

L. I. Sunoco. Thursday, July 16, 1942

RUSSIA

In reciting today's news about the war in Russia, I can ~~do~~ ^{do no} better than quote an editorial statement made by the United Press.

In flashing the latest account from its correspondent in Moscow, ~~Henry Shapiro~~, the U. P. editor makes the following comment: "This dispatch ~~from Shapiro~~ was one of the bluntest to come through the Russian censorship in recent months." So let's see what we are told so bluntly.

The U. P. ~~correspondent begins~~ ^{dispatch today is} as follows, "The Axis steam-roller is pushing through southern Russia toward the Volga at an accelerated tempo, and military observers believe tonight that a decisive battle is to be expected east of the Don River bend in defense of Stalingrad." ^{TP} With the Moscow censor passing that, it ~~would~~ would appear that the Nazi war machine is likely to seize that bulge of territory described by the River Don as it swings in a deep loop to the East. There the Don approaches Stalingrad on the Volga.

"Should the enemy reach Stalingrad," ^{the} U. P. correspondent Shapiro goes on, "The effect would be almost catastrophic. The Russians ^{no} say they ^{themselves} are nursing no illusions," he continues; and ^{then he} adds: "They are making no effort to conceal or underestimate the strategic

and moral consequences of such a blow."

This bulletin from Moscow mentions two places as the critical points in the Battle of the Don at the present moment. One is -- Millerovo. The Red Army has retreated from Millerovo, and the Germans are pushing beyond that place -- striking to the south-east.

The other city named is Boguchar -- which is farther to the south. And from that place, likewise abandoned by the Red Army, the Nazi war machine is driving on. The immediate strategy of German Marshal Von Bok seems to be an attempt to thrust with two columns from Millerovo and Boguchar, and have the two come together, the familiar pincers movement.

To the north of the bulge created by the Nazi advance, hard fighting is still going on at Voronezh, the place so bitterly defended by the Red Army. There the Nazis appear to have been checked by the typical dogged fighting spirit of the Russians. But the Voronezh Battle has receded to secondary importance -- in comparison with the huge and swift enemy advance into the Don area, the advance ^{that} has such mortal peril for the Soviets.

Moscow today tells us that in two months of the present fighting nine hundred thousand Germans have been killed, captured, or wounded -- that huge number of casualties between May fifteen and July fifteen.

The Russians during ^{the} ~~that~~ same time lost three hundred and ninety-nine thousand, killed, wounded and missing. This is another example of Soviet reports of stupendous losses of Nazi manpower.

Finland

Here is a late bulletin. The United States has closed its consulates in Finland, and has asked Finland to close the Finnish Consulate in this country.

The State Department explains that this is because

of a rather ~~technical~~ technical kind of ~~dis~~ disagreement. *That*

The closing of the consulates does not mean a ~~dis~~ diplomatic break between the United States and Finland, though diplomatic relations have been strained since Finland ~~quit~~ joined the Nazi war against Soviet Russia.

EGYPT

British headquarters in Egypt reports a huge tank battle on the desert. This is the latest from Cairo, a bulletin just in. It indicates that the battle for Egypt is gaining momentum, having been on the increase ~~for~~ for several days.

Earlier bulletins today told how Field Marshal Rommel's Panzers delivered attacks at two points. One assault was beaten off. The other made some small progress, with the Nazis capturing the railroad station at Tel El Eisa, -- ~~the Hill of Jesus.~~ That locality is of some strategic importance, and the rival armies have been battling for it for several days. The railroad station, which the Germans have captured, is ^{mere} a shack.

These were the earlier reports, and they are now followed by Cairo's late flash telling ^{us} that the hostilities have developed into a heavy tank battle. The British say the outcome of the conflict is still in doubt.

