

L. J. Sunoco - Monday Jan. 19, 1942

RUSSIA

Hitler's armies appear to have taken the offensive again in Russia, particularly in the Crimea. A triumphant broadcast from Berlin proclaims that they have recaptured Fedosiya, which the Red army won back so jubilantly a couple of weeks ago. With it they ^{Nazis} claimed to have captured forty-six hundred prisoners and a number of tanks and guns. But ^{from we} London heard that elsewhere in the Crimea the Soviet armies were still on the offensive.

The Berlin radio made great to-do about proclamations that the cities of Mozhaisk, Orel and Kursk were still in their hands. Those three places, together with Kharkov, are the four anchor points of the Nazi line north of the Sea of Azov. Military experts in London interpret this to mean that Mozhaisk, Orel and Kursk were hard pressed by the Russians and in great danger, since the Nazis were denying claims that the

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Russians themselves had not made. But according to unofficial reports the Germans were evacuating Mojaisk. The Nazis admit the Red Armies are pressing them on the Donets front in the South, but they claim the Red armies are ~~not getting to first base~~ *making no gains.*

Furthermore, say the Nazis, the Russians are pouring out both manpower and resources extravagantly in a desperate effort to force temporary victories.

from the flames of Mozhaisk over frozen roads. That the runaway Nazi army is being pursued by Russian cavalry and ski patrols, and being machine-gunned by Soviet armored dive bombers.

GERMANY

A new agreement between Germany, Japan and Italy. It's called a military convention, and actually it's the ratification of a plan for common operations by the three countries against their common enemies. On

behalf of the Nazis the Chief of the High Command signed it; ^{for Italy} ~~Also a~~ plenipotentiary of the Italian High Command; ^{and for Japan} ~~and~~ the plenipotentiary ^{of} ~~for~~ the

Japanese army and navy staffs. A spokesman for the Japanese gave out the ~~the~~ bally-hoo that it meant closer cooperation between the ~~the~~ three countries.

There are ~~As you might expect,~~ no details. *But obviously* ~~are given out. But it~~

it all means that the strategy of the Japanese, Nazi and Fascist High Commands will be unified.

A spokesman for ^{the} ~~the~~ Nazis ^{said} ~~declared~~ that the principal object of the ^{agreement} ~~convention~~ was to distribute the military forces of the three powers. And the Nazi spokesman used these words: "These measures as

indicated are to serve for the preparation of large-scale operations of great ~~import~~, which will be of decisive significance for the future development of the war."

From Malaya ^{the} ~~had~~ news ^{is that} ~~again~~ The Japanese

are forging ahead on the West coast, the British Imperial army forced to give ground. According to

the Japanese claim broadcast from Berlin, they are now only twenty-five miles from Singapore. But that's

just an enemy claim. Judging by place names, the fighting ~~xx~~ front still is ninety-five miles from Johore Strait. The Australian General reports that his men are holding the ⁱⁿ ground and have thrown back attack

after attack. ~~The Australians are holding Segamat, a point on the railroad forty miles up the Muar River.~~

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The suggestion made in Britain that the Japanese flank should be attacked through Burma was made too loud ^{ly.} Evidently the Japanese heard it, and

~~they~~ moved first. Rangoon admits that the Nipponese have occupied Tavoy in Southern Burma ^{and} The British have withdrawn from the neighborhood. The Japanese advanced from Thailand.

ADD MALAYA

Here's a later story that's more encouraging. The news tonight is that Major General Henry Gordon Bennett has launched an attack of his Australians that carried them several miles past the Japanese lines on the Muar River. General Bennett's purpose was to reduce the Japanese bridge-head which threatened his left flank. The Austrlians not only pushed the Japanese back several miles, but are now close to Bandar Maharani where the Muar ~~empties~~ empties into the Strait of Malacca.

LEAD

The army tells us tonight that Uncle Sam's airplanes have been doing stout work on the Malayan front. Army Air Corps bombers made a raid on the airdrome at Sunget Patani in Malaya, which is in the hands of the Japanese. Evidently the American fliers caught the enemy off guard. Anyhow they started three large fires in the hangars and among Japanese aircraft on the ground. All the U.S. planes got back to their base intact.

