

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, AUG. 24, 1942 ✓

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The reports from Russia are so grave tonight that it seems as though only a miracle can save Stalingrad.

Moscow admits that the Nazi hordes are now pouring across the Don, only forty miles west of Stalingrad. They are headed for the railroad from Stalingrad to Moscow, which runs parallel to the river only thirteen miles away. The Russians admit that the railroad even now is useless because it is under constant blasting from Nazi artillery and heavy airplane bombing.

Motorized infantry crossed the Don yesterday southeast of Kletskaya.

The Russians are desperately trying to hold. t the Germans have driven a wedge of tanks into the Red line northeast of

Kotelnikovski. (The Russian officers are saying to their men:- "Hold on at all costs. There is no room for any further retreat."

At the northwestern end of the Caucasus, the situation is equally serious. The German column has advanced south of Krasnodar and is threatening the Black Sea naval base at Novorossisk, one of the only two naval bases left to the Russians on the Black Sea.

In the region of the Grozny oil fields, the Russians are also falling back.

As for the Nazis, they announce that the great decisive battle for Stalingrad ^{is on. And that} ~~has begun~~ Huge German reinforcements are advancing toward the front.

MIDDLE EAST

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More fighting -- coming -- in the Egyptian desert soon. So the British say. The Nazi High Command has been reinforcing Rommel with men and planes and tanks; and observers think it's about ~~xi~~ time to expect a new drive by the Nazi Afrika Korps for Alexandria, Cairo, and the Canal. As a sign, the AXis planes have been much more active in the last few days. And -- British fighter planes over the Western desert have shot down at least one big Italian troop transport.

Also the extreme heat in the Desert will soon pass. Another reason why we may expect another battle in North Africa. Of course, the British have also been reinforced, mainly with American tanks and planes. And the hope is that the new Middle East Commander-in-Chief, General Alexander, will get the jump on Rommel -- take the offensive away from him.

ADD MIDDLE EAST

It was announced in London that Prime Minister Winston Churchill had just returned to the capital from a visit to the Middle East. He flew and returned in a Liberator plane and was accompanied by W. Averill Harriman, United States Lend-Lease representative, also Sir. Alan Brooke, Chief of Staff of the British Imperial Army, and a couple of other military big-wigs.

CHINA

Over China there is a silver lining in the cloud of war news. In fact, so encouraging are the reports from there today that they are even a bit puzzling. Chungking announces that the armies of Chiang-Kai-shek have driven the Japanese in southeastern China from one stronghold after another. Recapturing eleven towns including the headquarters of the Japanese army at two points.

Considering the strength of the Japanese armies and the fact that they are not doing any fighting on a large scale elsewhere, these Jap retreats in southeastern China are puzzling. A military spokesman for the Chinese army said that the Jap soldiers in that region are starved, ill and tired and retreating like hungry dogs.

ALASKA

A visitor from the Aleutian Islands made public a warning today. Mayor Fletcher of Unalaska in the Aleutians insists that the Japanese occupation of Kiska, Attu and Agatu is a real menace. He talked scornfully about the official explanation that the Japs have only a toe-hold in the Aleutians. "If it's only a toe-hold," said this Sourdough Mayor, "then why haven't we driven them out?"

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Then he added: that people down here are far too complacent! And the Aleutian Mayor also said: "The uniformed men on active duty in Alaska feel exceedingly sour when they hear on the radio that another strike has been called in a defense plant in the States."

Then he went on to relate that American fishermen struck the first active blow against Japan. Four years ago, when so-called Japanese fishermen were swarming in the waters around Unalaska. The Americans up there became suspicious when they saw

Japanese taking soundings, and they reported the fact to American authorities. Did the authorities do anything? Not a blasted thing, says the Alaskan Mayor. So the fishermen got together in their own boats, armed themselves with guns, knives and axes and cut every Japanese fishing net they could find. After several such episodes, the Japanese left and did not come back.

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Mayor Fletcher told about a Japanese who for years had worked as a cook in a fishing and lumber camp at ~~Squaw~~ Squaw Harbor, Alaska. Then when he quit his job four years ago a patrol boat belonging to the Japanese Fisheries Bureau had the gall to appear at Unalaska, and the former cook stepped ashore, this time wearing enough gold braid to command a Japanese fleet.