Meanwhile, they're gunning for Rommel. In this case

the name of the Nazi Commander is not just a convenient word to signify his Army. They're trying to get Rommel personally. Cairo states that the R.A.F. is busy hunting for the kind of large automobile trailer that the Nazi High officers use -- mobile headquarters -- they ^{are} ~~are~~ bombing every one they can spot -- in the hope of hitting Rommel's headquarters, and eliminating the Commander whose ~~tactics~~ tactics have been so formidable.

LAVAL

The Vichy Government of France today issued an order to the Commander of the French warships interned at Alexandria. There are eight of them. The order concerned the possibility that the Nazi Panzers might crash through in North Africa, and drive to Alexandria. If that were by any chance to happen, with the Germans sweeping the Near East, British warships obviously would leave the Mediterranean, via the Suez Canal. Assuming the Canal were not put out of commission. But what about the battleship Lorraine and those seven other French naval vessels that have been held at Alexandria since the fall of France? Would they accompany the British?

Vichy ordered today -- no. The French Admiral in command was instructed not to go along in any retreat through the Canal. This mandate was issued by the Vichy Chief of government, pro-Nazi collaborationist Laval. And he gave warning that if the British make any move against the French warships, the result will be serious. Laval didn't say what he

meant by -- serious.

He repeated the Vichy contention that French war vessels will not be turned over to any foreign government, and he again demanded that the ships at Alexandria be allowed to sail to the nearest French port.

Today London had something to say about all this. The British Press Association, which often speaks for the London Foreign Office, declared that under no circumstances will Great Britain permit the French warships at Alexandria to fall into enemy control. Meaning -- if Rommel pushes to the Great Egyptian naval base, the French craft will have to go, be taken over or be destroyed.

Which is in accord with what Vichy was told by President Roosevelt. The President proposed that the French vessels leave Alexandria, and offered them a haven on this side of the water. Laval rejected this, and in the course of the correspondence the

President stated that the British would be justified in seizing or sinking the ships to keep the Axis from getting them.

Today there is still other news about Vichy -- Washington relations -- this time on the subject of DeGaulle and the Free French. Last week our State Department announced that two American Military attaches had been accredited to DeGaulle's Free French ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Government. And now we learn that Vichy is protesting against this. The argument is that we recognize the regime of Marshal Petain as the legal government of France, and that therefore we shouldn't send official representatives to a rival French government. This constituting a violation or something or other. The word from Washington tonight is that the State Department will ignore the note of protest -- will not make any reply.

MR. LIN

A distinguished gentleman from China is sitting beside me. We are going to a China Relief party at Brewster, New York. Mr. Lin, before he came to America taught singing to the Chinese soldiers at the front -- patriotic songs. He started the mass singing movement in China seven years ago. Music unites people. And China needs unity says Mr. Lin. If we had more time I would have him sing to you in Chinese. But Mr. Lin here's the latest news from China:-

CHINA

From Washington we hear that a personal representative of President Roosevelt has gone to China. *He is none other than Lauchlin* ~~He is Lauchlin Currie~~ Currie, Administrative assistant to the President. And he has already arrived at Chungking, the Chinese Nationalist Capital.

The purpose of his mission is not hard to guess. Lauchlin Currie's ~~particular~~ ^{particular} job in Washington has had to do with aid for China - - Lend Lease. And the problem of getting armament to the Nationalist Army fighting Japan has grown more and more acute.

Since the Japs have seized Burma, the only ^{over -} land route from India to China, all munitions for the Chinese have had to proceed by air. And ^{it's} ~~that's~~ tough going for big transport planes -- long hops over high mountains ^{and} a scarcity of aviation fuel at the other end. The shortage of gasoline in China is so bad that transport planes carrying munitions are faced with the prospect of having to carry enough gas for the round trip -- not able to refuel on the Chinese side. *Which means that gas for your return trip is about all you can carry.*

Nevertheless we are determined to aid those bravely fighting Chinese. And that's why Presidential ^l Adviser Lauchlin Currie, has gone to Chungking. He is there to further this nation's increasing

effort to get materials of war to China.

