

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, JULY 23, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight this broadcast is originating from the home of my sponsors, Philadelphia. For several generations the heads of Sun Oil have played a particularly prominent part in the life of the city of William Penn; and more so than ever during these days of the Second World War.

At this moment I am standing in front of a crowd of nearly a thousand army officers, soldiers and civilian war workers, at a great Ordnance banquet. We are celebrating the opening of an Ordnance exposition. Sitting beside me are Major Generals, Governors, Congressmen -- in fact one of the Major Generals is a Governor, Major General Edward Martin, Governor of Pennsylvania.

On the floor below us -- the entire eighth floor of Wanamaker's vast store has been taken over for this exposition -- on that floor are samples of the weapons and other munitions of war that our boys are using tonight in the invasion of Sicily. So before we say anything more about the Ordnance exposition, let's see how the boys are making out over in Sicily.

But no, we'd better start with Russia. The news from there is the number one news of the day.

Russia.

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Tonight the Russians would seem to be approaching a major victory at Orel. Soviet troops, after battling savagely for days in their effort to wipe out the Orel salient, made new advances of from two to four miles- and each mile is a critical distance in closing the jaws of the trap that they have flung around the German stronghold. On three sides, Red Army forces are drawing nearer to Orel, and the latest news states that they have smashed through outlying fortifications and have reached the outskirts of the city. The Germans now have only two narrow highways for escape to the Southwest- if they should elect to try a getaway. The Nazi troops are fighting with desperate ferocity holding on to the bitter end. It may be that Orel will turn into another Stalingrad.

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15-Russia-2.

The desperate state of affairs for them is most vividly illustrated by today's bulletin, not from Moscow, but from the German side. " The enemy is attacking with terrible numerical superiority at Orel, " says the Nazi dispatch. " The German troops are partly exhausted from past attacks, but nevertheless they are holding out. Everything in this battle ", says the dispatch, " is unprecedented:-- the number of tanks, planes, shock troops and special weapons. "

A Berlin military spokesman has this to say: "The Russians seem determined at all costs to break through and achieve decisive results. "

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And the official Nazi news agency analyzes the situation in words that have a momentous ring :- " the entire Russian super-offensive " says the news agency " Shows that the Russians want to enforce a decision in the war, ^{a decision} ~~this~~ this summer. "

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In addition to the critical assault at Urel, the Soviets have launched a powerful attack at Belgorod-the southern end of the line of the offensive the Nazis launched weeks ago. Moscow states the Soviet troops have already wiped out all the gains that the Germans made in their own attacks, and are driving for Belgorod.

And Moscow tells of an assault further south which had been previously announced by the Germans - a heavy Red Army drive in the Caucasus , the Kuban area.

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4 GERMAN COMMITTEE

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Plenty of attention is being directed at the New Free Germany Committee which has been formed in Moscow, and today President Roosevelt was asked about it. He replied that he had heard nothing official about the Moscow Committee which has issued a manifesto calling upon the German people to overthrow Hitler and the Nazis and make peace on terms that will guarantee Germany's sovereignty and future well being.

~~The Free Germany Committee, which is composed of anti-Nazi exiles and prisoners of war in Russia, issued a program which would grant Germany equal rights with all other nations, and would make Germany what the Committee calls "A strong Democratic power."~~ This program is not officially sponsored by the Soviet Government, but it is at least tolerated- as witness ~~the~~ the fact that Moscow permitted the committee to be formed and the manifesto to be issued. It is likewise to be noticed that ^{one of} the signers of the manifestos is Wilhelm Pieck, who was a Number One Communist

leader in pre-Hitler Germany and the head of the Soviet
Committee until this was ~~abolished~~ [§]abolished recently. Hence it is
important to judge whether the guarantees offered to the
Germans in the manifesto are entirely in accord with the
Roosevelt-Churchill doctrine of " unconditional surrender."

