

RUSSIA

C. J. - Sengco. Tues., Aug. 4, 1942.

First I want to thank Ambassador Hugh Gibson for going on the air for me last night.

In Russia the Soviets report a striking

success -- also a series of developments that are not at all so favorable. These two elements of success and failure have a common element.

Taking the bad Soviet news first, we find it in the area south of the River Don. There the Red army retreat continues. The Germans claim that they have captured the city of Voroshilovsk, and have cut another vital railroad line. The Nazis insist that ~~their~~ ^{their} forces have reached the Kuban River -- which is just north of an important oil field area. If this be true, they are nearing the great range of the mountains of the Caucasus. Moscow, in giving place names that concern the Russian retreat, does not specifically ~~place~~ ^{locate} the Germans so far south -- not nearly so far. But tonight's United Press dispatch from Moscow indicates that the enemy is driving

perilously near the area of the mountains. ^H And an

explanation is given. Marshal Timoshenko is faced

with the ~~worst~~ worst of geographical handicaps. His

lines of railroad communication have been repeatedly

cut by the German advance. The Nazis, on the other

hand, have the advantage of the network of railroads

to their rear. They are able to shift forces with

ease, while the Soviets can do little if any shifting.

Because of the cutting of their railroad lines, they

are unable to reinforce their armies in the Caucasus,

and Timoshenko has to depend altogether on his own

units, worn out, and running short of material. The

~~big~~ terrain is entirely suited to the Nazi Panzers,

the flat plains ~~up~~ north of the Caucasus Mountains.

This element of railroad communications is part

of a story of Soviet ^{success; - that} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~administered~~ a sharp

defeat to the Nazis in the sector of Stalingrad.

44

LONDON

There was a Parliamentary sensation in London today, ^{when} ~~at~~ the House of Commons was suddenly called into secret session. ~~The purpose of this was so that they could hear a confidential statement by ~~Lord~~ Deputy Prime Minister Clement Attlee.~~

~~The House was in routine session when~~ Lord Privy Seal Sir Stafford Cripps spoke the traditional formula. He used the words: "Strangers are present." That's the expression always used in calling a secret session. The strangers were ushered out, and were kept out -- for about ten minutes. The secret session was that brief, with Deputy Prime Minister Clement Attlee, making a terse declaration to the Commons.

We don't know what it was all about, but the inevitable rumor is -- Second Front. On the other hand, there is an Axis version which refers to rumors that Prime Minister Churchill is in Moscow. ~~He was~~ ~~certainly not at the Parliamentary session today.~~

GANDHI

48

In India, the British have seized a document which they hope will help to check Mahatma Gandhi. This document is a proposal that Gandhi placed before the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress. In it, the Mahatma stated that, upon winning independence, India probably would enter into negotiations with Japan. This resolution, advanced by Gandhi, was opposed by the other Nationalist leader, Pandit Nehru. He is said to have argued that the Gandhi formula would make the world think that the Nationalist leader ^{s were} ~~was~~ lining up with the enemy. So Nehru proposed a substitute, which committed India to the cause of the United Nations - in the event of Indian independence. The Nehru substitute was adopted - and the Gandhi idea of negotiating with the Japs was put on the shelf.

88

Now the British have acquired possession of it, after a raid on Nationalist headquarters. They are publishing it and expect the document will influence the attitude of the ^{Russell} ^{Indian} meeting of the Nationalist Party which

meets on Friday. That party meeting is expected to put
a prompt okay on the Gandhi call for non-violent

resistance to the British. But the revelation of his

intention to deal with the Japs may change the picture -

-- *so*

the British hope.

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ARMY ABROAD

49

In the British Isles hereafter the American Military authorities will have jurisdiction over all offenses committed by American soldiers. This was decreed today in a bill passed by the London House of Commons. The British are mighty ticklish about the enforcement of their laws, but now, if American soldiers violate those laws, they will not be brought up before British courts. They will be subject to judgment by the American military authorities.

This is quite a departure for Great Britain, and there is a shock of novelty, ~~about letting somebody else deal with offenses against the law of the realm.~~ This was indicated in the debate that accompanied the bill ~~into~~ Parliament. Several M.P.'s objected. One demanded: "Are all our affairs to be dictated from Washington, or are we to retain some rights and sovereignty over our own laws?" The objectors were

49

quickly over-ruled, and the bill was passed.

