

P.J. - Sunoco.

Friday, July 11, 1941.

WAR

*tonight comes*

The most important war news ~~emanates~~ from London. ~~tonight.~~ Both Berlin and Moscow are silent. The German high command merely repeats its monotonous refrain -- operations continue according to schedule. And Moscow lapses into laconic reticence. The Red Army communique states briefly that the Nazi advance has been halted all along the line -- the Blitzkrieg stalled. So what has London to say?

The British capital has word that a new Great German drive has been launched. <sup>that</sup> The second phase of the battle of Russia has begun <sup>with</sup> a huge Blitzkrieg drive to smash through the Stalinh line. So says the London information and we may find some hint of confirmation in unofficial word in Berlin that German forces have crossed the Dnieper River in the ~~fix~~ direction of Moscow.

The <sup>tone</sup> ~~tone~~ that London uses in giving the news is striking, and ~~carefully~~ -- worth noting carefully. The United press bulletin reads ~~ix~~ in part as follows:- "The outcome of the reported new push on the Eastern front cannot now be foreseen, British military experts declare -- but <sup>today</sup> they obviously <sup>are seeking</sup> ~~sought~~ to give the impression that the outlook should not be regarded too optimistically."

British spokesmen point out that the Germans, in their swift advance, went through a period of severe fighting, and their forces were probably exhausted. Hence the Blitzkrieg drive was slowed down, and there was a lull on the Eastern front. But now they're at it again, and if ~~they~~ they make as much mileage in the next ten days as ~~they did~~ in the first ten days, things will be bad indeed for the Red Army.

I've stuck as nearly as I could to the London tone on the subject of the new German drive. The impression is <sup>that</sup> authoritative British ~~quar~~ quarters are playing down public optimism about what's likely to happen - the chances of the Red Army in repelling the new blast of the Blitzkrieg. On previous occasions, <sup>also,</sup> official London has spoken in a way to ~~subdue~~ subdue false hopes, optimism that would only be followed by a deeper depression. ~~And that seems to be followed by a deeper depression.~~ And that seems to be the case now - a sober note of caution about the fate of the Stalin line in <sup>this</sup> ~~the~~ second phase of the battle of Russia.

Suppose the Blitzkrieg ~~should~~ should succeed in ~~crashing~~ crashing through - one of those swift panzer drives. What then?

What would be the outlook? ~~The~~ World opinion is that all would then depend on Soviet morale. How far could the Stalin regime count on the loyalty of its army and the unflinching adherence of the Russian people? Would Stalin be supported to the bitter end - as the Chinese have stuck by Chiang Kai-Shek, and as the Russians themselves rallied to their Tzar Alexander, when Napoleon marched to Moscow?

This is a question to be answered only by somebody who knows Soviet Russia well - who has lived there for a long time, well acquainted with the people, a student of Soviet life at close range. There is one man who fits that bill more than any other - Walter Duranty, most famous<sup>S</sup> of the foreign correspondents to Moscow. Since the early days of the Soviets, Walter Duranty's newspaper stories and books have been a source of insight into Moscow affairs. It happens that Walter Duranty is in this country to do some writing and lecturing. He is here in ~~his~~<sup>the</sup> studio with me now. So I'm going to ask him about that question of Soviet

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Morale. Also his explanation for this Nazi-Soviet War.

DURANTY - L.T.

MR. DURANTY:- Why Hitler has attacked Russia so soon is not easy to explain. He announced himself that it was on account of the growing menace of the Red Army, and this strangely enough is confirmed by the British Ambassador in Moscow, Sir Stafford Cripps. As far back as February or early March Cripps told ~~me~~ a U.S. and British correspondent he was sure that the U.S.S.R. would be attacked by Germany before the end of June. He argued that the reorganization of the Red Army and the improvement of industrial production and discipline in Russia was so marked that Germany would not dare to wait any longer.

Another reason, is that Hitler believed that the Soviet Regime would not resist a sudden tremendous blow, and that the morale either of the army or the nation would collapse and that Stalin would be forced to give Germany full control over the grainfields, coal and iron of the Ukraine and of the oil of the Caucasus. Finally, Hitler realized that if he could not beat England by invasion, he could not create his "New Order" on the continent until Russia had been mastered.