~~London today points to a more immediate, practical
angle - the effect that the Free Germany Committee may have
on German morale. London surmises that the manifesto may do
a great deal to increase secret communist activity in Naziland.~~

Hitler utterly suppressed the Red Groups, but it still remains
a fact that, at the time of the rise of the Nazis, the
Communists were the second strongest party in Germany. And
it is believed that ^{some} ~~some~~ remnant of the communist organization
has been maintained all ^{the} ~~the~~ time. London reasons that the Moscow
Committee and manifesto are likely to redouble this agitation
by whatever communist underground there may be in Naziland.

ROME

President Roosevelt today stated his attitude toward the bombing of Rome. He revealed that the leaders of the United Nations tried repeatedly to have Rome declared an open city, thereby making it immune to bombing. Appeals were made to the Axis to demilitarize Rome and abolish all activity for war in the historic town on the banks of the Tiber. The Nazis and Fascists, however, refused. Instead, they increased military activity under the shelter of the World prestige of the Eternal City-Rome being of the greatest importance as the center of the Italian Railroad system, the bottleneck through which military supplies flow from the industrial areas of North Italy to the South- to Sicily, for example.

After all our efforts to have Rome declared an open city had failed, military necessity made it imperative to use bombs-- for the primary purpose of saving American and British lives. So stated the President, and he emphasized the saving of lives.

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He added that he still has hopes that Rome can be demilitarized.

The city is venerated all over the world, and should be spared, said he. But it is up to the Italians and their Nazi allies to do their share. The President gave the reminder that Axis high explosives destroyed four thousand churches, hospitals and libraries in Britain during the time of the ruthless bombing. But he said he does not believe in retaliation, does not hold that wanton destruction should be repaid by wanton destruction, an eye for an eye.

The President ~~observed~~ had no comment to make on the statement by the Pope, lamenting the bombing of Rome. He said the United States government had received no communication whatever from the Vatican, ~~the Papal denunciation having been~~ ^{made} ~~made in a letter from the Pope to the Vicar General of Rome.~~

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SICILY

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Tonight the Battle of Sicily has definitely reached its final phase- though how long that final phase will last no one can guess. The Americans have swept across the island to the north coast, and organized resistance is at an end so far as central and western Sicily is concerned. The theatre of war is now swiftly reduced to the eastern tip, the sector of Mount Stna , and Messina- where the Germans are putting up the fiercest kind of battle.

The American sweep that has engulfed most of the island was signalized today by the capture of Palermo, the capital of Sicily and one of the historic cities of this earth. Palermo , the story of which begins at the dawn of recorded events - when the Carthaginians fought for the mastery of Sicily, Palermo- which reached an apex of glory in the Middle Ages as the capital city of the Norman Kings of Sicily! Then the place was in the vanguard of civilization, as the Metropolis of that Norman Kingdom, which founded by men of

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the Scandinavian race, included the finest flowers of Mohammedan culture ~~Islam~~ and Mediterranean Christianity. Today Palermo is the sixth largest Italian city, about the size of Cincinnati and has one of the finest harbors.

There was next to no resistance, the Italian garrison just giving up, and apparently the city ~~and~~ its harbor are undamaged.

Everywhere the American advance was a record-breaking speed, as fast as the mechanized equipment could go. Only a few important places in western Sicily still remain to be occupied, and these - like Marsala, are reported to have been evacuated.

All of which makes it appear that the Axis command, abandoning the hope of holding the bulk of the island, probably will withdraw everything possible to the eastern tip - the scene of the last phase. There crack German troops are ~~fighting~~ ^{battling} with desperate tenacity against British and Canadians who have been fighting in front of Catania for days.

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they are impeded by huge mine fields- not to mention the fight the Nazi panzers are making. The word today was that the battle had died down because of the sheer exhaustion on both sides. But it will be resumed , with the victorious American forces hurrying with all their speed and strength to complete the Sicilian victory. It is more and more clear that the Nazis plan ^{to try and} to hold the line that General Eisenhower described on Tuesday, the tip of the peninsula- along a front based on Mt. Etna and the rugged mountains that cluster in the vicinity of that famous volcano. There may be a short pause for the mustering of Allied forces, but then the storm of battle will break anew.

