

R.T. - Sunoco. Thursday, July 2, 1942.

EGYPT

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The late news from Egypt is, that the thunder of cannon can now be heard in Alexandria. This word is relayed from Egypt via London. And, it ~~is~~ is about the only late news concerning the mechanized conflict ^{in Egypt - the battle} that is likely to mean so much to the future of this war.

Earlier accounts from British headquarters in Cairo told mostly about the events of yesterday. A desperate day-long battle, ~~fought~~, the British fighting with savage determination - - and holding their own. Confidence was expressed, and the British Command described the trend of fighting as -- "Not un-
~~is~~ satisfactory."

The Axis Panzers made their first attack along the coast with tanks and motorized infantry. The British met the assault and repelled it. Again the Panzers roared forward, and ~~again~~ again were thrown back. Another enemy effort resulted in a break through, but was only temporary. Nazi tanks cut through the line and struck ~~toward~~ toward Alexandria, but Cairo states that the hole smashed in the defense-front was plugged, and the Germans were unable to keep going.

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On the enemy side, Rome and Berlin made the claim that their armored units broke through at Elalamein, -- the key to the British defense position. But this was not confirmed.

All of the foregoing ^{was} ~~events were~~ reported earlier in the day, with the summary statement that the Battle of Egypt was continuing with the utmost violence. ^{really} What happened today has not yet been told. Both sides are silent, with the exception of that hint from Egypt via London -- that tonight the sound of the cannon of the Battle-out-on-the-desert can be heard in Alexandria. I don't know just what inference we are to draw from that. The British were making their supreme stand along a line about sixty-five miles from Alexandria, which is a long distance for the sound of artillery fire to carry. It may mean that the battle has rolled closer to Alexandria, the Axis enemy advancing.

Today in London Prime Minister Churchill stated that the British on the desert have been reinforced and that the Battle of Egypt has by no means been decided. But he warned that grave news might come at any time.

CHURCHILL

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When historians of the future write their accounts of the British military disaster in Libya, they will go to the records of the London House of Commons and consult a transcript of the statement that Prime Minister Winston Churchill made on Thursday, July second, Nineteen Hundred and forty-two -- today. *and* They will find in it a concise explanation, *a* brief but ~~highly~~ highly dramatic account of how the thing happened. So ~~xxxx~~ let's anticipate those ~~historians~~ historians of the future and note what Churchill said.

He referred back to the attack that Nazi Field Marshall Rommel began about a month ago. "At the beginning of the battle," he said, "the British had a total of a hundred thousand men ~~and~~ and the enemy ninety thousand, of which fifty thousand were Germans. We had a superiority in the number of tanks, perhaps seven to five ^{said Churchill} ~~and~~ and nearly eight to five ^{then} superiority in artillery", he told the House of Commons:- "Our army throughout the battle, ^{said he} ~~he went on,~~ "enjoyed and today enjoys superiority in the air".

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Churchill said that with his kind of superiority the British were ready to begin an offensive against the German Panzers, ~~with~~ and were confident. But Rommel struck first.

There was hard fighting and the British struck back - but without success. "When the British counter-attacked," Churchill said today, "they were repulsed by an ~~an~~ enemy counter-attack -- and suffered heavy losses of artillery."

Then followed a phase of the battle in which both sides lost heavily. "But on June thirteenth", related Churchill, "there came a change. On that morning we had about three hundred tanks in action. By nightfall not more than seventy remained. This happened", he stated somberly, "without any corresponding loss being inflicted on the enemy".

That apparently was the blow that decided the battle in Libya -- the British in one day losing two hundred and thirty tanks, while ^{only a} Rommel lost [^] few. And that heavy defeat was followed quickly by the Panzer dash to Tobruk and the swift capture of that stronghold.

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The British Prime Minister told how he first received the news of the fall of Tobruk - and what a shock it was.

