

L. S. Sunoco. - Thurs. July 9, 1942

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RUSSIA

In Russia, Moscow reports that German columns have broken the Red Army defenses along the front of the River Don. Two thousand tanks led the Nazi attack, while planes bombed incessantly and artillery laid down tremendous barrages -- supporting the mechanized advance.

Moscow states the Germans fought their way across the Don, but were, in the words of Moscow -- "Partly wiped out." Which would seem to mean that some of the Nazi Units successfully ~~re~~ established themselves across the river.

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Moscow again emphasized the gravity of the ~~xxxxxx~~ situation -- with the Red Army in a dangerous position in the Don sector. The Russian^s describe the conflict in these words: "Probably the most gigantic tank and air battle in history."

The United Press wires late this afternoon flashed a story written by two correspondents of the Soviet Army newspaper -- Red Star; Poliakov and Krivitsky, by name. They give a graphic account of the clash in the battle of tanks. They tell how at one place the Russians regained a good deal of ground by laying an ambush. "The Red Army," they write, admitted the enemy armored forces to

the closest possible distance -- then opened frontal and flank fire from tanks and artillery implacements." "During the momentary confusion in the German Ranks, " the two Russian newspapermen go on, "Soviet Tanks emerged from the woods en masse. The tanks blazed away at each other at point blank range," they say. "This battle lasted for a whole night in the same spot -- until the Russians began driving the enemy back." ^H And so the stupendous struggle continues along the river Don -- with the issue in the balance.

EGYPT

There is nothing much that is new from ~~Exp~~ Egypt.

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Rommel is strictly on the defensive. The British are constantly attacking - harrasing the enemy. Apparently they are not trying to launch a decisive assault. The state of affairs on that desert battlefield at the very gates of Alexandria is indicated by the statement that right now tanks have largely given place to artillery. The rushing monsters of the offensive no longer hold the center of the stage - guns are playing the star part.

United Press Correspondent Richard MacMillan cables that Rommel has dug in with his cannon on every available piece of high ground. "The use of anti-tank guns as a screen for major operations is a new development in this campaign," he writes. "The enemy has mustered what tanks he can ~~be~~ to give a show of battle on various occasions - in an effort to lure the British tanks forward to points where the Axis tanks disappear suddenly and the enemy artillery opens up".

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"Tanks" Macmillan concludes", are really playing a secondary ~~na~~ role in the battle at present and the gun is the dominant weapon."

We have a late dispatch from Vichy stating that the Axis is rushing troops and supplies across the Mediterranean day and night to reinforce Rommel for a new blow.

In China American war planes score a victory today, when Jap sky raiders tried to attack a United States ~~base in China~~ base in China. The ~~Kaps~~ Kaps apparently tried to imitate ~~imitate~~ the tricks of the old American volunteer Group- the flying Tigers. They ~~xi~~ tried to lure the American fighter planes up high while bombers smashed at the air base at low altitude. But our boys were wise to the trick. Many of them are flying Tigeb veterans. And they beat off the enemy in fine style -- shooting down from five to eight of the Japs.

At the same time the Chinese were scoring ~~xxvixsty~~
a victory -- on the ground. They recaptured the City of
Nanching in the Province of Kiangsi. The Japs took that
place some while ago.. But now the Chinese have rallied
and have started to counter offensive. They struck at
Nanching and seized the city. And some thirty ~~mm~~ thousand
Japs appear to be trapped.

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JUGOSLAV GUERRILLAS

The guerrilla warfare in Jugoslavia has gone so far, that Italy has been invaded. Yugoslav guerrilla bands have thrust into Italian territory, and have given battle to Fascist troops there. This bit of war news comes from Italy itself. So states our own ~~office~~ office of War Information -- telling how badly armed bands of guerrillas have penetrated Italian defences as far as the city of Trieste. Using hit and run tactics, they have attacked communications, fought with the police, and exchanged shots with Army troops.

An Italian newspaper states that the Yugoslav guerrillas are able to operate so successfully because they are supported by the people. The following graphic words are used:- "A circle of protective loyalty surrounds the guerrillas."

SABOTEURS

The news about the trial of the saboteurs in Washington is merely the fact that there is some news -- official news, though not much of it. The special military commission, trying the Nazi agents, issued a statement this afternoon--- and this is regarded as a victory for Elmer Davis, Chairman of the Office of War Information.

The first plan of the Military Commission was to issue no statements at all. Naturally, the disclosures that would be made in the trial of the saboteurs were likely to include bits of military information. So wartime secrecy was necessary. The idea of the Military Commission was to make the secrecy one hundred per cent -- to reveal ^tnothing of what transpired on the fifth floor of the Department of Justice building in Washington.

This, however, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ caused a protest -- from those who thought the public should be appraised in some degree of the progress of the trial of the saboteurs. Keep all points of military information hidden, but let some news be published of the evidence. The public interest in the proceedings is intense -- after that highly dramatic capture of the ~~11~~ eight enemy agents who landed in Florida and on Long Island with plans and equipment for Nazi violence and destruction in this country. They face the

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firing squad.

Elmer Davis, the new war-time information chief, thought that some statements and stories should be given out, and in this he conflicted with the secrecy ideas of the military commission. There has been something of a tug-of-war in Washington, between Elmer Davis on one side, and army authorities on the other. Today Davis conferred with President Roosevelt and also with Secretary of War Stimson. And this now is followed by the issuing of the first formal statement concerning the trial.