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L.T. : I understand that Major General Gladeon Barnes, Chief of the Ordnance Technical Division in Washington, is called the Papa of the Block Buster. How does that happen General Barnes? Did you invent the block-buster bomb with which our airmen are doing such a devastating job both in Europe and the Pacific?

GENERAL BARNES:

L.T. : Right after this broadcast, and after they dine ^{with} Governor Martin of Pennsylvania, General Barnes and a number of others are going to address this great crowd, here in Philadelphia, and tomorrow the public will have an opportunity to come and see block buster bombs, ^{the} ~~these~~ weird boats used in amphibious warfare, anti-aircraft guns, and everything under the sun now being used by Uncle Sam's fighting men.

To me one of the most impressive things about the fair is the display of captured Japanese, German and Italian weapons, ^{the} guns, bombs and so on. If you have a son or a

ORDNANCE EXPOSITION

The man responsible for this the largest Ordnance Exposition ever held anywhere, is Colonel D. N. Hauseman, Chief of the Philadelphia Ordnance District. Colonel Hauseman how did you happen to get the idea?

COLONEL H. Together with some of my colleagues we figured that since we are running a Two Billion Dollar Ordnance business here in this Philadelphia district, we figured that we ought to let the taxpayers see what they are getting for their money. And by the way, Mr. Thomas, we call this Exposition: "Ordnance For Victory". And the man who has ~~made~~ carried most of the load, who has made this fair worth going hundreds of miles to see is Hugh L. Adams.

L.T.Ⓢ It is all so impressive and so vast that I imagine it must have taken months and months for Hugh Adams and the rest of you to organize the ~~exposition~~ exposition.

COLONEL HAUSEMAN: I admit it does look like that. But, it was all done in exactly one month. And not only is it the largest exposition of its kind, but it is different from any other in that eighty-eight Pennsylvania firms ^{now} ~~that are~~ making guns and shells and parachutes and tanks, and everything that our fellows are using in their assault on Hitler's fortress -- eighty-eight firms have displays here.

husband fightingⁱⁿ this war you will want to see the contrast
between the equipment the enemy is using^{and} the the equipment
we are supplying to our lads. And when you^{do} ~~see~~ you will
be immensely ~~in~~ pleased.

~~Lowell Thomas Fritz.~~

PARATROOPER

Stories from Sicily usually stress the friendliness of the Italians toward the Americans. Here, however, is something different. It's about an American paratrooper who was treated with brutality and horror. He has, by the way, an exceedingly Italian name - - Michael Scambulluri, of Albany.

Scambulluri was one of a parachute force that floated down in Sicily, and bad luck carried him to a place that swarmed with Italian soldiers and civilians. The civilians got him, stripped him of everything he had, and then turned him over to the soldiers. He was interviewed by a Captain, and they had no difficulty in talking to each other-- for Private Scambulluri of the United States Army knew Italian. That, however, produced no friendly feeling. " when I spoke to the Captain in Italian, " says the paratrooper " and asked him the name of the town, he became furious-- and accused me of being a spy."

The paratrooper was placed against a wall for execution, and the captain himself did the shooting--with a revolver.

Scambulluri fell-- he was hit by six bullets in all . None of the wounds were fatal, however , and a soldier threw two hand grenades at him. These failed to explode

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It was an atrocity, but mighty inefficient-- and , after lying prone for a while, the wounded Scambulluri managed to escape. He wandered around, and fell into the hands of some more Italians--civilians . This time the usual stories about Sicily held good. The people treated him kindly, and eventually took him to a party of advancing Americans.

Private Scambulluri had had a miraculous escape , but that wasn't all. He was taken to a hospital ship, and was just about to go aboard when the vessel was bombed at the dock, and sunk. Another narrow escape for Scambulluri.

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And now Hugh.