

NORTH FRONT TERMED VITAL IN RUSS WAR

By DEWITT MACKENZIE
(Special News Service)

Hitler's forces in invasion in Russia—ever probing the attenuated Stalin line in an effort to find a weak spot in that great barrier—have suddenly renewed their assaults against the northern front toward Leningrad and claim progress, although the bolsheviks assert that they are holding.

Should the nazis succeed in reaching this goal they would have achieved a victory of incalculable importance. They would have (1) virtually severed the Russian connection with the Baltic sea; (2) secured a vital port and railroad for themselves on the Baltic, and (3) effected a turning movement against the northern end of the Stalin line somewhat similar to that which caused the fall of the famous Maginot line in France.

However, so far as the latest reports go, there would appear to have been little change in that swaying, bloody line, where millions of men are locked in struggle and scores of thousands are dying. Meanwhile we have a less spectacular but still major development in Syria, where the French have asked the British for armistice terms which London expects to be accepted.

The allied requirements for cessation of the combined British and Free French drive into Syria presumably are such that if they are agreed to they will give Britain control of this strategic territory which nazidom has tried to secure and would give much to possess. This would represent a triumph for the allied cause.

This French mandated country is the pivot upon which turn vast political and military issues. The full force of the success may not register itself immediately but it is likely to have a great influence on the outcome of the war. One imagines that the allies might have encountered heavy opposition from the nazis, had the Russo-German war not intervened.

Syria has as many facets of worth to the British as a diamond. If you will take the trouble to dig up your maps again you will at a glance get the significance of Syria as a war base.

See how it dominates the route which the Germans had hoped to take for an attack on Egypt and the Suez canal from the near east. In fact, if the British get it they will have added a mighty bulwark to their entire defense of the eastern Mediterranean.

It is a buffer to preserve the British influence in the neighboring oil countries of Iraq and Iran to the east. One of the chief purposes of the German drive into Greece, and the subsequent attack on Crete, was to gain possession of this oil, thus to cut one and the same time filling the depleted nazi tanks and cutting the British off from supplies for their fleet in the eastern Mediterranean. You will note that one of the great pipelines from the Mosul oil fields of Iraq runs through Syria to Tripoli, while another branch goes to Haifa.

Syria also is an indirect but powerful link in the defense against any blow from the west on India. For that reason alone

Little Spitfire



RAF Spitfire pilot knocks off from knocking down German planes to fly miniature model plane, a favorite hobby of British airmen who say it takes as much skill and more patience than the real thing.

Son of Condemned 'Duchess' Tells Governor Death Tale

SAN FRANCISCO, July 10 (UP)—Joseph Spinelli, 17-year-old son of Mrs. Juanita (the Duchess) Spinelli, Wednesday told Gov. Culbert Olson a confused story of how his mother, his sister and he hitch-hiked all over the country, worked in a carnival sideshow, and lived in a shepherd's cabin during his early boyhood.

David Foutz, Olson's secretary, said the governor interviewed the son of "the duchess," condemned to die July 18 for the slaying of Robert Sherrard, to determine if there are extenuating circumstances to permit commutation of the death sentence.

Mrs. Spinelli has two other children, Lorraine, 20, and Vincent, 9.

In Salt Lake City, he said, they joined a carnival that played one, two and three-night stands in country towns from Utah to Texas.

Mrs. Spinelli, according to the boy, operated a gambling wheel in the carnival. His sister, Lorraine, was a snake girl in a sideshow.

Joseph said the family lived in Detroit for several years. There Mrs. Spinelli met Mike Simeone, her common-law husband who, with Gordon Hawkins, also is

under sentence for Sherrard's murder. Lorraine then ran away to California. A year later Mrs. Spinelli, Simeone and Joseph hitch-hiked to San Francisco.

In San Francisco, Joseph said, they found his sister living with Albert Ives, Sherrard and Hawkins in a basement on Golden Gate avenue. Ives was committed to an insane asylum after his arrest.

The boy said he knew barbecue stand holdup in which Leland Cash, the operator, was killed. The governor was unable to draw an admission from the boy that he had heard poison discussed by members of his mother's gang the night Sherrard was killed.

The boy said he laid on the floor at home and did not pay attention to what was said, except that he noticed his mother "passing drinks around."

Then, he told the governor, he saw his mother and Simeone in a corner of the room drinking. His mother's dress was torn.

A little later the boy said he noticed Sherrard was staggering about and saw Ives helping him out of the door, with Hawkins following them.

FIRMS TO GET NEW PROCESS OF SHELL GAS

An important step toward giving the United States unlimited supplies of aviation fuel for national defense was the announcement today that the isomerization process used in making 100-octane aviation gasoline, which was perfected by Shell, will now be licensed for use by other companies.

