup> Webster's "Timid Soul". In his hand he has a cigarette lighter, and he says in an apologetic tone:- "Of course, I'll only use this lighter when I am out of matches."

Or here is another case of poking fun - which you might not think fitting in the stern spirit of wartime. A sales girl in a fancy perfume shop is showing a rich customer an expensive looking bottle. "You'll simply love it," gushes the sales girl. "It smells like gasoline."

Now, who are the light-minded joksters - producing such quips and gags, which <sup>might seem</sup> ~~are~~ so little in

keeping with the severe morale of war? <sup>Why,</sup> the Government in  
Washing<sup>ten</sup> - the Office of Emergency Management. Those  
experts of war morale hold that a laugh is an excellent  
thing for the spirit of this embattled nation. People  
have to do without a lot of conveniences, and the more  
good nature developed about it, the better it will be.

~~(The theory is that Americans, given time, will laugh at  
anything, will joke about hardships - and what they  
laugh at won't hurt them so much.)~~

So the O.E.M. has started a comedy department,  
in which gag men and cartoonists are giving their services.  
And they are systematically putting out a line of humor -  
poking fun at the shortage<sup>s</sup> and getting a smile out of  
the wartime regulations.

GIRDLE

*And,* When an important war agency in Washington issues  
*a serious*  
A statement, it behooves a newsman to pass it along to the  
public. So that's why you hear me tonight holding forth  
*shyly*  
on the subject of - girdles. The official statement on  
that most feminine subject comes from the Office of Price  
Administration, which maintains that the girl and her  
*and girdle the world with peace.*  
girdle can help to win the war, ~~that article of apparel~~  
~~stretches - Oh, and how some of them have to stretch.~~  
~~This, of course, means rubber. And~~ If a girl makes her  
girdle last longer, she will save rubber - which material  
is so much needed for victory.

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All of which impels me to recite the following -  
as a patriotic duty. Only patriotism could persuade me  
to intrude <sup>into</sup> ~~to~~ such delicate concerns of womanhood.

The Office of Price Administration, Consumers' Division,  
*bids me inform*  
~~advises~~ you ladies as follows:- "If your waist is more  
than nine inches smaller than your hips," say the girdle

experts of the O.P.A., "the chances are you won't fit a high wasited girdle. You will find the waist too large. In that case, buy <sup>one</sup> a ~~girdle~~ that sits low <sup>on</sup> ~~your hips."~~ ~~So here is the expert advise you can sit on your hips and think it over.~~

There is a good deal more on the subject of the girl and her girdle, but that <sup>'s as far as I</sup> ~~should suffice.~~ <sup>dare timidly go. For surely</sup> there is a limit even to a fellow's patriotic duty.

So permit me to go on to another theme of saving materials in wartime, <sup>something</sup> ~~this is~~ more my style.

The War Production Board is planning to save millions of yards of cloth by reducing the length of the tails of men's shirts. The idea is to trim the shirt-tail.

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And s-l-u-Monday.