The U.S. Air Corps has also been at work in the Dutch Indies. A bomber squadron of five swooped down on the flying field the Japanese captured last week at Menado in the northeastern Celebes. They had managed to drop several bombs, but before they had time to see how effective they'd been, a flight of Japanese interceptor planes hove on the scene and there was a hot fight with the five American planes heavily outnumbered. The Yankees shot down nine Japanese planes. But two of our bombers are missing, and a third got back damaged, with four of the crew wounded. -- From Gen. MacArthur no news tonight.

CHINA

The Chinese High Command tonight tells us that the Japanese Air Force has taken the offensive again in Southwest China. The Mikado's bombers attacked ~~Nanning and Kweilin~~ ^{points some}, Two hundred and eighty miles west of Canton, and one hundred ~~and ten miles~~ ^{odd miles} northeast of the border of French Indo-China. Saturday the Japanese bombed ~~Mengstz~~ ^{places} closer to Indo-China; ~~These three cities, Kweilin, Nanning and Mengstz,~~ ~~are the~~ key points in a semi-circle of the Chinese front facing the Japanese positions in Canton and Indo-China.

The Chinese believe ~~that~~ these air raids are a prelude to another strong offensive by the Mikado's armies in that part of Asia and an indication that the Chinese drive has been effective in obliging the Nipponese warlords to scatter their activities further.

MARINES

The Japanese are putting American prisoners
on forced labor. So we hear from China. Chinese
guerrillas who have been sniping at the Japs in the
Peiping sector report that fifty of Uncle Sam's
Marines who were captured at the summer camp north-
east of Tientsin have been forced to hard labor at
the point of the bayonet, contrary to the conventions
of International law.

CONFERENCE

At Rio de Janeiro today the atmosphere was
~~jittery~~ ^{somewhat electric} according to reports from that ~~lovely~~ ^{fair} city.

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Rumors were running around the gathering places that
the Axis powers had delivered threats, warnings that
any joint diplomatic action unfriendly to the Axis

would mean a declaration of war from Germany, Italy
^{In fact}
and Japan. The rumor was quite specific about Chile.

It wasn't confirmed but the report was definite that
the Japanese Ambassador in Santiago had warned the

Chilean Government that any breaking off of relations
would force Japan to declare war and that would mean
leaving the long Chilean seaboard open to attack. ^{and}

Chile ^{might} ~~would~~ have a hard time defending ^{her} ~~that~~ long

shore-line. ~~from attacks~~

^{of which}
All ~~this~~ thickened the haze of doubt over that ^s ~~that~~

Pan American conference at Rio.

SUBMARINES

Late last night it was revealed that an unidentified merchant vessel had been torpedoed and sunk off Carolina, but no further details were given. Today we learn that it was the tanker ALAN JACKSON. And the story comes from the thirteen survivors. On Sunday morning all of a sudden two torpedoes hit the ALAN JACKSON -- one right after the other. Immediately oil splattered all over the ship and for three hundred feet all around. In a flash the ship was ablaze from stem to stern, and the surrounding oil covered waters for several hundred feet also ablaze. Flames leaping a hundred feet in the air.

The ALAN JACKSON, we are told, sank within five minutes from the striking of the first torpedo. Most of the crew were pinned in by the roaring flames.

One life boat was launched but only seven men were able to climb into it before it pulled away. Some of the others jumped into the water. The men in the life boat picked up one of them and five others were eventually rescued from the waters nearby.

SUBMARINES - 2

The submarine, presumably a German, had fired its torpedoes without giving the tanker crew the slightest warning.

APPROPRIATIONS

Twenty-eight and a half billions more for the army and navy. Such is the gist of letters the President has written to Speaker Rayburn of the House. Twenty-eight and a half billions! And those are supplemental estimates, quite aside from the fifty-six billions he was talking about last week. All of which will bring the total appropriations for national defense for the years Nineteen Forty-One, Forty-Two and Forty-Three to one hundred billions, four hundred and thirty-eight millions. Of this more than twelve and a half billions are to be given to the army, almost sixteen billions to the navy. The Army Air Corps gets a lion's share, some nine billions.

In that siderial array of figures it seems almost like pin money to hear of one lone little item of seven million dollars. Mr. Roosevelt wants the seven millions to start building the Pan American Highway.

