

RUSSIA

B.I. - Sunoco. Monday, Feb. 1, 1943.

The Nazi high command ^{now} acknowledges the ^{German} disaster at Stalingrad. ~~Of course, that is not the way the Berlin~~ ~~communiqué was broadcast.~~ In typical Nazi language ~~it~~ ^{the Berlin communiqué} stated that the southern group of the Sixth Army, under Field Marshal Friedrich von Paulus, ^{General} had ^S been overpowered by superior forces. The communiqué then ^{goes on to say} ~~continued~~ that the northern group, under Lieutenant-General Karl Strecker, still is holding out and has repulsed strong attacks by the Soviet Army.

Thus the German people now know ^{of the} ~~what~~ a calamity ^{that} has befallen their armies. ~~It is~~ ^{any} the greatest defeat sustained by ~~the~~ German Army since that day on August Tenth, Nineteen-Eighteen, when the British, French and ~~the~~ Americans broke ~~through~~ the Hindenburg Line. ~~It did~~ ^{Which, you may recall, did} not at the time appear to be decisive; and, a couple of months elapsed before Ludendorf and Hindenburg told the Kaiser that the game was up. But Ludendorf later told

the world,

in his memoirs that it was that day of August Tenth, 1918,

that showed him, ^{that} his line had cracked and that the ^{final} was near. ^{As far as} Stalingrad, and the present ^{any rate}, never before has a German Field

Marshal been taken prisoner. ^{And} It was on the very day of

his capture that Hitler announced the promotion of

von Paulus. Three other Colonel-Generals in the south

were promoted at the same time. And ^{that} according to

a dispatch from Stockholm, has created a most

uncomfortable feeling throughout Germany. Hitler's

people are wondering whether the promotion of all

those commanders on the southern front is an omen that

they too are about to be sacrificed, they and their

armies in the Caucasus and at Rostov and in the Ukraine.

The Stalingrad affair ^{now} emerges as ^{definitely} the greatest ^{of all time} single Russian victory. Of course, the expulsion of

Napoleon and the slaughter of his army, six hundred

thousand strong, was more sweeping and spectacular.

However, that was not one single operation but a series of operations beginning with the burning of Moscow while Napoleon was ~~in it~~ there,

A dispatch from Russia describes the surrender of one German infantry division. Its Commander, Major General von Drebber, told the Russian officers that he had concluded ~~that~~ further resistance would be senseless ~~the following~~ ^{his} officers ^{had} agreed with him. and criminal. "But," he added, "the Fuehrer did not take our opinion into consideration." ^{TP} ~~Incidentally, the northern pocket of the Sixth Army continues to fight at the direct command of Hitler.~~

After Major General von Drebber notified the Russians he wanted to lay down his arms, the Russian commander ordered his troops to cease firing. It was around two o'clock in the morning when von Drebber and his staff arrived at the Russian commander's quarters. Von Drebber, a gray-haired General, was astounded to

find himself surrendering to a Russian colonel only thirty-five years old. The Russian Colonel asked, "Where are your regiments and soldiers?"

Von Drebber replied: "You should know better than I." And he explained "Everyone still alive is here now." And he ~~said~~ ^{replied} further: "I gave the order for the troops to lay down their arms, but they had done so long ago."

While they were talking, the telephone rang and the Russian Colonel received word that a Rumanian General had surrendered with an entire division.

Von Drebber and his staff were taken by motor car to Russian headquarters. He passed through country littered with thousands of German dead, skeletons of horses which the Germans had eaten, abandoned trucks and guns. The Russian dispatch quote von Drebber's adjutant as remarking: "Here is the road of shame for

the German army." To which von Drebber nodded his head.

In Germany itself, there are obvious signs that Hitler's peace offensive is beginning.

Moscow reports that its forces have closed in on the ^{remaining} Rumanian ~~effxxx~~ pocket of Nazis at Stalingrad and are gradually crushing them.

A special communique from Moscow announced ^s the capture of a town called Svatovo, a railroad junction southeast of Kharkov and some ninety-five miles away. This was taken by the Russian armies driving due west from Voronezh. They captured not only the railway station but the whole town. Svatovo is on a branch line leading from Kharkov to Rostov. By taking it, the Red Army is ^{now} only thirty-five miles away from one of the strategic points in the Axis line defending Kharkov.

