

L.T. - Sumner - Wed - July 15, 1942

RUSSIA

The news from the Russian Front is uncertain, and alarming.

All through the day, we have been hearing from Moscow that the Red Army had checked the Nazis at Voronezh, thrown them back across the river in some places. But the Soviet spokesman admitted that the Germans were continuing to throw myriads of fresh men and hundreds of tanks into the attack, advancing over mountains of corpses. A tremendous battle still ~~was going~~ on in the suburbs of Voronezh.

AP
But ^{from} early this afternoon a broadcast ~~in~~ London reported that Soviet Marshal Timoshenko was retreating, withdrawing to new positions on the lower reaches of the Don River.

The Nazis claim to have occupied Povorino, a ^{hundred} ~~hundred~~ and fifty miles east of Voronezh, and only two hundred miles ~~northwest~~ northwest of Stalingrad. They also claim to have taken Voroshilovgrad only a hundred miles north of Rostov.

Dispatches from Moscow, although they claimed that the Germans were checked in Voronezh, admitted that a supreme menace was hanging over the city. Only by unprecedented effort could ~~the~~ ^{the} Red Army push the Germans back across the Don. The later news that Timoshenko had withdrawn to new positions has a sound ominous for the defenders of Voronezh.

EGYPT

Yesterday was a fairly quiet day in the Egyptian desert, or seemed to be. But, when everything appeared to be at its calmest Rommel struck. He threw his heaviest tank columns and artillery against the Hill of Jesus, the vantage point that the British are holding west and north of El Alamein. The hill which Auchinleck and his Imperials took away from Rommel's Afrika Korps last week.

For last night's attack Rommel obviously had reinforcements. He threw new shock troops of his tank corps into the vanguard. They were supported by Italian infantry. When the fight was all over it was evident that the Axis columns had gained nothing.

In last night's attack the German tanks were split into two sections. The main column tried to penetrate the southwest corner of the El Almein defenses. But they couldn't do any better ~~than~~ than two to three hundred yards from the outer fringe of barb wire.

Rommel had his artillery, eighty-eight millimeter and one hundred and five millimeter guns firing heavily, trying to screen a party ~~of~~ of German engineers that was trying to slip through the barb wire and pick up the British mines. The purpose of that, of course, was to clear the ground for the Axis tanks. But the British didn't give an inch. Auchinleck's guns threw back round for round and finally the Germans and Italians got away, behind a smoke ^{screen.} ~~screen.~~

MacMillan reports that it was the most spectacular night battle he had seen even in the intense desert fighting of this campaign. German tanks and armored vehicles were silhouetted against the glare of the exploding shells from the ~~Axis~~ British guns. Meanwhile the Air Force was dropping flares that hung in the sky to mark the targets for the artilleryman.

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The report from Cairo is that on the southern sector the British are still on the aggressive and ^{that} the front there is fluid.

JEWS

A Nazi news agency today made ~~public~~ public a list of places from which all Jewish people are to be barred in occupied France. This comprises restaurants and cafes, theatres including cinemas, concert halls, variety shows, dance halls, libraries, exhibitions and all historic buildings. That would keep them out of practically every public building.

They are also forbidden to enter markets, public parks, libraries, race courses, all sports grounds, camping grounds, public baths and telephone booths. The Nazi news agency adds the preposterous assertion that these new regulations are in accordance with the wishes of the French people. One thing the story does not say and that is, where the Jewish French^r are supposed to go and what are they supposed to do there? It is difficult to see how, if such regulations are enforced, ^{how they} ~~then~~ can exist except in caves.

PRICES

When Leon Henderson was made Price Administrator, he said in private that he expected to become the most hated man in America. ^{and}

Today brickbats were thrown at his head from a new source, Labor Union leaders. Philip Murray, President of the Congress of Industrial organizations, accused Henderson of having brought influence to bear on the War Labor Board. That is, over the demand of the workers in the so-called little steel corporations for ~~tax~~ a dollar-a-day raise. As a matter of actual fact, the war labor board has not yet made public its decision in that little steel controversy. It looks as though ^{Phil} Murray expects the decision to be unfavorable because he ~~uttered~~ at ^{he launched} Pittsburgh the charge that the board had abdicated its wage making power, as Murray puts it, because of the interference of Henderson.