DEFENSE

The House of Representatives has changed its mind about civilian defense. It has reversed its decision to take the job away from New York's Mayor LaGuardia. But it was a close vote, One Hundred and Seventy-two to One Hundred and Sixty-Seven, ^{a slim} ~~a tiny~~ margin of five. ~~So there are still numerous Congressmen who think the army should run the Office of Civilian Defense.~~

The vote came over a conference report which offered a compromise between the ~~extreme~~ attitude of the House and the Senate. What swung the day was President Roosevelt's action in appointing ^{Dean} ~~Frank~~ Landis of Harvard as Executive Director of the O.C.D. Also, LaGuardia's announcement that after Congress had passed the bill he would make a choice between being Mayor of New York, head of Civilian Defense, or getting back into the army.

Soon after the House approved the Conference report the Senate followed suit and the bill went up to the White House.

So Civilian Defense ^{*still*} remains under the control of civilians.

LABOR

There was considerable jubilation over the report of peace between the C.I.O and the A. F of L. the news that John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers and Dan Tobin of the Teamsters had agreed upon a plan for harmony. But now we hear that Lewis went over the heads of Phillip Murray, President of the whole C.I.O. Executive Board. The word is that Lewis and Tobin had it all arranged ~~for~~ for William F. Green to retire as President of the A.F. of L. with the understanding that George Meany, Secretary-Treasurer of the A. F. of L. should become President of the new organization -- both the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. Evidently all this was as much news to Philip Murray and the Executive Board of the C.I.O. as it was to the general public. For today Phil Murray tartly reminded John L. Lewis that any such act would necessarily have to be started through the Office of the President of the Congress of Industrial Organizations. He went on to inform Lewis that he

would be pleased to present Lewis' recommendation to the Executive Board of the C.I.O. when it meets on January Twenty-Fourth. And he added: "I am sure the Executive Board will be pleased to have you attend to present your viewpoint."

Murray then intimated that he had more important business before him than labor peace. His prime consideration now and for some time to come would be his negotiations with the little steel companies for new wage scales.

Part of the arrangement between John L. Lewis and Dan Tobin was that Phillip Murray should have the eighteen thousand dollar a year job of Secretary-Treasurer, to the new joint organization. To this Murray said:- "I think I am privileged to speak for myself, and no one is authorized to trade me for a job."

The letter in which he told Lewis off began ironically with the words: "Dear Sir and Brother."

Once upon a time relations between Murray and Lewis were not so caustic. For thirty years Murray was Lewis' right-hand-man in the management of the United Mine Workers Union.

President Murray of the C.I.O. wasn't the only Labor Leader, who spoke out vehemently today. William Green, President of the A.F. of L. this afternoon denied that there had been any agreement. And he used these words: "A great disservice was rendered to the cause of Labor unity and Labor peace through the publication of that story." Green continued: "The report that secret meetings were being held and secret understandings reached will serve to create suspicion and for that reason will handicap those who take part in Labor peace negotiations."

It had been given out yesterday that Green had consented to the Peace plans. This he now repudiates adding that on the contrary no discussion of peace plans has taken place. That the A.F. of L.

Executive Council had merely conferred authority upon the committee to discuss the plans, with a distinct understanding that no plan could be adopted until it had been reported to the Council and approved by the Council.

Later on it was also understood, though not definitely stated, that even Dan Tobin, who was reported to have cooked up the scheme with Lewis, had likewise repudiated it.

And that's the status of the labor peace story tonight.

AIRLINES

8/12
From now on the general public has to take a back seat in air transport ships. Brigadier General Connolly, who is the boss of Civil Aviation today, announced a code of priorities governing not only seats but cargo space on the commercial transports. ~~And here is the hierarchy~~

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The ~~First~~ ^{to go} call on seats ~~goes naturally~~ ¹ to the personnel of the White House. Second, ferry command pilots of the army, navy and Marine Corps traveling under orders. Third, personnel of the armed forces and Allied military mission^s travelling by air under orders. Then come officials in charge of army and navy equipment: ammunition, material, and supplies necessary to the War program. After ~~that come~~ ^{them} ¹ the men working in Government Departments and Agencies, whose activities are essential to the war effort. Even they have to be certified for priority. Private citizens will get

reservations only if there is no official need
for space.

And now, let's make
a $\frac{1}{2}$ way for Hugh.