AFRICA

In Africa, American tanks and infantry have counterattacked the powerful German column that had pushed through the French line west of Sfax. ~~That line~~ on the dusty plain of Faid, was only lightly held. The Germans were trying to widen their corridor along the coast for the escape of the remnants of Field ~~Marshall~~ Marshal Rommel's Afrika Korps. The Germans held the Faid Pass and were bombarding all the roads to the west with artillery on high positions. The German force ~~consisted of tanks, artillery and infantry.~~ The American column halted the German advance and closed in on Maknassy, forty-eight miles inland from the east coast of Tunisia.

Meanwhile, the vanguard of General Montgomery's British Eighth Army crossed the border from Tripolitania in two places. ~~The main body of the Army was at Zuara,~~ only thirty-six miles east of the border. ~~The vanguard~~

BATTLE

The radios of the Axis powers today were loudly broadcasting reports from Tokyo of an alleged naval battle in the waters around the Solomons. Tokyo makes extravagant claims of having sunk and damaged several United States warships. Our own Navy Department refused to be baited and made no reply to these broadcast claims. It should be remembered that the Japanese all along have put out vastly inflated and exaggerated stories. This one, obviously, was by way of a retort to the meeting of President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill and the declaration at Casablanca.

According to the Jap story, the encounter happened off Rennell Island, a hundred and ten miles below Guadalcanal. The Japanese force consisted of torpedo planes, bombers and Zero fighters. So runs the story put out by the Axis propaganda services.

SOLOMONS FOLLOW BATTLE

The only communication from our ~~own~~ Navy Department today concerns the fighting ⁱⁿ on the Solomons. Our troops on Guadalcanal are methodically plugging away at the job of wiping out such Japanese ~~that~~ ^{as} are left there.

Moreover, our medium bombers have been attacking enemy positions on the surrounding islands. A force of ~~XXXX~~ marauder bombers attacked the area held by the enemy on New Georgia Island. Japanese planes tried to retaliate by bombing American positions on Guadalcanal, but without material effect, and one enemy plane was shot down. Also, another force of marauder medium bombers, escorted by Airacobra fighters, bombed the Japanese positions at Munda on New Georgia Island.

JEFFERS

5) Rubber Director Bill Jeffers may be a man of few words, but those words are acid. ^{Yes, he} He repeated today the statements he made last week at Baltimore, the statements which so distressed War Information Director Elmer Davis. He repeated them to a committee of Congressmen, a joint sub-committee of the House Military Affairs Committee. Not a single pound of synthetic rubber has thus far been turned out by a government owned plant, said Jeffers. One plant in West Virginia and another in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, are just coming into partial production, he added. And he said once more that Army and Navy expeditors, "loafers", as he described them, were trying to impede and eclipse the duties of the Rubber Director.

Last week, Jeffers explained off the record that he was using the word "loafers" in a railroad sense. He didn't mean that the Army and Navy officers to whom

he referred were idle or lazy. Railroad men call a fellow a "loafer" if he holds an unnecessary job.

~~The Army and Navy so-called expediters, said Jeffers, are what railroad men call "loafers."~~

Jeffers gave a pretty gloomy picture of the rubber situation. ^{He said} The Only synthetic stuff forthcoming is being produced by four privately-owned plants. And their capacity at present is only from five to ten thousand tons a year. Then he said: "We hope to get rolling by Nineteen Forty-Four." That means, two years after the Japanese conquest of Malaya and the cutting off of crude rubber supplies.

~~Congressman Mott of Oregon quoted ^a the statement made by Vice-President Wallace. The Vice-President said ~~that~~ we could not build up a synthetic rubber industry in this country because it would ruin the East Indies. The Oregon Congressman asked Jeffers if that statement~~

has interfered with the rubber program. Jeffers replied:

"Not in the ~~xxxxx~~ least. The synthetic rubber industry in this country is on its way."