L.T.:- As a result of your many long years in Russia as

correspondent for the NEW YORK TIMES what do you think of the military strength of the Soviets today? Are their munition plants scattered far enough so they are safe from Hitler's bombers? And above all will the Russian people stand by Stalin and his regime in this desperate hour? And, is there any chance at all that the Russians may win?

MR. DURANTY:- Yes, Stalin's munition plants are scattered all across the country from Moscow to the Urals and from the Urals to Vladivostok. Also, service in the Red Army has become increasingly popular. Soldiers are better treated, fed and housed than the majority of civilians; and are given opportunities of education and of learning a trade, and are helped to get good jobs, ~~in~~ in factories or ~~on~~ on farms, after their term of service is ended.

L.T.:- How about the morale?

MR. DURANTY:- I believe the Russian people are much more patriotic than is generally realized abroad. And the morale of both the military and civilian populations cannot fail to be

greatly raised by the unexpected events of the past two weeks. To feel that they are holding the German Panzer divisions, who have gone through France and Poland and the rest like a hot knife through butter, surely that's enough to stiffen morale. The idea of Russia winning seems a very large order to me. But the fact remains that after three weeks of fighting, the Germans have only just got into the real combat zone which the Red Army has been preparing for seven years.

L.T.: - Which seems to suggest that Walter Duranty would not be surprised if Hitler shared the fate of Napoleon in Russia. But he's not at all sure about it.

SOVIET COMMENT FOLLOW DURANTY

~~Thank you~~ <sup>W</sup> Walter, <sup>here is some later</sup> ~~and now let's go along to another~~

<sup>- just in. More</sup>

2 ~~line of~~ news from Moscow <sup>^</sup> Today ~~brought a repetition of~~ Soviet claims of huge Nazi losses. ~~thus far.~~ Vice-commissar of foreign affairs Lazovsky stated <sup>S</sup> that the Hitler war machine has suffered a million casualties thus far. At the same time he ridiculed ~~xxxxxx~~ yesterday's Berlin claim that the Germans have captured four hundred thousand Soviet prisoners. Commissar Lazovsky made the jeering comment that the Blitzkrieg has become a "Blitzpalaver."

After which he ~~ixxxx~~ launched a rather vague allegation of poison gas. He charged that the Germans in certain areas have been employing what he called - "Poisonous substances." This I believe is the first accusation of the sort in this war - the use of poison gas.

One high spot in the declarations made by the Soviet vice-commissar of foreign affairs was a reference to the United States. He spoke of the American occupation of Iceland - spoke hopefully. He said he was confident that it was only a beginning, that it would be followed by further action against Nazi Germany. "One of a series of blows," said he. The vice commissar ~~xxxx~~ gave his approval of the Iceland move in ~~xxx~~ these words: "Hitler's

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dissatisfaction shows that "oosevelt is doing the right thing," *Then*

*he added: -*

~~said he~~ "The Atlantic will soon become <sup>*tougher*</sup> ~~tighter~~ for Hitler and

his air ~~xx~~ and sea pirates. We hope, <sup>*went on*</sup> ~~said~~ commissar Lazovsky,

"That this is not an isolated ~~xx~~ step, but one of a series of

blows against Germany.



WASHINGTON FOLLOW SOVIET COMMENT

In Washington today Secretary of the Navy Knox said

"No"! An emphatic denial. U.S. warships have not engaged in

hostilities with Nazi raiders. An American destroyer did <sup>give</sup>

<sup>a warning</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>when</sup>  
~~a depth charge, at the time~~ a German U-Boat was nearby. ~~The~~

~~depth charge was just a warning.~~ The Secretary of the Navy

revealed this at a secret session of the Naval Affairs

Committee of the Senate; but members upon emerging told

what he had said; that the United States and Nazi Germany <sup>are not</sup>

<sup>engaged</sup>  
~~being~~ all ready in a shooting war. Nothing to it. ~~only~~ <sup>There</sup>

<sup>was just</sup>  
~~a depth charge dropped as~~ a warning. -- So says a late

United Press <sup>bulletin,</sup>  
~~report.~~

President Roosevelt today spoke about ~~the~~ North

Ireland air base report. At a White House press conference

he remarked that he supposed that American workmen and materials

are being employed, ~~at~~ British expense, on at least fifty bases,

scattered over the British Empire. This fits in with word from

London that American citizens are being employed in the construction

of Naval and air stations in North Ireland. London denies that

the United States Government has ~~any~~ thing to do ~~with~~ it.

