

ANGLO-SOVIET MOVE LOOMING IN CAUCASUS

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

Another Anglo-Russian sensation of the near future is likely to be the creation of a joint fighting front in the Caucasus or so it seems to me—a move which will be hastened if the Germans continue to advance eastward along the coast of the Black Sea.

The Nazi threat is emphasized in the report from Berlin today that the invaders have captured the industrial railway center of Zaporozhe, east of the lower Dnieper river. The significance of this lies in the fact that Hitler's troops should have effected a crossing of this great stream in sufficient force to take a big city.

The establishment of a joint front is logical strategy in view of the allied occupation of Iran (Persia) which gives the British an open road into Russia. That left flank of the Soviet defenses, running through the Caucasus between the Black Sea and the Caspian, must be protected at all hazards. The reasons are these:

1. First all, Persia is the key-stone for control of the whole near east and middle east. It would be a disaster for the allies if Hitler got it.
2. The Russians must hold the ports on the east coast of the Black Sea unless they are to lose control of that vital water altogether.
3. Since the Caucasus is the gateway into Persia, and thence to the open sea, it's one of Russia's lifelines, and may become the chief route for supplies from America and other sources.
4. The Caucasus also provides a door to Turkey, and it is essential from the allied standpoint that the Turks shouldn't come under Hitler's domination.
5. Quite apart from Persia's oil, the Caucasus has wells which would be worth more to the Nazi chief than gold or principalities at this juncture when there is danger that the wheels of the German war machine may go dry for lack of lubricants.

The sending of such an expeditionary force into the Caucasus may be the first major assistance the British will give the reds on land. Moscow has been pressing England to create a diversion, other than the bombing of Germany, to relieve the Nazi pressure on the Russian front.

Now the creation of a worthwhile diversion is easier said than done. Most military experts hold that it would be foolhardy for Britain to attempt an invasion of western Europe while the Nazis remain so strong. It would be silly to believe that the astute German high command has overlooked the possibility of such a move and left itself unprotected along the English channel.

A British attempt at a major landing might result in utter catastrophe. Raids of moderate size can be carried out, of course, and ultimately the grand invasion can and will be attempted if Hitler is sufficiently weakened to make the attempt feasible.

Three Local Youths Join Air Corps

Word has been received from the reception center at Fort Douglas, Utah that three local men, Joseph F. Calhoun, Louis A. Bruner and Richard F. Muskopf Jr., have been placed in unassigned positions in the air corps.

The three men have all been transferred to Jefferson barracks, Missouri, and from there they will receive further instructions and be placed in permanent places.

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Governor Studies Cause of Breaks From Penitentiary

SALEM, Aug. 28 (AP)—Conditions at the state penitentiary, from which 10 convicts have escaped since last spring, were discussed Wednesday at a conference between Gov. Charles A. Sprague and Deputy Prison Warden E. C. Halley.

The governor said after the conference that his action was not a formal inquiry, and that it is not to be construed as a criticism of the prison administration, headed by Warden George Alexander, who now is vacationing in the south.

"All I am trying to do is to get at the real cause of the escapes and assist the warden and his deputy in remedying them," said the governor. "I realize that they have been operating under extreme difficulties this summer, with an unusually large crop to handle in the flax plant at the same time harvesting operations were being carried on at the prison farms."

"All of this has required the use of an abnormally large number of inmates outside the walls, many of whom would not ordinarily be so employed. There also has been a shortage of guards experienced in handling these crews."

The governor said he was considering a plan, used by the late Warden James Lewis, to dismiss any guard who has a prisoner escape. But the governor said the defect in the plan is the scarcity of guards.

The ten convicts who have escaped have been recaptured, and none escaped from inside the walls. Three escaped from the flax plant last Saturday, two trustees walked away from officials' quarters, and the rest escaped from gun crews working on farms.

Halley said the principal problem is getting capable guards, who get \$90 a month plus board and lodging. He said more than 15 of the best guards have quit to take jobs in defense industries, and that the convicts are quick to take advantage of new guards.

NO FEELING

Persons being mauled and bitten by animals seldom feel pain during the attack, according to many big game hunters.

PIGEON AIR FORCE

An "air force" of more than a half million carrier pigeons for emergency purposes has been mobilized by Great Britain.

NIMRODS

Hunters are called "nimrods" because of Ham's grandson, Nimrod, being referred to in the Bible as a "mighty hunter before the Lord."

I wore cotton myself once and again. — Rita Hayworth movie star.

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