Given out in the name of Major General McCoy, Chairman of the Military Commission, the statement in brief, three paragraphs, and it is cautiously worded. It tells of the trial session held yesterday and merely declares that the saboteurs were brought before the military court, and that the first session concerned matters of procedure -- a discussion of the forms under which the trial shall be conducted. The statement is accompanied by the promise that another statement

will be issued -- a report on what happened today. And this apparently indicates that statements will be issued every day.

At the session today, members of the F.B.I. were on hand. Obviously J.P. Edgar Hoover's men were called to testify about the capture of the saboteurs and tell what these had to say.

Here's today statement just in, on today's session:- it tells us that seven witnesses have appeared for the prosecution, but does not say who they were.

ESPIONAGE

The F.B.I. today announced the arrest of a Nazi spy who tried to get into this country aboard the refugee ship Drottningholm. When that vessel arrived, a week or so ago its passengers were held for prolonged questioning and examination. There was considerable wonder about it - why all the delay in ~~instantly~~ letting passengers ashore?

This now is at least partly explained by the arrest of Herbert Karl Friedrich Bahr, a German-born naturalized American.

J. Edgar Hoover's men quote this espionage agent as stating that he ~~was~~ was a brilliant student in American schools, and went back to ~~Germany~~ Germany as an American Exchange Student. There he enlisted in the Nazi Gestapo - the plan being for him to return to the United States and transmit secret military information back to the Nazis.

Today's F.B.I. statement relates that Bahr, while being taught the ~~the~~ Gestapo art of espionage, was given an account of the history of a Jewish family - a family that could no longer be traced. This he memorized, to explain his

presence in this country and his activities here. He was to pass himself off as being Jewish, obviously.

Today Bahr was held for arr^aignment before the United States Commissioner at Newark, New Jersey. He will be tried on war-time charges of violating the United States Espionage Laws.

WAR

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Congressman May^s, Chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, states that he has no secret military information to back up his opinion that the war will be over in either nineteen forty-two or nineteen forty-three. He reasons it this way:- "We might win the war this year -- and, if we're going to do anything, certainly we'll do it next year," says he. The implication being -- when we do it, we'll win it. "The ~~full~~ strength of our forces has only been felt in one or two battles," he points out.

Congressman May^s reverts to the statement attributed to him -- that, because the war will be over this year or next, there is no need of lowering the draft age. He declared he was misquoted. What he really said was that there was no ~~n~~ need to draft youths of from eighteen to twenty because two million of them will soon become of draft age anyway -- and will go into the army.

PILOTS

President Roosevelt today started something new in the Army Air Corps. "Flight officer!" -- ~~That's~~ that's what's new. This is a military rating which the Army heretofore has never had. A 'flight officer' is a war pilot who does not have the rank of a commissioned officer.

Hitherto, in the United States Air Corps, all the piloting has been done by officers -- from Lieutenant upward. In other armies, however, non-commissioned officers fly planes in battle. So now we are adopting that system. An American flight officer will have the rating of a warrant officer, junior grade, non-~~commissioned~~ commissioned -- but a war flier.

It is explained that many men qualified to act as war pilots may be lacking in the education and other qualifications required ~~of~~ ~~a~~ commissioned officers. So, by taking them in as non-commissioned flight officers, we will double and redouble the number of army aviators.

This item from Washington comes along with aviation tidings from Australia -- news with a thrill. A number of decorations were awarded today by Lieutenant General Brett, Air Commander for

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the United Nations in the southwest Pacific. One of the medals, a distinguished ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ service cross, was pinned on Lieutenant A. T. House of Long Beach, California. So what did he do?

There was a wild melee aloft between American fighter planes and a bunch of Jap zeros. Lieutenant House tangled with an enemy plane and shot it down. Then he saw that his squadron commander was in trouble. A zero fighter had got ^{ten} on the tail of the squadron commander's plane, and it looked as if the American was a goner.

Jammed gun and all, Lieutenant House went to the rescue -- and brought down the zero. No, he did not shoot it down. How could he, when his gun was jammed? He went right into the Jap for a plane-to- plane encounter, and with a daring maneuver ripped his wing tip into the cockpit of the zero. He used his wing tip as a knife, and ~~alashed~~ the enemy apart. The zero plunged to earth. Four feet of the wing of the American plane was ripped off. But Lieutenant House was able to fly down and make a safe landing -- and that took ^{plenty of} ~~all the~~ skill ~~in the world at the controls.~~

CHILD

At Pittston, Pennsylvania, today Mayor John K. Reilly said that something would be done about the problem of the sinking ground. Pittston is a mining town and stands ~~above~~ above subterranean coal shafts. Sometimes, a mine will cave in, and that causes the earth above it to drop. This phenomenon of the sinking ground is not unusual in coal mine areas.

The reason why Pittston is incited to do something about it, is ~~explained~~ explained in the story of James McCabe and his two-year old boy. Tonight the little lad is okay, except for cuts and bruises and fright -- after having been hurled through the air. His father threw him -- in an episode of terror and parental instinct.

James McCabe is a coal miner, so he realized what was happening as he walked along near his home, leading his two year old son by the hand. Suddenly the ground under his feet gave way. He knew what it was -- a mine cave-in. He was sinking into a deepening hole. His first thought was for the safety of the child -- get the boy out of the hole, away from it, as far away as possible. So he threw the lad -- "As far as I could", says James

McCabe.

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He ~~was~~ a powerful arm, that husky coal miner of twenty seven -- and he never threw anything harder. The child went sailing through the air, and landed with a bang -- clear of the sinking pit.

The father went on sinking, ~~and~~ down deep before help arrived -- attracted by his shouts. It took the fire department of Pittston an hour to get him out with ropes.