All the more a shock because he heard it in the White House in Washington, as he went to visit President Roosevelt;

^{when}
~~told~~ how he entered the President's room on June twenty-first ^{he}
^{heard} ^{had} ~~and~~ what happened. "I was greatly shocked by a report that Tobruk had fallen. I found it difficult to believe," he said today, "but a few minutes later my own telegram was forwarded from London".

He said the fall of Tobruk was utterly unexpected by himself, the British High Command and by General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander in North Africa. The blow was so severe that the British Army went reeling back into Egypt. Churchill said that in the Libya disaster they lost fifty thousand men, mostly prisoners -- fifty thousand of the hundred thousand to begin with.-- They lost half of their forces.

All of this transpired as the Prime Minister appealed to the Commons for a vote of confidence. He got it -- four hundred and seventy-five to twenty five. ~~That's~~ ^{an} overwhelming majority, ^{But} some thirty M.P.'s abstained from voting.

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RUSSIA

Soviet Russia still tells of fighting at Sevastopol,
the capture of which was announced by the Nazis yesterday.

Moscow does not admit ^e ~~the~~ German claim, but ^{does} ~~admits~~ that the
A enemy is advancing slowly and has succeeded in breaking through.

The Russians tell of street fighting at the Crimean Naval Base.

In the area of Kharkov and Kursk, the Nazi war machine
is driving with violent attacks, but is not getting anywhere.

Moscow tells of furious assaults beaten off by the Red Army
defense.

SABOTEURS

Those eight Nazi saboteurs are to be tried by a special military commission. This was announced today by President Roosevelt, who named the court that will administer justice. It will consist of seven members, all generals:-

And the presiding officer will be Major-General Frank R. McCoy.

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The prosecution will be conducted by Attorney-General Biddle, and the Judge Advocate of the Army. The eight ~~saboteurs~~ saboteurs will have counsel to defend them, two advocates named by President Roosevelt. They are Colonel Cassius Dowell, and Colonel Kenneth Royall. The trial will begin in Washington, on July eighth or soon afterward, and the prosecution will ask for the death penalty for the eight saboteurs who ~~were~~ were landed by U-boat in Florida and on Long Island.

Six of the defendants are German aliens, two are United States citizens. The six aliens would have been tried by military court in any event -- court martial. But there was doubt about the two ~~American~~ American citizens, about the kind of court by which they would be tried. The special military commission, created by the President, removes all doubt, It will have the right to try the citizens as well as the non-citizens.

At the same time, President Roosevelt issues a proclamation to clarify the legal status of spies and saboteurs. They are denied recourse to the civil courts. They are subject to military tribunals - to be tried in accordance with the laws of war. In other words, they will be denied the technicalities and possible loopholes of civil law. Military law is more severe.

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CARIBBEAN

From the Caribbean, where the coasts and waters are of legendary romance, we have a story quite worthy of the anthology of pirates, fantastic adventures and ~~the~~ tropical intrigues. It sounds like something ~~from~~ for a melodramatic book or play, but it comes in a report from Lieutenant-General Andrews, United States Commander in the Caribbean, ^{who} ~~he~~ announces the detection of a lurid spy plot and the arrest of twenty persons. In the story we find such beguiling elements as a tropical king, a trusted employee of the Panama Canal Zone Administration, a bevy of voluptuous night-club hostesses, a bottle of poison whiskey - not to mention barrels of oil for refueling Nazi submarines.

The whole thing goes back to last March, when a United States patrol plane flying off the coast of Central America reported the sighting of a mysterious boat. This craft, which could not be identified, had on its deck a number of oil drums. There was plenty of suspicion that Axis submarines were getting fuel supplies from points on shore in the Caribbean. So, the boat with the barrels of oil started an investigation.

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It was found that the craft belonged to a lofty personality, a fabulous magnate of tropical properties, owner of plantations and shipping companies in British Honduras. His headquarters ~~was~~ were at Belize, the Honduran capital. They called him - the King of Belize. His name was George Gough, which has an exceedingly Anglo-Saxon sound.

