

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, NOV. 27, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight the great French naval base of Toulon is a shambles, its harbor in ruins, and the ships that once were the pride of the French Navy are on the bottom of Toulon Harbor, either scuttled or blown up.

The news about this comes from a German reporter who broadcast the word after what he described as a short but desperate fight between Nazi troops and sailors of the French fleet. And the sailors of the French Fleet had to die to win their point. And win it they did. For apparently they've kept most of the Fleet from falling into Nazi hands.

There is considerable disagreement between the

Nazis and the French regarding the number of ships

scuttled. The French Havas Agency announced that the entire fleet had been either scuttled or blown up.

But the Nazis say only some of them. And that some have been seized and will be demobilized.

The German army reporter on the spot gave out the word that some of the French vessels appeared to be as yet undamaged. That German engineers had boarded these and were trying to find any explosives the French had left behind them. We hear that

\* explosions continued from time to time long after the fight was over.

The news is that the occupation of the port, the disarming of the garrison, and the clearing of obstacles was accomplished before noon today.

Though just about the shortest episode of the war, it certainly was one of the most dramatic.

It couldn't exactly be described as a surprise, because no one believed Hitler when he announced that he would leave the French fleet unmolested. He had made his usual excuse, claiming he had evidence that French sympathizers with DeGaulle were preparing to seize the fleet and take it over to the Allies.

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7  
The Nazis moved with swift mechanical precision. At three o'clock in the morning, their planes flew over the harbor and dropped flares to show the position of the ships. Whereupon the seamen promptly started their scuttling operations. Also the land garrison blew up the arsenal and spiked the guns. The first man-o-war to go was the thirty-five thousand ton French battlewagon STRASBOURG. She blew up with a tremendous roar. And that was promptly imitated by the rest of the fleet. At the same time, Nazi bombers

appeared over the defense fortifications of Toulon and plastered ~~mineralized~~ them with explosives.

The German armored columns drove in from the west and swarmed into the city.

Some of the ships were being repaired in drydock and could hardly have been scuttled. The crews of other warships turned their guns on them, smashing and damaging them so they would be of no further use to anyone.

This is the biggest job of scuttling since the Germans opened the sea cocks on their fleet at Scapa Flow twenty-three years ago.

8  
The French Fleet at Toulon included three battleships, seven cruisers, a plane carrier, twenty-five destroyers and twenty-seven submarines. The only consolation we have is that though there is no chance of these magnificent ships joining the

Allies, they at least will not serve Hitler.

Of course by this action Hitler has definitively violated and revoked and cancelled the Armistice. All of France is now under German martial law.

Presumably there is now a chance that the crews of the demobilized units of the French fleet at Alexandria and in other harbors may go over to the Allies. Which would add considerably to our naval forces. The hope is that their commanders may be sufficiently infuriated by this latest Nazi move to now join the United Nations.

Vichy so far has had nothing to say about the day's events. Petain's Cabinet met but apparently only for the purpose of depriving Admiral Darlan and General Giraud of their French citizenship - which it did. Whatever that may mean.

The complete falsity of Hitler's excuse for seizing Toulon was exposed at the Navy Department in Washington today. Captain Lovette, Chief of the Office of Public Relations, said it would have been impossible for the French fleet to leave Toulon. In the first place, the Germans and Italians had been blockading the narrow exit for the harbor for some time and keeping up a constant patrol. If they had tried to go out, German planes would have attacked them. If they had succeeded in getting out, they would almost certainly have been attacked by German submarines.

Secretary of the Navy Knox declared ~~the~~ <sup>own</sup> Navy had information that there were sixty-four French warships in Toulon harbor. One dispatch, <sup>See</sup> said Knox, in particular, had the earmarks of truth. That was the one which reported that several French naval commanders had gone down with their ships.

STIMSON

Secretary of War Stimson gave a rounded picture of the Tunisian campaign today. The Germans have not ten thousand, but between twelve and fifteen thousand men on the spot. They are strongly fortified, in excellent position to put up a stiff resistance.

