

L.T. SUNOCO - JULY 22, 1943

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

The Germans at Catania are still holding out and giving Montgomery's Eighth Army a stiff fight.

But from the rest of Sicily we hear of nothing but progress. The American army has been carrying out a wheeling movement, and seizing the entire south

coast of the island. Acting Secretary of War Patterson said this afternoon that the advance guard of Uncle Sam's divisions is already on the outskirts of Marsala, Marsala where the wine comes from; a place of great importance on the westernmost tip of Sicily.

The American columns have been advancing at ~~the~~ the rate of a mile an hour, and that's speed, when you are fighting your way. They have taken town after town and village after village, in their drive for possession, capturing Italian prisoners by the thousands; one place ~~was~~ taken today is Castelvetro, Castelvetro,

important because of a big air base near by.

Meanwhile another American column took by storm a place called San Stefano. In fact that spearhead of the American army is now only twenty-five miles away from the north coast of Sicily, and close to Palermo, the capital of the island.

Correspondents at Allied headquarters in Africa report that the Battle for Sicily has now reached its crucial point; with the battle for Italy not far off. The Allies have control of the air, and under the cover of bomber and fighter planes, British and American warships are steaming with impunity through the narrow Straits of Messina, only two miles wide. ~~It~~ Today they bombarded the city of Crotona on the Italian mainland, at the arch of the Italian boot. Crotona is an arsenal city, a depot for large quantities of munitions.

Nevertheless as General Eisenhower, the Allied Commander-in-Chief reported yesterday, the enemy also

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may be using the Straits, to bring in reinforcements. And it is believed that Sicilians are escaping across that two-mile strip to Italy.

In the center of Sicily the Canadian forces are up against stiff resistance. However, they captured Rammacca only twenty-two miles to the southwest of Catania, and three other sizeable towns.

The Americans report that the Italian defenses are crumbling.

ROME

Mussolini and the other Fascist chiefs are *still*
holding out against
~~withstanding a~~ strong pressure ~~that has been~~ brought
to bear upon them to declare Rome an open city, and
stop
~~using~~ using it for military purposes. According to a
story from Madrid, the government of either Eire or
Spain will ~~xxxxx~~ take diplomatic action to bring this
about. *All of which*
~~that~~ is one of the after effects of the letter
from Pope Pius to Cardinal Marchetti-Salvaggiani,
Vicar-General of the Diocese of Rome. The Pontiff's
protest did not blame specifically either the Axis or
the Allies. The words he used were:- "We call upon the
belligerents on both sides to respect the inviolability
of peaceful citizens and monuments of faith and
civilization."

~~The~~ An influential Catholic weekly, published
in London, will run an editorial tomorrow, declaring
that Rome is a legitimate military target and that

in the long view the air raid was a wise step.

"The Commonwealth," an American Catholic Weekly, defends the bombing of Rome in even stronger terms. Its editor declares that to a good Catholic the bombing of Rome is no different from the bombing ~~of~~ of an industrial city in the Ruhr or an English town.

On the other hand, Cardinal O'Connell of Boston declared that he was grieved and saddened at the terrible news of the bombardment of Rome.

The Axis propaganda stories multiplied the number of churches that had been damaged. But it was noticeable that the Pope's letter to the Vicar-General of Rome mentioned only one. And the general belief is that only ~~one~~ was actually hit. Radio Rome announces that seven hundred and seventeen people were killed, and one thousand, ~~nix~~ five hundred and ninety-nine injured, by the raiders.

From Madrid we hear that meetings have been held in Rome, Venice, Turin, Bologna and ~~ix~~ Trieste, with

The Roman populace, ^{even} assembled ^{ing} right outside Mussolini's ~~own~~ headquarters, the Venezia Palace, ~~and~~ clamored ^{ing} that Rome be made an open City.

Radio Rome continued ^S to report isolated attacks on Rome by lone Allied planes. But the Allied high command made ^{has} no mention of these attacks. If there were any British or American aircraft over the Eternal City, ^{it must have been on} ~~it was~~ reconnaissance ~~flight~~.

works.

RUSSIA

Tonight it looks as though the Russians would take Orel back from the Germans before the week is out. At this moment, the fiercest ~~kind of~~ hand-to-hand fighting is going on right outside the city. ~~still~~

The shock troops of the Red Army have broken into the principal outer defenses of ^{Orel, and are now} ~~the place. And they are now~~ ^{reported to be} advancing yard by yard through the concrete ~~fortifications~~

fortifications with which the Germans protected their

garrison. ^{TP} The story ~~is~~ comes from London and ^{tells} ~~reports~~

^{how the Nazi} ~~that this~~ garrison is practically surrounded, with

Timoshenko's planes and heavy artillery ~~are~~ pounding every ~~principal~~ railway line and highway by which the two hundred and fifty thousand Nazis in Orel must escape, if they do escape.