Meanwhile, those incredible Chinese fighting men are
batling on. ^{In fact} With almost bare hands they ^{have} ~~be~~ been having to face
a new big Japanese campaign. Yet today we find them taking the
offensive -- attacking. They have just recaptured an important
town from the Japs - - Wenchow on the China Coast. Wenchow was
one of the two sole remaining harbors left to the Chinese. The
Japs seized it last weekend. And now the Chinese have rallied for
a counter-offensive.

SABOTEURS

Again today the session of the Nazi saboteur trial was devoted to the reading of documents. This was related in the daily statement issued by Major General ~~McGly~~ McCoy, president of the Military Commission. We again hear that one of the documents was probably a confession made by one of the saboteurs.

Meanwhile we have a story told by a Long Island railroad station agent who sold tickets to ~~x~~ four of the saboteurs. This occurred apparently right after they made their futile ~~and~~ ~~ridiculous~~ attempt to bribe coastguardsman John Cullen. Station agent Baker tells how a swarthy man bought four railroad tickets, and while doing so pretended that he and his comrades were fishermen. "The fishing hasn't been very good out there," said the saboteur, "It's very miserable because of the fog, and I guess we'll go home."

Later in the day the station agent found a pair of bathing trunks, tennis shoes, white socks, and a sport shirt --- all of which had been tossed into a hedge near the station, the saboteurs getting rid of clothing they were wearing when the coastguradsmen spotted them on the beach.

PARACHUTE

The F. B. I. today denied that a parachutist has been arrested in upper New York State. Rumors have been circulating about a mysterious plane and parachute, and today reports developed that the F.B. I had made an arrest. It was said that a resident of the town of Thurman had been taken into custody. This the F. B. I. denies. Nobody has been arrested in connection ~~with~~ with the parachute story.

The region concerned is a wild mountain area in the Adirondacks twenty miles north of Glen^S Falls. Several persons say they saw an ~~unidentified~~ unidentified seaplane and also the descent of a parachute. Some declare that a man dangled beneath the chute, others think they saw a large bundle. A search is going on, but thus far there is no confirmation of this story.

LABOR

The war labor board has just taken final and definite action about wages for workers in what is called -- "little steel". The labor board announcement follows what we have heard before. The hundred and fifty seven thousand little steel workers get a wage increase of forty-four cents a day. The union wanted an ~~agreement~~ increase of a dollar a day but forty-four ~~xx~~ cents is the figure granted.

at The same time the labor board announces the establishment of a national wage stabilization policy. The purpose is to maintain the purchasing power of the wages of workers.

BRIDE

The old sad story of the bride left waiting at the church is a melancholy classic. But I've never heard of the faithless lover being arrested, tried and convicted for it. That is, not until today. At Hackensack, New Jersey, Leon Workman received a six month jail sentence -- which was suspended. The bride was left waiting at the church - - but apparently that's not against the law. There was another angle.

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Miss Eileen Bowley testified that the wedding was set for June the twenty-eighth. It was to have been quite an affair and two hundred persons were at the church in the Bronx. The bride waited and waited, but all she received was a telegram saying -- "Leon was hurt trying to get gas."

truth
There was some ~~truth~~ in the part about getting the gas.

58h
At the trial the bridegroom-to-have-been testified that he was on his way to the wedding, driving his car. He stopped at a filling station for gas, and while waiting in line the thought suddenly came to him - - that he didn't want to get married, although it was a rather late date for ^{such a} ~~the~~ prudent reflection.

The thing that got him in trouble with the law was s suitcase. In the preparation for the wedding he borrowed a suitcase from the mother of his bride-~~who-was-not-to-be~~, and he failed to return it. So, for swiping the suitcase, he was prosecuted by the mother of the ~~bride-left-waiting-at-the-church~~.

And now s-l-u-t-m.