Murray also is angry with Henderson because of a controversy ~~that is~~ raging out on the West Coast. The ~~Government~~ brought about a conference at Los Angeles, a conference to stabilize wages for the aircraft industry. Representatives of management have said early and often that any further wage increases for their employees would break the administration's inflation control program wide open.

Which infuriated Murray. He declared that this attitude at the West Coast conference was being brought about entirely by the Government's representative, Dick Gilbert, whom Murray describes as Henderson's right hand man. Murray insists that labor has the right to go after wage increases, inflation or no inflation.

In Washington, Henderson himself told a committee of Congressmen that the program to avert inflation is in real danger of break down.

President Roosevelt has told the congressional leaders that the inflation threat is at such an ominous tide, that if Congress waits until after a recess of six weeks, it might be too late. One thing seems to be definite. When the President asks the lawmakers for measures to stop inflation, wage control will be one of them.

TAXES

Tomorrow the House of Representatives will start debating the latest war tax bill. The Committee has finished its work and sent the measure to the floor of the House for consideration. It is designed to collect six billions, one hundred and forty-four millions from the taxpayers next year.

The debate will not be long, just three days at the outside. No amendments will be considered except such as may be offered by the members of the Ways and Means Committee themselves. The bill does not include a sales tax.

The Treasury had asked the Ways and Means Committee for a bill which would collect ~~xxx~~ at least eight billion, seven hundred ~~xx~~ millions. The Committee could find no means of getting that much money without a sales tax. So the Treasury replied that it would rather have a bill short by two and a half billions than a war sales tax to make up the difference.

WAR CONTRACTS

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A firm of sales engineers in Washington has collected more than six hundred thousand dollars in six months helping certain companies to obtain Government contracts. That statement was made before the naval affairs committee of the House today. As a result of the testimony, Congressman Vinson of Georgia, the Committee's Chairman, evidently became wroth. Members of that firm, he said, have been earning one thousand and fifty ⁵dollars_^ a day sitting here in Washington while boys were dying in Bataan, Corregidor and on the ~~Lie~~ Lexington. Chairman Vinson spoke angrily to members of the firm and told them he was going to do his utmost to break up this practice. And he used these words: "It looks to me as if you had contacts in the department," ~~and~~ and he added, "It looks even as if you had an inside track and could get specifications changed for your clients."

Two members of the firm were formerly engineers employed in the Navy Department. The head of the firm is a former major in Uncle Sam's Army.

RUBBER

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There have been rumors that all the information we have been given about rubber have been less than candid. Probably there are few people whose friends have not told them that there really is no shortage of that vital material but that we are being told that there ~~really~~ is ~~no~~ for our own good. Those rumors were ~~publicly~~ publicly contradicted in Washington today. The contradiction came from A.L. Viles, President of the rubber manufacturers association. He declared that the rubber industry agreed^s with Donald Nelson, Head of the War Production Board, agrees that the rubber problem is urgent. And he added that the tire manufacturing industry has long realized the critical shortage of rubber necessary to keep essential transportation moving. The rubber industry is at this moment preparing a plan which it will offer to the Government to help solve the problem of its needs.

Another Congressional Committee jumped into the picture today, the House Committee on mines and mining. Its chairman, Congressman Randolph of West ^{Virginia,} ~~Virginia,~~ called a meeting in the hope of clarifying the confused situation. One of the witnesses was W. S. Farish, President of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, ^{who} ~~he~~

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said
~~He declared~~ that it would be possible to make two hundred thousand tons of substitute rubber over and above the needs of the army, the Navy and all other Government agencies by the end of nineteen forty-three. Farish declared that this ought to be enough to provide thirty-four million more automobile tires than Donald Nelson ~~had~~ had estimated.

Meanwhile, Senator Gillette of Iowa says that his Committee on Agriculture is in favor of a bill to take the synthetic program *out* of Nelson's hands. It is this bill that *Donald* Nelson is doing his utmost to stave off.