The rubber chief was promptly contradicted by Under-Secretary of War Patterson. "Army officers are not loafing, not interfering with industrial production," said the Under-Secretary. He charged Jeffers with trying to shove his rubber program ahead of everything, ~~ahead~~ of vital military programs, ahead, for instance, of high octane gasoline production. Patterson then added: "These programs must go forward in balance."

DIES

Congressman Dies of Texas has entered the lists against the bureaucrats in Washington. He got on the floor of the House today to make the charge that there is a conspiracy of bureaucrats in government employ who discredit Congress. He called them "irresponsible and unrepresentative, crackpot and radical." ^{Then} He read off a list of what he called bureaucratic totalitarians.

This list
He includes more than thirty officials employed in the War Production Board, the National Labor Relations Board, the Railroad Retirement Board, the Board of Economic Warfare, the Office of War Information, the Office of Price Administration, and many other departments and agencies. ^{And} He included the entire membership of the Federal Communications Commission. ^{Cong. Dies} He declared that these people constitute a well organized, well financed group, and accused the magazine NEW REPUBLIC of being its organ. They aim, he said, to label as a Nazi

anybody who does not support the present administration. Their object, he added, is to create a condition under which a dictatorship would be inevitable.

While he was speaking, there was a group of women in the gallery who held their noses and stuck out their tongues at Dies. Speaker Rayburn was obliged to call upon them to stop their gestures. while ^{Cong.} Dies was speaking.

FLYNN

The ~~Affair of~~ Edward J. Flynn, ^{affair,} ~~former Chairman~~
~~of the Democratic National Committee,~~ is now a thing of
the past. The end came swiftly. Only four days ago,
the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations reported
favorably on ^{Flynn's} ~~his~~ appointment as Minister to Australia
and President Roosevelt's personal Ambassador ^{to} ~~to~~ the
^{SO. region,} Pacific. The Senators reported it out with a comfortable

majority, fourteen to ten. At that moment, it looked as
though the President and his former National Chairman
would have a ^{close} ~~positive~~ victory, ^{maybe,} ~~even if a close one.~~

But as the week progressed, a revolt became apparent
in the Democratic ^{lines.} ~~ranks.~~ The Southern Senators kicked,
and Senator Barkley, the Majority Leader, found ~~that he~~
~~would not have a majority~~ ^{when it came} ~~for that issue,~~
~~to a vote.~~

All this was abrewing behind the scenes in
Washington over the ~~latter~~ end of the week. Yesterday,
~~a piece of news appeared that probably astounded quite~~

And then the news came that ~~a number of people~~ Flynn himself ^{had} made a graceful exit with ~~a graceful~~ ^{an} explanation that he would withdraw ~~from~~ ~~the contest~~ on patriotic grounds. In his announcement he used these words - " a heated debate in the Senate over his appointment would imply an unfortunate disunity. "

And he added: "If I were confirmed it would still leave me unhappy to think my nomination would cause such debate in time of war."

~~So~~ One of the first things the President found upon his desk when he returned to the White House this morning was ^{Ed. J.} Flynn's letter. Mr. Roosevelt promptly sent a reply, in which he said:- "Dead Ed: Reluctantly I have complied with your request and have withdrawn your nomination from the Senate." The President added: "I wish you would come to see me today or tomorrow."

~~As ever yours -- Franklin D. Roosevelt."~~

~~Among other things in Flynn's letter, he said:~~

"I cannot let this opportunity pass without telling you how thrilled I am and the whole country is, at your brave and successful trip to ^{Africa} ~~America~~." Flynn said further: "It is a source of great comfort to all lovers of freedom throughout the whole world that you have returned safely."

^{Flynn}
The withdrawal was announced on the floor of the Senate by the Majority Leader. Senator Barkley said that Flynn's request to the President stamps him as a man of patriotism. "He thinks more of the welfare of the country than he does of any personal appointment that he might receive." And Barkley added: "He has been magnificent throughout the whole thing."

The Majority Leader then asked for a unanimous consent to insert in the Congressional Record the statement issued by Flynn yesterday. ^{And this he} ~~He~~ did not get ~~it~~.
Senator Vandenberg of Michigan declared that if the

Flynn statement was published in the Record, he, Vandenberg, also would issue a statement to keep the record clear.