As the Shell process produces an essential constituent of 100-octane gasoline in great volume at comparatively low cost, the nation's output of this vital fuel can be further stepped up at any time with no danger of shortage of raw material.

Shell's isomerization process starts with butane, one of the light fractions of petroleum. The potential supply of butane, now used as fuel by large transport trucks and industrial engines, and for industrial and household heating, is enormous. By the isomerization process, butane is changed to iso-butane which is combined with butylenes to produce alkylate. Alkylate, with an octane rating of 95 (approximate) is the basis of 100-octane aviation gasoline. Use of this fuel has increased the speed and flying range of American planes up to 30 per cent.

Shell's isomerization process was perfected in the laboratories of Shell Development company in Emeryville, Calif., central research organization of the Shell operating companies. From the same laboratories have come processes for making glycerine from petroleum, butadiene which is the basis of artificial rubber, toluol from which T.N.T. is made, and other important chemicals.

Using processes created by Shell Development company, Shell is now producing toluol in large quantities at Houston, Tex., and will soon put into operation at the same place a plant for making butadiene.

Night driving offers nine times as great a hazard to the average motorist as daylight driving—Dr. Edwin H. Silver of the American Optometric congress.

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Pardon Denied Labor Terrorist After 35 Years

BOISE, Ida., July 10 (UP)—Idaho board of pardons yesterday denied freedom to Harry Orchard, labor terrorist of the early 1900's, on grounds his crime was "well thought out, cold and premeditated murder."

Orchard, serving a life sentence for the murder of Gov. Frank Steunenberg of Idaho in 1905, and the death of 30 persons killed in Idaho and Colorado mine explosions, had appealed for an outright pardon. He had spent 35 years behind walls at Idaho state penitentiary, and was making his third appeal for freedom.

The board's action marked the probable end of Orchard's attempts to gain freedom. He recently told newsmen he would make no more appeals, and hoped—if freed—to spend his remaining years on a chicken ranch near Boise.

Orchard, who dated Tom Mooney and Warren K. Billings as labor's national "martyrs" was arrested in 1906 for bombing Steunenberg. He implicated Haywood, George H. Pettibone and Charles Moyer, leaders of the Federated Western Mine Workers, in his crime. They were acquitted, but Orchard was sentenced to hang. The sentence was commuted.

He also admitted taking part in labor riots in northern Idaho, where several men were killed, and bombing shafts at the Bunker Hill and Sullivan mine in Wardner, Ida., and the Independence mine in Colorado.

The late Clarence Darrow defended Orchard, and the late Sen. William E. Borah, then a struggling young attorney, prosecuted.

UNITED FOR KEEPS?
SALT LAKE CITY (P)—It was quite a stunt newlywed Mr. and Mrs. Norman Taylor thought up—appearing at a reception in their honor locked together with handcuffs. But they lost the key. Obliging police picked the manacle locks.

Former Resident Visits Over Fourth
DORRIS—Mr. and Mrs. John Olson had as their houseguests for the three day Fourth of July holiday their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Hamilton of White Pine, Byron Hamilton and friend of Oakland. Ed Hamilton was formerly assistant bookkeeper for the Dorris plant of the Associated Lumber and Box company, and is now bookkeeper with the Associated at the new plant at White Pine.

There are more water-powered grist mills in operation in North Carolina than in any other state.

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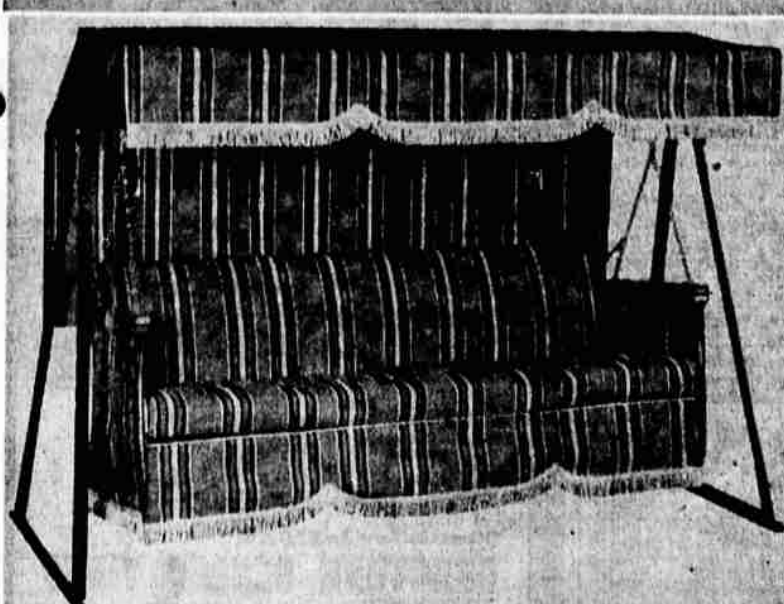
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