British-American collaboration in the war was the subject of an attack by Senator Wheeler today. He said he had information that Great Britain and the United States have been discussing a ~~joint~~ joint program for pooling the British and American navies. The British fleet to patrol the English Channel and South Pacific. The American <sup>fleet</sup> ~~fleet~~ to guard the North Atlantic.

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The idea has been suggested by British Prime Minister Churchill. And this, said the Montana Senator, was in the nature of a ~~trial~~ <sup>trial</sup> balloon - to see how the notion would be taken. "My understanding from reliable sources," <sup>he,</sup> ~~he~~ said, "is that official talks ~~is~~ about pooling the navies of the two countries are already under way. They've been conferring about the proposition for quite some time", ~~he~~ added *Sen. Wheeler.*

## APPROPRIATION

President Roosevelt today asked Congress to appropriate three billion and three hundred million dollars for the Navy and Maritime Commission. The money to be used to construct ships and otherwise strengthen the fighting fleet and the Merchant Marine. Yesterday, the President requested four billion, seven hundred million dollars for the army. So in twenty-four hours a total of more than eight billion dollars have been asked.

DONOVAN

A coordinator of defense information was appointed today. As has been reported -- he is Colonel -- now Major-General I believe -- William J. Donovan -- Wild Bill of World War fame. His job will be to coordinate information gathered by existing agencies -- like the F.B.I., the secret Service, the post office agents, and the intelligence services of the Army and Navy. Their work is not <sup>to</sup> be superseded, duplicated or interfered with. Defense Information Coordinator Donovan will assemble and organize the information that they procure. This was stated by President Roosevelt, in making the appointment today.

ADMIRAL

At Honolulu, a middle-aged man was in a clothing store buying a pair of trousers. He wanted something like the suit he was wearing - a tweed. The clerk was showing him one pair of pants and then another, when two sailors entered - petty officers. "Let's have a look at some socks and ties," called one of them, and the other sailor said the socks and ties had better be snappy. The clerk turned to the customer trying to buy a pair of trousers, and asked him to wait. "The Navy comes first, you know," the clerk explained with cheery emphasis.

The customer for trousers smiled wanely, stepped back and waited. He was Admiral Kimmel, Commander-in-chief of the American fleet.

## BIRD

In Brooklyn there's a neighborhood with a problem today - a problem of bird life and mother love. In a back yard on Wynona Street, a bluejay has her nest, and in it she hatched four fledglings. When these grew big enough, they took off from the nest for their first flight. Two of them did all right, but the other two found their wings too weak and were forced down in the back yard. There one was killed by a dog, the other escaped, fluttering along the ground.

The attention of neighboring people was attracted. A man went over, picked up the bird, and tried to put it back into the nest. Mama bluejay misunderstood, and flew at him in a fury, stabbing at his head and face with her beak. The would-be benefactor put the fledgling down, and made his escape.

Another man tried, and he too was driven off. Two women made the attempt to put the little bird in the nest, and had to quit after their eyes were nearly pecked out.

So there in the back yard the fledgling bird remained - all day today, an object of the solicitude of the whole puzzled neighborhood. The dilemma ended when the bluejay attacked a ten

year old girl who ventured too near the little bird. A man took  
advantage of the diversion to snare the fledgling with a net. But  
he didn't venture to go to the nest. He made a beeline to the  
humane society, <sup>and</sup> ~~and~~ they are now considering the problem of the bluejay  
mother and child.

COMPLAINT

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We all make slips of English: I know I do - though when you talk on the radio you're supposed to be mighty careful about the correct use of words. Sometimes all that correctness is a bit oppressive, and you feel like letting go, toss grammar and syntax to the winds, and break all the rules. Tonight your humble radio commentator has an opportunity to indulge himself in that pleasure.

I have here a news dispatch from Newark. It tells of a letter sent to the alcohol commissioner's office, a letter of complaint from a man who lives above a saloon. Here's the way it reads: "I am living myself over the saloon and one more family living here. One time family moving out because it is horrible - too much noise, late almost every nights. Also too many young womens yelling all nights. All I <sup>want</sup>~~want~~ is more reasonable and much more quieter - that we could stay in our house and having little of sleeping in nights."

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9/14  
That sure is murdering the King's English. But it's a relief from all those rules of grammar and syntax. I wish I could go on like that - but here's Hugh Hames. Wouldn't it be a relief if he were to make a fine, big grammatical blunder.