SABOTEURS

Here is a story that is a story. It is the first hand narrative of the young coast guardsman on Long Island who surprised four of those ~~8~~ eight Nazi saboteurs now on trial in Washington. The story does not come from the commission which is trying ~~these~~² eight. It comes from the Office of War Information.

Coast Guardsman John C. Cullen, twenty-one years old, was patrolling the coast near Amagansett. It was a thick foggy night and Cullen had gone only three hundred yards from the station when he ~~met~~^{saw} three men, strangers. Two of them, in bathing suits, were in water up to their knees; the third in ^vcivilian clothes was on the shore. He challenged them; they did not answer but walked towards him. He reached for his flashlight and the foremost man thought he was reaching for his gun. Then the Nazi said:- "Wait a minute, are you a coast guard?"

"Yes," replied Cullen, "Who are you?"

The man replied they were a couple of stranded fishermen from Southampton.

The fog was closing in, visibility growing worse.

Cullen invited the men to come up to the coast guard station and wait for daybreak. The spokesman for the three strangers then said:- "Wait a minute, you don't know what is going on." Then he asked, "How old are you? Have you a father and a mother?" And he explained that he wouldn't want to have to kill Cullen.

At that moment ~~the~~ another of the strangers appeared through the fog dragging a bag and said something in German. Cullen asked, "What have you in the bag? Clams?"

The spokesman replied, "Yes, clams."

As Cullen knew, there were no clams within miles of Amagansett. But the Coast guardsman was pretending to be simple-minded in order to fool the strangers. Evidently he succeeded, for the spokesman said to him, "Why don't you forget the whole thing, here's a hundred dollars."

Cullen refused, whereupon the man said, "Then take three hundred dollars." Cullen pretended to fall for that, pocketed the money, and the German ~~stared~~ stared at him hard~~ly~~ and asked several times, "Would you recognize me if you saw me again?"

Cullen finally reassured them that he would not and they allowed

him to leave. Meanwhile a fourth stranger had appeared out of the fog.

Then Coast Guardsman Cullen walked away and as soon as he was out of sight, ^{he} ran through the fog to the Coast Guard station. ^{and}

^{there} He reported to Carl Jenette, the officer in charge. Jenette

telephoned the alarm higher up, then he armed himself, Cullen and three other guardsmen with rifles and proceeded to comb the shoreline.

The strangers had disappeared.

A few minutes later a superior coast guard officer arrived and saw a long thin object about seventy feet long, some hundred and fifty feet off shore. One of the men heard a sound like that of a powerful deisel engine. The chief man of the coast guard deployed his men behind the dunes of Amangansett. But the noise died away ~~as~~ as the fog swallowed up the ship.

The alarm spread, and before morning soldiers were joining in the search of every square foot of those Long Island dunes. While the search was going on, engines were again heard chugging off shore. The boat went in an easterly direction.

As soon as there was a breathing time, young coast
guardsman Cullen insisted on getting that bribe money in the hands of
a superior officer. When they came to count it, they found that
the Nazi had short-changed Cullen, given him only two-hundred and
sixty dollars instead of the three hundred that he had promised.

As soon as day broke the search was continued. Cigarettes
of German make were found, also a spot where the sand appeared to
have been ~~disturbed~~. The coast guardsmen dug and brought up four
~~wooden~~ wooden cases. There were tin cases inside. Then they
ripped them open, ^{and inside} they found material for incendiary bombs.

All the evidence ~~found~~ was turned over to agents of the
Federal Bureau of Investigation, ^{who} ~~They~~ eventually captured not only
the men who had landed on Long Island but also the four others who
~~had~~ had been put ashore in Florida. The F. B. I. story
of the capture is yet to be told.

NAVY

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Secretary Knox announced today that the Navy is taking over more and more small boats for anti-submarine patrol in the Atlantic. Most of them are fishing vessels. The crews are being trained as fast as possible in Florida. However, the Navy is not going to take so many fishing boats^s as to endanger the country's fishing industry. All sorts of small cruisers are being taken over. *And* Those that have been in the Navy service already, have contributed a good deal to cutting down the number of merchant vessels torpedoed.

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And now Hugh how about some naval news from you?