BRAZIL

Brazil has declared

~~The declaration of war on the Axis by Brazil~~

~~seems contagious.~~ A dispatch from Montevideo reports that virtually all of the armed forces of the Republic of Uruguay are mobilized along the Atlantic Coast, also along the estuary of the River Plate and the Brazilian frontier. Uruguay has already stated that her views coincide with those of Brazil. In fact the Uruguayan forces are on the alert not only against possible naval action by warships of the Axis abroad in the South Atlantic, but also against the filtering-in of German and Italian refugees, fleeing from Brazil.

Three squadrons of bombers are ready for action along the eastern seaboard of Uruguay, and there is a report that submarines were sighted close to the boundary between Uruguay and Brazil, threatening ~~the~~ the main shipping lines of the maritime traffic on the River Plate.

~~on the River Plate.~~

In Washington there ^{has just been} ~~was~~ a meeting of the Inter-American Defense Board, ^{with} ~~The~~ representatives of all the South and Central American republics ^{present,} ~~were there,~~ ^{and} ~~and~~ they adopted a resolution expressing adherence and friendship to Brazil in its declaration of war against Germany and Italy. ^{TP} It was noticeable that even the representatives of Chile and Argentina ^{Argentina} voted for that ^{at} resolution. Argentina and Chile still maintain their diplomatic relations ~~with~~ the Axis; but, the Chilean delegate at today's Washington meeting announced that his government could not remain indifferent to the aggression of the Axis powers. ^{TP} The resolutions were adopted to the tune of roaring cheers from all the delegates.

Meanwhile, all over Brazil itself thousands of volunteers were lined outside the recruiting offices.

The Ministry of War in Rio de Janeiro was fairly mobbed by men wanting to enlist. Every German banking house and every Italian banking house was occupied today by military police. The funds of all nationals of the Axis powers have been frozen.

Secretary Hull in Washington said that arrangements will soon be made whereby Brazil can join in the declaration of the United Nations.

STRIKE

The War Labor Board ^{addressed some remarks} ~~talked quite roughly~~ to a labor union today. Truck drivers have been striking in ninety-six midwestern cities. Some ten thousand teamsters are involved in ^a ~~the~~ strike. ~~It has been~~ seriously hampering transportation of defense materials, ~~in many~~ places. ~~So~~ today, the War Labor Board sent a telegram to Daniel Tobin, President of the Union, and all the local ~~offices~~ offices of the Brotherhood of Teamsters. ^{The} ~~In this~~ telegram ~~the Board~~ said that this was a final warning, ^{and} that unless the truck drivers end their strike immediately, the Board will, in its own words, take action "to determine your defiance of your government."

TAXES

Here is the latest about taxes. The Finance Committee of the Senate is at work on this headachy ² ~~problem~~ and voted today that your exemptions for each dependent are to be cut from four hundred to three hundred dollars. They figure ~~that~~ this will add two hundred ^{and} millions to the taxes received by Uncle Sam next year.

53 The Senators are evidently sold on the idea of withholding income taxes at the source, that ~~is~~ from the pay envelope. A subcommittee of the Senate today decided to recommend the plan ^{put forwarded by} ~~concocted by J. Beardsley Ruml,~~ ^{Ruml} Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. By that plan, all the balance of taxes you owe this year, ~~that is,~~ ^{would} ~~taxes~~ on your Nineteen Forty-One income, ~~will~~ ^x be wiped off the books. That does not mean you will not pay any more this year. But what you do pay will be credited to your Nineteen Forty-Two tax bill. The purpose of that is to simplify the process of deducting income tax at the

source. It does not mean that you will pay any less in the long run.

PETROLEUM

Motorists in twenty western states will soon be cut down on their gasoline. ^{So says} ~~That comes from~~ the Deputy Coordinator of Petroleum. He advises them to prepare to get along with a little less than they had formerly. The Petroleum Coordinator's Office issued an order today forbidding the use of railroad tank cars in those twenty western states for any but essential purposes. The object of this, explains the Deputy Coordinator, is to use the tank cars for moving fuel oil ~~into~~ the east.