As an example of the sort of thing to which the new arrangement will apply, we have the story of a British-American fracas in North Ireland. Today in the County of Antrim an inquest was held into the killing of a British soldier at a fight in a dance hall. Several American soldiers were injured.

50
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Testimony showed that a British Pioneer Company organized a dance, and a number of American soldiers attended. The British soldier~~s~~ that was killed got into an argument with an American. He had some sort of broomstick for a weapon, and the American was heard to say: "If you strike me with that, I'll knife you." ^{The Britisher} ~~He~~ was later found[^]-- knifed. This occurred in the confusion of a free-for-all, in which some fifteen British and American ~~soldiers~~ soldiers battered away at each other.

In court today the coroner stated: "I trust that this unfortunate incident will not mar the good relation existing between British and American forces."

DUKE

Great Britain today celebrated an event that was both royal and American -- the baptism of the baby son of the Duke of Kent, brother of King George. Queen Elizabeth was there, and, by way of coincidence, it was her birthday. Her Majesty celebrated her forty-second birthday, today.

5) It is customary for royal infants to have a royal list of Godparents, and that was the case ~~ix~~ at the christening of the baby prince ~~today~~ -- with one exception, a striking exception.

The God-parents included King George the Sixth, King Haakon of Norway, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands, the Duke of Gloucester, and the Crown Princess of Greece. And now for the exception -- on the list there was one Godfather ~~who is~~ not royal at all. Which takes us to the American angle.

As it happened, the young son of the Duke of

Kent was born on the Fourth of July, and I suppose that suggested the idea. The Duke sent a cable to President Roosevelt, asking the President if he would stand as Godfather for the babe. There was an immediate White House response -- delighted. And so one of the Godfathers of the royal child today was President Roosevelt. ^{TR} ~~At the ceremony the Duke of~~

~~Kent stood as proxy for the Chief Executive of the~~

~~United States.~~ ^{TR} And the child was christened Michael George Charles Franklin -- Franklin as in Roosevelt.

The christening ceremony was performed by the

Archbishop of Canterbury. The babe wore a lace

^{baptismal}
~~christening~~ robe bequeathed by Queen Victoria. When

the Archbishop sprinkled him with ~~baptismal~~ water,

Prince Michael George Charles Franklin began to ~~cry~~

cry. And he continued to cry all during the rest of

the ritual -- wailing with a shrill, ~~indignant~~ indignant voice. He sounded exactly like a royal baby or any other baby.

SABOTUERS

President Roosevelt announced today that he will reveal the saboteur verdict -- within two or three days." The President has been studying the voluminous records of the trial by the Military Commission, and will complete his study before he makes public the sentences passed on the Nazi agents who were landed by U-boat to commit sabotage in this country.

LINDBERGH

53
Today at Indianapolis Charles A Lindbergh testified in the trial of William Dudley Pelley, accused of sedition. The appearance of the famous aviator drew a crowd. The courtroom was jammed, and several hundred people thronged outside. TP Lindbergh's testimony was brief -- lasting for about ten minutes. He was called as a witness for the defense, but he offered ^{not} ~~in~~ one word in support of Pelley, ~~z~~ head of the one-time Silver Shirts, a Fascist outfit. TP Lindbergh stated his belief that before Pearl Harbor most Americans were opposed to going into the war. He said: "It was my impression that the majority of the people opposed our entering the war before we were attacked."

53
He was asked whether he had made any effort to determine public opinion since Pearl Harbor.

"No sir, I have not," he replied.

He stated that he had not spoken publicly since we

and then he ~~was~~ told what he ~~is~~ has been doing.
^ ^ ^

"Since ~~we~~ America entered the war," he said, "I ^{have} ~~am~~ devoted my time and energy to helping out in any way I could in connection with the war."

AMERICAN BLACK MARKET

The news from Europe carries a good deal of mention of -- the Black Market. That means illegal and secret dealing in goods that are rationed or otherwise restricted. And today we hear of an American Black market. You might think it to consist of the unlawful selling of such things as gasoline and rubber tires to motorists or sugar to housewives. But it all concerns something more industrial and imposing -- steel. ^{TP} Testimony tells of a systematic violation of wartime priorities by a Black Market in steel. ^{TP} The ~~trans~~ disclosure transpired at a Congressional Committee hearing in Louisiana, an investigation of a ~~xxx~~ shipbuilding contract which was cancelled. The Higgins affair. -- The Louisiana shipbuilder, Andrew Jackson Higgins had a contract to build two hundred Liberty merchant ships, and this was cancelled. There has been a lot of debate about ^{it, and} ~~this, and~~ testimony ^{has} ~~had~~ been going on for ~~xxx~~ days.

