

SALERNO

L.I. - Sunoco. Friday, Sept. 17, 1943.

Today occurred one of those junctions of forces that are so dramatic in war - when Armies are battling toward each other, and then make contact. This happened in the fight at Salerno, when patrols of the hard pressed Fifth Army joined forces with advance units of the British advancing from the South.

At the same time, there was another joining of forces - when that British Eighth Army from the South linked up with British troops driving from the East, the Adriatic coast of Italy. In other words, the fast moving British forces have arrived at the scene - to intervene in the battle of Salerno.

This just about settled <sup>S</sup><sub>A</sub> the issue of that bitter struggle, which for days seesawed in doubt. Yesterday and today the Fifth Army forces holding the beaches lunged forward, and made advances. They ~~wipe~~ wiped out the salient which the tremendous German counter attacks had driven into the allied line. And the latest gives them a push forward for three miles, which means that they have widened their beachhead positions to eleven miles. The Germans are ~~picture~~ pictured

as pulling out of the Salerno sector, moving north in a fighting, ~~with~~ methodical retreat.

The whole strategy of the battle of Salerno would now seem to be clarified. The Germans put up little resistance to the advance of the British forces from the south and the east. Apparently they pulled their troops out as fast as they could, and threw everything into a smash against General Mark Clark's Fifth Army on the beaches at Salerno. This force, having just landed, was obviously in a precarious position - just clinging to beaches and backed against the sea. So the German plan was a sudden violent stroke to drive it into the water - for a second Dunkirk, as they boasted.

But the Americans and British of General Clark's Fifth Army hung on. They took all the Germans had to give, were forced back, and seemed to be in a most critical position - but they stuck it out for that extra half an hour which, according to Napoleon, wins battles. They held fast - until the British could make their long marches and arrive at the scene.

This having been accomplished, the enemy now retires - presumably with the intention of ~~is~~ establishing another front for the defense of the all important city of Naples, with its great harbor.

The meaning of the junction of ~~is~~ forces today is this - ~~is~~ the Allies have now established a line across the Italian peninsula, across the ankle of the ~~is~~ boot. From this, they will push northward toward Naples - and toward Rome.

ITALIANS

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One striking rumor, <sup>today</sup> tells us that Italian troops, fighting for the Allies, have seized a long stretch of railroad leading to the Brenner Pass -- that pass which is the German lifeline to Italy. Any ~~threat~~ threat to the Brenner hits at the most touchy nerve center of Nazi war power in Italy. The rumor continues with the statement that many Italian regiments are fighting the Germans in the Dolomites - those bare and craggy mountains that lie between Italy and Austria. Brenner Pass runs through the Dolomites, and any hostile military force in that area <sup>(constitutes a menace)</sup> ~~constitutes a menace~~ that the Germans could hardly endure.

London reports that the Germans are having such a difficult time along their lifeline to Italy, that they are making demands on ~~Germany~~ Switzerland - trying to get the use of the Swiss railroads. The Swiss have not yet answered the Nazi ~~request~~ request, we are told. It certainly would not be according to their tradition to grant it, but the Nazis are said to be bringing pressure to bear - urged <sup>on,</sup> as they are, by their difficulties in getting war supplies to their forces in Italy.

And the Nazi communications ~~between~~ between Italy and France are being assailed - a dramatic blow struck last night. R.A.F. planes based on Britain flew all the way to the French-Italian frontier, and hit the ~~xi~~ railroad that links the German forces in Italy with the Nazis in France. The far flying R.A.F. bombers hurled blockbusters on the railroad yards at Modane. That's at the entrance of the great tunnel of Mt.

*the main*  
Cenis, ~~is~~ underground link between Italy and France, *on the line*  
*of the Paris-Rome Express. Clouds*  
of flame and ~~xxxx~~ smoke filled the entire valley in front of the tunnel, and the railroad there was dealt a shattering blow. Almost as important as the Brenner Pass between Italy and Germany, is the ~~ix~~ line of communications through the Alps between Italy and France. And against <sup>t</sup> that the R.A.F. is striking from Britain.

A bulletin from the Swiss-Italian frontier states that Italian troops have occupied the international railroad station at Chiasso. And London has word that Italian troops are still in possession of ~~xxx~~ many cities and areas in northern Italy. They hold such places as Bologna, Como, and

all of Tuscany - ~~in~~ and fierce fighting is going on between the Italians and Germans, says London. We hear that a long hard battle was fought at Parma, where the Germans had to bombard the city with field artillery before they could occupy it.

Switzerland relates that in Milan, five big trade unions are defying German orders ~~and~~ and are refusing to work. They are carrying on passive resistance in the face of a Nazi threat of death. The Swiss dispatch states that not a single war factory in northern Italy is turning out anything worth mentioning. At other places we hear of Italian attacks on railroads, bridges and German ammunition ~~and~~ dumps.

In Rome, there are ~~and~~ food riots, the Germans issued an order requisitioning food supplies, and the ~~and~~ farmers from the agriculture districts in the vicinity are refusing to bring in their produce. Madrid states that German troops are afraid to circulate in the Italian capital, because of the danger of a wine bottle crashing down on their heads - or maybe some accident worse than the bump of a wine bottle. And it's

the same sort of thing for the Nazis in the Balkans. London reports <sup>is</sup> that Yugoslav ~~partisan~~ partisans had <sup>us</sup> captured several towns - including the important city of ~~Spalato~~ <sup>Spalato</sup>. Also - they seized a suburb of Fiume, within gunshot of that big Italian port now held by the Nazis. The Yugoslav partisans are said to be consolidating their hold on sixty miles of Yugoslav coast - and that's just across the Adriatic from the Italian coast, which is being occupied increasingly by British forces.