^{But} that ^{is} not the only heavy fighting on ^{the} eastern front. The Russians are attacking on a line four hundred and fifty miles long. The Nazis claim

that all their efforts to break through ^{have been} ~~the German~~
~~positions were~~ unsuccessful. At the same time, the
Berlin high command admits that the Soviet generals
have brought fresh troops to the attack. The reports
from Moscow are circumstantial and mention place names.

But ^Even the Germans admit that Timoshenko's advance
troops have penetrated the main defense line of Orel.

However, there is more to come. A bulletin that
came through here shortly before four o'clock brought
news that the Red army ~~is~~ had captured a place called
Bolkhov, ^{an important} ~~And evidently that means a good deal, because~~
~~it was the biggest~~ Nazi stronghold north of Orel, and ~~is~~
only thirty-five miles ^{away,} ~~away from the city~~ In that
salient, the Red army has made ^{new} ~~fresh~~ advances of
anywhere from three and three-quarters to five miles.

While the heaviest part of the Russian attack
was on a line four hundred and fifty miles long,

a German news broadcast reported that ^{Reds} they had also begun an offensive of tremendous force against the Nazis on the Leningrad sector. If that ^{'is} true, then ^{the} Soviet armies are really attacking on five fronts, ~~forming~~ ^{on} a line nine hundred and seventy-five miles long. ~~and the~~ ^{TP} German military spokesmen ^{say} ~~declare~~ that there are now six hundred divisions facing each other on the eastern front, ~~and~~ ^{Some} Six hundred divisions! ~~means in the~~ ~~neighborhood of~~ six million men, a colossal Armagedden..

^{With} ~~nevertheless~~ the most desperate battle ~~of all~~ ~~now going on is that~~ ^{that} determined Russian effort to recapture Orel. ^{TP} Russian reinforcements are pouring in on every highway from the northeast and the east ^{of Orel.}

^{TP} This entire offensive gives us proof that the Russians now have a most formidable array of fighting power.

SERBIANS

There have been complaints that the Allies were failing to appreciate the help given ~~by them~~ to the United Nations cause by the Serbian guerrilla chief, General Mikhailovich. ^{But} London announced today that for an entire year, British officers have been attached to the secret headquarters of the Serb Chetniks. And it is reported that plans are being made to enable ^{Mikhailovich} ~~him~~ and his patriot army to take an important share of the operations in the Balkans that the Allied high command is planning. Presumably, that means that ^{they} ~~Mikhailovich will be sent~~ ^{will send him} planes and other military supplies.

FILM

Every effort was made to please the Russians in the film that was shot around Ex-Ambassador Joe Davies's "Mission to Moscow." The result evoked a lot of controversy here. The American Communists thought it was fine; other critics declared that in kowtowing to Russia, Hollywood had ~~xxxx~~ actually made villains out of our people. However, the picture was reported to have had the approval of the White House, *also that Ambassador* ~~and so~~ Davies took a special print to Moscow as a present to Premier Stalin.

And now the LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH reports that Stalin walked out in the middle of the picture and forbade theatres to show it in Russia. *Interesting* ~~and that was the~~ *if true,* ~~most unkindest out of all, as our old friend~~ ~~Shakespeare remarked.~~

SOLOMONS

Over the weekend, we learned that an American air attack against Japanese bases on ^{the island} ~~our southern island~~ of Bougainville resulted in the destruction of seven enemy ships. Today the story is amended, ~~amended~~ and improved. The American air force consisted of heavy Liberator bombers and Dauntless Avengers. They ^{se} destroyed not seven, but nine, Jap ships. Also forty-nine planes. The Jap ships destroyed were one light cruiser, three destroyer, three cargo vessels, two tankers.

At home in Japan, ~~the Mikado's people are becoming less cocky over the war in the Pacific.~~

In a radio broadcast, a Japanese air force commander declared that the tragic color of war ~~was~~ becoming increasingly dark in the south Pacific, ^{for Japan} ~~He reports~~

further that the enemy supply power continues to revive with no end in sight. This Jap ~~says further~~ that we are carrying out a counter-offensive with power that

RETAKE

Movie - Radio
Guide
award to LT.

July 227
1943.

PRESENTATION

(I suggest this come in between war news
and American news.)