Thereupon Senator Barkley withdrew his request.

LEE FOLLOW FLYNN

The Senate also considered the President's nomination of former Senator Josh Lee of Oklahoma to the Civil Aeronautics Board. Even on that one Mr. Roosevelt did not have his way without ^{a fight} ~~argument~~. ~~It is~~ ~~usually~~ ^{Usually} ~~an old senatorial custom that~~ these lame duck nominations receive unanimous approval. It is considered a matter of courtesy for Senators to hand jobs to defeated colleagues. But not in the case of Josh Lee. All the Republicans voted against him, except the Minority Leader, Senator McNary of Oregon. A couple of them protested that Lee was totally unfitted for the job, ~~had neither the education nor the training to pass upon the technical problems which the Civil Aeronautics Board has to consider. Senator Moore of Oklahoma, who defeated Josh Lee for reelection, said outright that Lee was getting the nomination because he is a lame duck favorite.~~

^{But}
The final vote was forty-six to thirty-one. So Josh Lee & the President won that one.

DENTISTS

In the ^{Fair}~~beautiful~~ City of Cleveland, Ohio, this day was known officially as Children's Dental Health Day. Cleveland is one of the cities that pays particular and peculiar attention to the teeth of its youngsters.

For thirty-three years, ^{the} Cleveland Dental Society has conducted an educational campaign in the City's public schools. Three years ago, February First was designated as Children's Dental Health Day in Cleveland. All day today, the Cleveland Dental Society has given its time and attention to a program concerned entirely with children's teeth.

MARAS

A couple of weeks ago, Johnny Maras of Milwaukee was a sergeant in Uncle Sam's Army, the only fifteen year old sergeant on record. Today he is just a fifteen year old boy with a truant officer on his trail.

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Johnny is ^{the} a husky lad and ^{he} tried to ^{enlist} ~~join up~~ in his own home town. ~~But there~~ ^{The} recruiting officers turned him down. But Johnny was burning to join up because a pal of his, a marine private, was killed at Pearl Harbor. So he hitch-hiked to Los Angeles, where he ~~xxxxxx~~ stretched the truth a bit about his age and was taken on. ^{And,} He did so well that he ^{became} ~~was made~~ a corporal the first week in December, and just before Christmas his captain made him a sergeant.

^{Then, as you have heard or read,} ~~He~~ could not resist the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ temptation to go home and show his stripes ~~to~~ the folks in Milwaukee.

^{And} ^{that} There, he thinks, ^{a jealous} a neighbor turned him in, ~~a~~ neighbor whose own son had been in the army eighteen months and

had never got beyond being a private. When Johnny got back to his outfit in California, it was about to leave for a combat zone. But Johnny's colonel now knew the truth about him. The colonel was sorry, but the Articles of War are the Articles of War, and Uncle Sam can have no fifteen year old sergeants, no matter how good they are.

So they shipped Johnny home to Milwaukee,

When Johnny got back to Milwaukee, the first ~~thin~~

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thing he got was a telephone call from the truant officer who told him to report to the School Board. ~~I ask you,~~

Can you picture an ex-sergeant of Uncle Sam's Army

reporting to a School Board and saying "Yes Sir" to a truant officer? Johnny has not yet obeyed, ~~the orders~~

~~of the truant officer.~~ An enterprising press agent got

hold of him, and brought him to New York to help get a

little harmless necessary publicity for a film called

"Immortal Sergeant." ~~I think an~~ ⁸enterprise like that

should be rewarded, so here's a bit of harmless necessary

8 1/2
publicity for "Immortal Sergeant." Johnny still has hopes of keeping out of the clutches of that truant officer. He is quite an experienced hand at the drums,

has been drumming with orchestras around Milwaukee since

If he can land a job in New York, he won't have to go back to Milwaukee
he was twelve years old. ~~And one rather suspects that~~

one wonders which will win out -
~~the sympathy of the American public is not going to be~~

Johnny, or
~~on the side of that truant officer?~~

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And now Hugh, you win.