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt's message to Congress today gave formal expression to a series of important points concerning the plans of the United Nations in the war. The following, for example:-

"Congress and the American people", stated the President, "can ~~not~~ rest assured that the landing on Italy is not the only landing we have in mind. That landing was ~~not~~ planned at Casablanca. At Quebec," he went on, "the leaders and the military staffs of Great Britain and the United States made specific and precise plans to bring further blows of equal or greater force against Germany and Japan".

The President made reference to events ~~in~~ in Italy, and related these to that all-important angle - the morale of the enemy peoples. "The unmistakably sincere welcome given to the Allied troops ~~in~~ by the Italian people," said he, "has proved conclusively that, even in a country which had lived for a generation under complete dictatorship - the love of liberty was unconquerable".



From which we may infer that what happened to Fascism is likely to happen eventually to Naziism. And, speaking of Germany, President Roosevelt made a significant statement of allied policy. "When Hitler and the Nazis go out", he declared, "the Prussian military clique must go with them. The ~~war-breeding~~ <sup>war-breeding</sup> gangs of militarists," he added, "must be rooted out of Germany - and out of Japan - if we are to have any real assurance of future peace".

The President spoke of the relation of our Mediterranean success to the situation in Soviet Russia - the triumphant advance of the Red Army. "We know," said he, "that we are contributing to that advance by making Germany keep many divisions in the Balkans, in southern France and on the English Channel". And he added that our Mediterranean successes, together with the bombing of Germany by planes based on Britain, has drawn Nazi air power from Russia. This has an obvious bearing on the Soviet demands for a second front, and on comment in Moscow that the invasion of Italy does not establish a second front.

And our Mediterranean successes have a great effect on the Far East, with the President today saying: "As long as the Italian fleet remained in being as a threat, a substantial part of the British naval strength had to be kept locked up in the Mediterranean. Now", he went on, "that formidable strength is freed to proceed eastward to join in the ever-increasing attack on the Japanese".

This has been stated previously, but not stated emphatically enough - according to the President. "It has not been sufficiently emphasized," said he, "that the freeing of the Mediterranean is a great asset to the war in the Far East".

And he went into some specific detail along that line - by stating precisely the immediate thing that will be accomplished by the British sea power that has now been freed ~~from~~ from the Mediterranean. "There has been one serious gap in the lines of our globe girdling sea power", he declared the President. ~~That~~ "That," he specified, "is the gap between northwest Australia and Ceylon. That gap can now be closed as a result of the victory in the Mediterranean", to which he added that the

Japs in Burma are likewise to be assailed.

The President, however, looked for nothing easy in the Pacific. "We face in the Orient," ~~he~~ said he, "a long and difficult fight. We must be prepared for heavy losses in winning that fight. The power of Japan will not collapse", ~~xxxxxxx~~ he reckoned, "until it has been literally pounded into the dust".

That last <sup>statement</sup> ~~statement~~ gives a cue to one of the most important points made in today's message. The President gave a comprehensive survey of the war, and his tone was dead serious - a tone to chill that easy, rosy optimism. "We are still a long long way from ~~our~~ ultimate victory in any major theatre of the war," <sup>said the</sup> ~~states~~ President <sup>in his message to Congress</sup> ~~Roosevelt~~.

## RUSSIA

Today Soviet Marshal Stalin officially announced the capture of Bryansk. Days ago, the Germans reported that they had evacuated Bryansk, and then a little while later they reversed that and said they still held the city - some twist of Nazi propaganda. Now it's official - Russian troops have captured the stronghold that was so important a bastion on the German fighting front.

All along the line from the latitude of Moscow south, Soviet troops are still advancing - as the Nazis continue their retreat. Today Moscow announces Red Army gains from two and a half to nine and a half miles on eight different battle fronts. This - with the recapture of three hundred and sixty towns and villages in one day of fighting.

## EXPLOSION

There was heavy disaster today at Norfolk, Virginia - the great naval base. An explosion, a violent blast - that killed seventeen persons and injured more than two hundred and fifty others. At least three aviation hangars were destroyed, and many buildings were damaged. The force of the blast smashed windows everywhere throughout the naval base and in some sections of the City of Norfolk.

The cause of the disaster is not known, though it appears that the explosion originated in a quantity of naval ammunition that was being transported. The Admiral in command has appointed a board of officers to investigate.

## DIXIE WALKER

Now that the baseball season is almost over here's a story about the most popular player on the Dodgers.

The Brooklyn fans yell their heads off every time Dixie Walker comes to bat -- Dixie Walker "the peoples' <sup>chers</sup> ~~champion~~." And Dixie generally comes through. When the three greater New York teams met recently, at the Waldorf, in connection with the War Bond drive, people bought bonds in the name of their favorites, their favorite players with the Yankees, Giants and Dodgers. And which player do you think drew down the largest sum for Uncle Sam? Yes, Dixie Walker, "the people's <sup>chers.</sup> ~~champion~~." Over Eleven million dollars' worth of bonds sold in his name at that one meeting. It looks as though the ball players are doing their share. So let's all see to it that we do ours.

And now another chap who is also "the people's chers," Hugh James.