The mountains in eastern Tunisia, he pointed out,

are <sup>most</sup> ~~more~~ favorable for defense. The Germans are ~~well~~

*strategically well established.*

~~well~~ ~~situated~~. So far any engagements between

the American-British armies and the Axis have been

only skirmishes. <sup>It</sup> The Secretary intimated that German

air power has delivered heavy blows against British

General Anderson's force. The Germans have <sup>concentrated</sup> ~~established~~

considerable air strength, said Stimson, from bases in

Sicily, Sardinia and southern Italy. <sup>and</sup> They have been

using some new tricks. One of them is to drop spikes

which fall in such a way that they pierce the ~~xxx~~

tires of trucks and armored cars. They also drop

booby bombs. These are ~~the~~ things which look like wallets, watches, notebooks. ~~But~~ <sup>T</sup> the soldier who picks them up gets his head blown off because they are explosive. <sup>R</sup> The Germans have air bases at not only Bizerte and Tunis but also at Sfax and Gabes, which have fine airports.

The French civil authorities, revealed ~~see~~, Stimson, have been cooperating admirably with General Eisenhower. They have furnished dock workers and railroad workers to help the Allies in landing and transporting their supplies. The arrangements made by General Eisenhower with the French authorities, the Secretary said, have greatly simplified our problems in this region.

Stimson also told his press conference that Lieutenant General Mark Clark has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for carrying out "a vitally



important and hazardous mission." That of course was the secret mission during which General Clark made contact with French officers and obtained not only promises of help but vital information. That was the mission on which General Clark incidentally lost not only eighteen thousand dollars in gold but also his pants; but not his dignity.

AFRICA FOLLOW STIMSON

Secretary Stimson's was the only tangible information we have today about the goings-on in Africa. Evidently General Eisenhower and General Anderson have been taking their time preparing for a heavy <sup>assault</sup> ~~offensive~~ in force. In other words, they are not attacking until they can <sup>deliver</sup> ~~hammer at the Nazis with~~ a big smash. Radio Morocco broadcast a report today that preparations for the big offensive against Tunis and Bizerte are now in the final stage. There has been hard fighting with Axis vanguards at some points, but, as Secretary Stimson told us, those are not much more than skirmishes. While the Axis air power has been hammering at our land positions, British planes have kept up a continuous bombardment of the docks and airdromes of Bizerte.

RUSSIA

More and more the news from Russia corroborates the belief that Hitler has shot his bolt, on that front at least. Evidently the great German army is exhausted by its remarkable advance in the summer and early

autumn. Even discounting the Russian claims, that much

is manifest. And some of the Russian claims <sup>may</sup> have been

<sup>a little</sup> exaggerated. For example, the other night they

announced ~~it~~ with much blowing of trumpets that Hitler

had lifted the siege of Stalingrad. The following day

we heard of the Russian army still fighting German

besiegers in the streets of Stalingrad itself.

However, here is <sup>one</sup> report from a neutral source. The

French agency gathered a story in Stockholm that the

Red offensive in the Toropetz and Kalinin sectors had

broken through the German lines not at one point but

at several points. Toropetz and Kalinin are northwest

of Moscow. ( One Russian armored column is driving

southwest on both sides of ~~Toropetz~~<sup>Toropetz</sup> after having recaptured an important railroad junction. Another column is advancing on the German salient at Rzhev.

In the south, they threw the Germans back across the River Don in one sector of the big bend.

( And the Soviet high command announces that the Red army has recaptured several towns there and has been mopping up the Germans left on the eastern bank. )

Southwest of Stalingrad they also occupied seven substantial towns.

Two Nazi infantry divisions tried to break through to the southwest of Stalingrad. Timoshenko's army repulsed those counter-attacks and inflicted great losses on the enemy. So says the Soviet high command.

The list of Axis casualties for the week has risen to two hundred and fifty thousand.

In the Caucasus, the Nazi advance guard apparently is at a standstill and ~~XXXXXX~~ every day

in worse danger of being cut off and annihilated.

Some of these claims are confirmed by the Nazis themselves. They admit that Russian tanks have penetrated the lines west and northwest of Moscow. They admit also that the Russian garrison at Stalingrad has been reinforced.

## FORTRESSES

A flight of American flying fortresses was on its way to raid the great Nazi submarine base at Saint Nazaire at the mouth of the River Loire.

While they were nearing their target, they were attracted by a large number of Nazi pursuit planes.