HUGH JAMES: Just a minute, Lowell - I don't know whether this is your birthday, but a charming lady here wants to give you something. May I present Miss Ruth Bizzell, Editor of Movie-Radio-Guide.
Miss Bizzell --

RUTH BIZZELL: Thank you Mr. James. I have indeed something quite special for Mr. Thomas, and I am sure his listeners will be pleased. Every year Movie-Radio-Guide takes an annual poll of its readers to establish whom they consider their star of stars. I have the honor to announce that for the ~~five~~ fifth year in succession, they have chosen you, Lowell Thomas, as their favorite news commentator.

And so, in behalf of those readers and in behalf of Movie-Radio-Guide Magazine, I have great pleasure in presenting you with this award, as a token

of the listeners' faith in you as a news commentator.

Congratulations from us all.

L.T.: That is an honor, Miss Bizzell, and I am proud of it. Thanks ever so much. And here is something that I hope will interest you, Miss Bizzell, and the readers of Movie-Radio-Guide Magazine.

STREET CAR STRIKE

Out in Los Angeles there was talk of Martial law because of the ^{three thousand} strike of street car workers.

It was a protest strike and the ~~men~~ men planned to stay out only twenty-four hours. But the union leaders and spokesmen are afraid that many of the men may not come back to work even after twenty-four hours are over.

They may take other jobs or continue ^{idle} ~~work~~ just to show their anger at the War Labor Board. They are furious because the Board wouldn't allow them a raise in wages.

~~The effect on production was bad,~~ There are numerous war industries around Los Angeles, most of them aircraft factories. Distances are great in Los Angeles, and something like a million workers had a difficult time getting to their jobs. In fact, the factory management had to mobilize their big assembly trucks and ~~and whole~~ fleets of taxicabs to bring the workers to their jobs.

BUS STRIKE FOLLOW RAILROAD STRIKE

And, In Warren, Ohio, thousands of war workers had to go to their jobs ^{today} either on foot or by hitch-hiking. The bus drivers ~~of that city~~ ^{were} on a strike which the company says was unauthorized. The Company fired a man who happened to be Chairman of the Grievance Committee of the union. So the men walked out in protest.

PRICES FOLLOW BUS STRIKE

~~The~~ Heads of organized labor called at the White House today to ~~haul the President over the coals~~ and complain about Price-Administrator Prentiss Brown. The union spokesmen were William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, and Philip Murray, President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. With them went the combined Labor War Board of the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O.

As they left the White House, Green told reporters ^{that} both labor organizations are agreed that Price-Administrator Brown has failed to roll back prices and is continuing to fail. They have not yet asked the President to discharge him. But they will, if he does not buckle to and roll back those prices, so long as wages are virtually frozen.

COLLEGES

The War Department has asked forty more colleges and universities to join in the specialized training program of the Army. If they will accept, it will mean that no fewer than a hundred and ninety ~~of these~~ ^{collegiate} institutions are being used for this purpose. When the next term starts on August Ninth, there will be anywhere from twenty to sixty thousand soldiers in the specialized training program of the Army.

ASSASSINATION

The editorial staff of the famous Cleveland Plain Dealer was busy preparing news for the paper this afternoon. In his office as usual was John S. McCarrens, the seventy-three year old General Manager of that historic sheet. One of the Secretaries heard ^a ~~the~~ noise of shooting in his office, first one shot, then four more in quick succession. She rushed to the door, opened it, and as she did so, General Manager McCarrens staggered through the door exclaiming that he had been shot by a crazy man. Thereupon he collapsed upon the floor. When medical help and the police arrived they discovered that the invader had shot McCarrens through both wrists and that he also had a bullet in his abdomen. He was rushed to the hospital where the surgeons operated and declared that his condition was ~~quite~~ serious.

As for the would-be assassin, he ^{also} ~~was worse~~ off. He had shot himself. ~~in the temple, and his~~ ^{It seems} ~~condition is critical,~~ He had come into the office

of the General Manager claiming that he had an appointment. He was carrying a briefcase, in which he evidently had a revolver. His name is ~~Bobak~~^{KOBRAK}, and he used to be publisher of a newspaper in ~~the~~^{the} Hungarian language. The inference is that he was trying to get ~~xxx~~ money from McCarrens to establish a picture paper, and shot the General Manager when he was turned down.

ACCIDENT

~~We have lost~~ ^{lost} another General, in an airplane accident. A naval aircraft crash near Sitka, Alaska, ~~crashed and burned.~~ Traveling in it was Major General William P. Upshur, a marine commanding general in the Pacific Department. With him was Captain Paddock of the United States Marine Corps. Sports fans will know him better as ~~Charlie Paddock,~~ ^{the track star -} once considered the fastest living human being. ~~He certainly was one of the greatest sprinters in America.~~

8/2 And now Hugh