Then, it was found that the boat that had carried the drums of gasoline was at Panama, the Canal Zone. It was about to sail, when it was boarded by Intelligence officers of the United States Army. They arrested everybody aboard, and ~~it~~ gathered information confirming the suspicion of fuel deliveries to Nazi U-Boats. Moreover, the Intelligence Officers found aboard the vessel two sets of plans giving vital information about a naval air station in the Canal Zone. This indicated that, in addition to supplying the U-boats, spy work was going on - the gathering of military information at Panama.

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Among the laborers working in the Canal Zone were many Hondurans - from the same section ~~of~~ as the King of Belize. It was found that these Hondurans were often entertained at a Panamanian resort, where the main attraction was a bevy of

-- "voluptuous night club hostesses." They were employed by the spy ring to get information from the Honduran laborers.

The trial led further to an individual who is described in these words, "A trusted civilian employee of the Panama Canal labor recruiting bureau." He has been arrested, and the evidence indicated^s that he was the key man in Panama for the secret agent conspiracy.

While these investigations were going on, a sinister thing happened. In British Honduras, somebody broke into the room of United States Army Intelligence officers there. The room was ~~xxxx~~ ransacked, and a bottle of whiskey was poisoned. The poisoning came to light when an American officer gave a drink from the bottle to a British Intelligence officer. The Britisher became violently ~~xxx~~ ill, his legs temporarily paralyzed.

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Meanwhile, the circumstances were pointing more and more to the fact that the big boss of espionage and U-boat supply was -- George Gough, the magnate of British Honduras, the King of Belize. A trap was laid to catch him, but he was too

what we call
wary. He dodged and got away to Spanish Honduras, at ~~xxxx~~ which point he tried to find a way to get across to Nazi Europe in an Axis submarine. He put to sea in ~~xxxx~~ a boat^t, which was promptly stopped by an American Navy plane. The king of Belize was found aboard. And is one of the twenty prisoners tonight.

Up here in this northern latitude, we have weird varieties of spy plots, but it takes the tropics to provide dark and devious doings with a maximum of the sinister and fantasti[^]c.

THIEVERY

57

Up in Nova Scotia, there is a Canadian Military Post which has been virtually wiped out. Rubbed out, or more correctly -- robbed out. In Military District number six, six soldiers and three civilians have been convicted ^{of} ~~to~~ crimes described as follows:- "The theft and sale of Army food-stuffs, motor vehicle, ~~xxx~~ ^{xxxx} tire chains, coal, anti-freeze, and gasoline." And, ~~in addition to soldiers and civilians - charges of stealing gasoline.~~ The thievery was so extensive that military District number six developed what are called "extensive shortages." In other words, the boys just about swiped the ~~whole~~ whole war machine.

LEWIS

Today a story appeared to explain the attitude of John L. Lewis toward President Roosevelt. It states that the Lewis antagonism toward the President came about because of a refusal to consider the labor leader as candidate for Vice-^rresident in Nineteen Forty.

This version appears in the official publication of the C.I.O. steel workers. It recalls that for a long time John L. Lewis, then head of the C.I.O. was a staunch supporter of the New Deal. Suddenly he changed -- and many wondered why.

~~The Six~~^{The} C. I. O. publication puts it in these words: "John Lewis turned against President Roosevelt because the President flatly refused Lewis' demand that he be the Vice-Presidential candidate if Roosevelt ran for a third term".

8

BEAR

Up in the woods of Maine, the wild life protection service is having a lot of trouble -- all because of a bear. In Baxter State Park, they have been posting a lot of signs -- and these old man bear has been tearing down.

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A ~~sign~~ sign-posting crew goes through the woods -- tacking printed notices to trees. The bear~~x~~ follows them and rips down the signs.

Here is the kicker -- the signs are notices to hunters warning them not to shoot the animals -- especially the bear. Those are what old man bear has been tearing down. I'm afraid he can't read.

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But Hugh can read. And let's ask him what those words are on the paper he is holding. Unless it's a secret, Hugh.