While most of the flying fortresses remained to give battle to the Germans, one of them, commanded by

Lieutenant William J. Casey of San Francisco, dodged

the ~~enemy~~ <sup>enemy</sup> and ~~got~~ <sup>flew on</sup> to Saint Nazaire. Casey's

bombardier dropped all his bombs on the target, and

<sup>Casey</sup> then turned home ward.

<sup>Instantly his</sup> ~~Casey's~~ flying fortress was then attacked

by no fewer than eight German Focke-Wulfe fighters.

~~xxxxxx~~ Casey's tail gunner, Sergeant Small of

Fairfield, Iowa, who used to be a farmer, picked off

one of the Germans. A second later another gunner,

Staff Sergeant Harris of Houston, Texas, fired one

single burst and bagged another enemy plane which fell into the sea. Then six more Germans attacked, all in a bunch. Bald turret gunner Sergeant Joe Bowles of Roanoke, Virginia, shot one of them from the starboard side, which went falling in flames. Staff Sergeant Elliott, who used to be a shipping clerk at Knoxville, Tennessee, hit another, which caught fire and fell into the sea. Sergeant Harris got a second plane, so did Sergeant Bowles. Finally, Private Allen Meaux of Madison, Wisconsin, who was operating the port west gun ~~■~~ fired only two bursts and knocked down a German who was attacking from above.

All this happened in twelve minutes. The last German turned tail. The fine part of the story is that it shows how well a flying fortress manned by a really good crew, can hold its own, without fighter plane protection. That one bomber bagged seven enemy planes. The rest of the flight got two.

54

NEW GUINEA FOLLOW STIMSON

One of the outstanding performances of the war, *so far say Sec.)* Stimson ~~added~~ *their way* was the feat of American soldiers in fighting <sup>^</sup> across the island of New Guinea, through the jungles. The Americans and Australians on that island have got substantial numbers of Japanese troops cornered between Buna and Gona. But they are putting up a stubborn fight.

In the Solomons, the Secretary said, there still is a lot of hard fighting ahead of the American forces before the situation can be cleared up. However, he added, the situation at present is very favorable from our point of view. In fact, he said, operations on all the worldwide fronts are going well.

From New Guinea itself, we learn that the Japs have contrived to land reinforcements in the Buna area. It was a most costly operation, but they did achieve it.



There was a dogfight in the area over Buna today. Four Curtiss P-40 fighters ran into a squad of eight Japanese Navy Zeros. They went for them, and bagged four of the Japs, possibly two others.

There has been no change in the position of the American and Australian ground troops.

Here's an interesting angle about the war -- the use of false money as an enemy weapon. This is graphically illustrated by an exhibit here in Rockefeller Center, a show called -- "The Silent Saboteur." Staged by the United States Secret Service in collaboration with the Chase National Bank in Rockefeller Center, The Silent Saboteur tells us how the Nazis and Japs have used counterfeit to cause financial confusion in the countries they have attacked.

Frank **J.** Wilson, head of our famous Secret Service, is with me tonight. What are some of the counterfeiting tricks employed by our enemies, Chief Wilson?

CHIEF WILSON:- Well, /you should see the fraudulent money /the Japs are trying to shove off on gullible people in countries they have invaded.

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L.T.:- In China, phoney money that looks like the regular Chinese McCoy? And in the Philippines, and so on?

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CHIEF WILSON:- Yes, /they figure that if their phoney cash looks like the real thing /they can flood the country ~~xx~~ with it.

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L.T.:- You mentioned about the Filipinos turning a neat one on the Japs. How about that?

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CHIEF WILSON:- Yes, the Filipinos have been doing some counter-counterfeiting. They in turn have been imitating the phoney Japanese imitations of their Philippine <sup>pesos</sup> pesos and centavos. And in that way they have put the laugh

on the ~~in~~ Japs -- causing them to lose face.

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L.T.:- How about the Axis, and our own American greenbacks?

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CHIEF WILSON:- We haven't found any of their counterfeit stuff over here yet. But the Secret Service is on the lookout. And we want all of you to be on the lookout. "Crime Prevention Through Education." That's our Secret Service Motto.

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L.T.:- Right. We'll do our best to spot it. Look out for phoney money, Hugh!

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