Today a son of the shipbuilder was giving evidence. Frank Higgins was telling about the operation of his father's shipyards. A Congressman asked where the plant got its steel. At this point Andrew Jackson Higgins, father of the witness, jumped to his feet. He was in the audience.

"Go ahead and tell them, Frank," he said.

Whereupon the son stated that the Higgins plant had been procuring steel in violation of priorities -- from the Black Market.

He spoke of various warehouses which he described in these words: "Bulging to the doors with Black Market steel."

Later today, President Roosevelt indicated that there ought to be an investigation of the Black Markets dealing in steel.

OIL

In Washington, the charge was made today that the Rubber Reserve Corporation is hindering the production of synthetic rubber. The statement was made by Arthur E. Pew, Vice-President of the Sun Oil Company. He told ^a~~the~~ Congressional Committee that the Rubber Reserve Corporation has been remiss in turning down - the Houdry process. This is the famous catalytic method which, having been a triumph in the refinement of high octane gasoline, has now been turned to the production of butadiene - ~~the~~ ~~and this butadiene is a~~ Number One ingredient in making synthetic rubber. The Houdry process, stated Arthur Pew, provides a rapid method of manufacture and requires less of the materials of which there is a shortage.

56

Speaking of the Rubber Reserve Corporation, he stated: "They have adopted a program, and despite figures and facts, have refused to change it." He added that the process has been offered to other firms on any terms the government may desire, and that several other oil

24

companies probably will adopt it if permitted to do so
by the Rubber Reserve Corporation.

LABOR

It was announced today that the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. will soon begin negotiations for a reunion of the two factions of Labor. This was stated in Chicago by William Green, President of the A.F. of L. He said that delegates of the two organizations would meet for the purpose of bringing to an end the seven year war between the Federation and the C.I.O.

He was asked -- what about John L. Lewis? William Green said that would be a problem to be solved by the present C.I.O. chieftain -- Philip Murray.

We hear that the new peace move in the ranks of labor was suggested by President Roosevelt. They say that at a secret White House conference on July Twenty-Third the President urged the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. to settle their quarrel in the interests of national unity and war production.

CIRCUS

There is nothing more ^{fearsome} ~~fierce~~ than a fire in a circus menagerie, and the one in Cleveland today was a terrifying melodrama of flame and wild animals.

⁷⁷ I have just had a telephone call from Beverly Kelly, ~~publicity~~ representative of the Ringling Brothers - Barnum and Bailey Circus - Bev telling me how ^{the blaze} ~~it~~ began. One side of the big menagerie tent suddenly caught fire, - the canvas blazing up for no apparent reason. Beverly Kelly tells me that the wind was blowing from nearby railroad tracks to that side of the tent, and maybe a spark from a locomotive fell on the canvas. But that is not certain. Anyway, the blazing tent set fire to a litter of hay ^{and straw} ~~straw~~ among the animals - and the fantastic horror was on.

8
One hundred valuable animals were killed - bullets putting an end to those that were too badly injured. ~~Circus workers dived through the x fiery tangle and got out scores of beasts.~~ ^{The} ~~A~~ big elephant herd was led out to safety, and behaved magnificently. Two elephants were lost. They had to shoot one trapped by the flames.

Twelve lions and tigers had to be killed, eight zebras, eight camels, deer, monkeys, and so on.

One ~~XXXX~~ camel dashed about dragging a flaming sheet of canvas on its back. The animal got free and is okay. ~~XXXX~~

8/12
Three negro roustabouts chased an ostrich that was racing around with its plumage on fire - those magnificent ostrich feathers. The negroes caught the bird, ⁿ ~~^~~ threw it to the ground and put out the fire.

Gargantua, the gorilla, and his bride, ~~Toto~~, came through all right. They were in another tent.

The circus people formed bucket chains in fighting the fire - the fat lady passed the bucket to the tallest man in the world. And he passed it to the tattooed lady - and so on down the line, ^{to the midgets,} ~~Circus performers risked their lives to save animals that they had trained, getting them out of the fire. There were some injuries, but no human~~

7
~~lives were lost. Tonight,~~ nevertheless, the circus will go on. ~~Some~~ And this show must go off. And here's Hugh animal acts will be missing, but the show in the big tent will be held according to schedule in Cleveland.

~~And now, according to schedule,~~