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That order comes at the same time as a report from Secretary Ickes that far too few householders with oil burners have converted their furnaces for burning coal. There was a touch of autumn in the air this morning to remind us that the time for this ~~highly necessary~~ change is becoming exceedingly short. There will be only a few weeks before it will be

necessary to have heat in our homes, at least mornings and evenings. Secretary Ickes and Price Administrator Leon Henderson have issued a joint statement begging

everybody who uses oil in their furnaces to change to

coal at once. A survey that ^{Sec.} Ickes had made reveals

that only fifty per cent of the industrial plants in

the east have changed from oil to coal. ^{And he says} That is not

nearly enough. As for private householders, only one

per cent ~~of them~~ have made the change. And that, say

the Washington authorities, ^{won't do at all.} ~~is definitely bad.~~

REPUBLICANS

Saratoga Springs, New York is one of the watering places of the world. But tonight there are thousands in Saratoga who cannot get a bath. They are delegates to the Republican State Convention. They found almost all the rooms occupied by horse players because the racing season still is going strong.

When they picked Saratoga for their convention, they were assured by the city fathers that there would be plenty of rooms. The city fathers evidently thought gasoline rationing would keep at least some of the two-dollar betters away. But the racing people came as usual -- hence all those bathless Republicans tonight.

Aside from that, there seldom has been a happier gathering of G.O.P. men. This morning they heard the keynote speech. The responses to that indicated such unanimity as has not been seen or heard in any state convention for a long time. As in so many states, there tends to be a feud between

upstate and the big city. But there are no signs of that feud in Saratoga tonight. The most rousing applause was heard when the keynoter said that as a Republican he would rather go to defeat in an honest fight than tie up with the groups which want to undermine the government.

The delegates also cheered particularly when the speaker said the party was committed to relentless prosecution of the war and at the same time a resolution to preserve the two-party system.

The business that is due to begin in a few minutes at Saratoga will be the adoption of the platform and the nomination of the candidate for Governor. That part of the show will offer no surprises. It is no secret that the delegates almost to a man are for Thomas E. Dewey. But it has been hinted that there may be a surprise in the manner in which Dewey will be nominated. At any rate, it is all set, and he will make his speech of acceptance to be heard over the radio at a quarter past nine, EWT.

WRECK

One day in the latter part of June, an American ship was torpedoed in the Indian Ocean. A heavy sea was running and one of the lifeboats with fourteen men was promptly overturned. Some of them managed to climb into the other boat, but only a few. Forty-one were saved altogether, including the master of the ship.

After drifting seven days, they sighted the east coast of Africa. As they approached the shore, they saw natives with long knives ~~that were~~ strapped to their waists. These natives were running up and down the beach and the chances of the shipwrecked men looked poor. But they had to risk a landing because their food was low and they were hungry.

Those natives with knives were not so dangerous but they were greedy. They helped pull the lifeboat to shore, but they wouldn't give the shipwrecked men a bite of food without payment. Evidently they were

not altogether ignorant of civilization. What they wanted most was money. The shipwrecked men soon ran out of dimes, nickels and quarters. Then they had to trade life preservers, shoes, coats, anything -- for food.

It was only by the greatest ~~difficulty~~ and ingenuity ⁱⁿ and sign language that the Americans convinced the

Africans that ~~there are~~ ^{their} dollar bills ^{were} worth more than

coins. A couple of the Americans walked ten miles

through thick jungle without shoes. At the end of the

8 ten miles, they found a large native village, and a guide

took them back to civilization. It was not until the

Twelfth of July that they left that settlement by boat

and reached a larger city on the east coast of Africa.

A judge in California gave a girl a divorce today because her husband insisted on her being punctual. There was another reason too, he did not believe in Santa Claus.

The husband is George Jessel, the comedian. The young lady, his eighteen year old wife, ex-wifeflow, Lois Andrews. ^{The girl's} ~~The former Miss Andrews is eighteen years old. Her~~ mother was much in evidence at the trial.

^{ing}
~~Mother~~ Confirmed ^x the young lady's complaint that Husband-Comedian George Jessel was unreasonable in his insistance ^{ie} on her being punctual.

As for his disbelief in Santa Claus, it took the shape of refusing to go to family celebrations on Christmas Day. Miss Andrews also complained because Jessel had not ^{even} ~~xxx~~ met most of the members of her family.

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For which, the judge granted her plea for divorce.

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And now Hugh, something snappy from you.