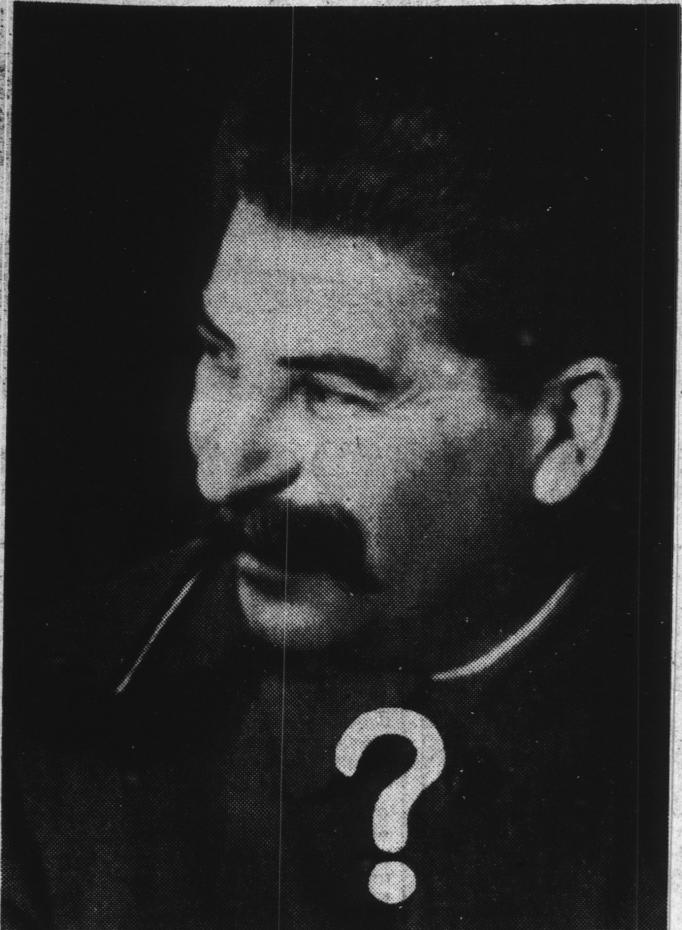


Untold Story's in Big Ten



Josef Stalin ... He could tell Story No. 10.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (U.P.)—A news story that has not been written—Soviet Russia's role in world events—was included today for the first time in the annual United Press selection of the 10 big news stories of the year.

"The enigma of Russia," is the 10th on the United Press list for 1940. The third term election of President Roosevelt is the No. 1 news event of the year, the Battle of Britain second, and the fall of France third.

"This is the first time that something which has not been reported has ever received enough votes to qualify among the top 10," Earl J. Johnson, U.P. vice president and general news manager, said.

"Our editors felt that if the facts about Russian influence on world affairs were not shrouded by official secrecy and censorship, the Russian story might be among the most important of the year."

"The big thing we do not know about Russia is the extent of her influence on Tokyo's operations in the Far East and on Germany's plans in the Balkans."

Mr. Johnson said an unusual feature of the news of 1940 was that most of the big events were closely related in terms of cause or effect.



War Moves Today

By J. W. T. MASON

United Press War Expert

Increasing seriousness of the Italian defeat in North Africa is shown by today's announcement in Rome that the fighting has extended to Sollum, on the Egyptian side of the Libyan border.

London's report of the capture of several thousand more Italians means that the British mechanized units are pressing forward toward Libya with the apparent intention of driving the Italians back into their own territory.

There are indications that the immediate objective of the British drive is to continue to pound against the Italian right flank. This maneuver is designed to prevent the Italians spreading southward, into the

desert, keeping them as much as possible near the Mediterranean Coast, within range of British naval guns.

It is probable that these factors are largely responsible for the great number of Italian prisoners. Caught in the coastal trap, the Italians cannot reply to the fire from the British warships and seem unable to break through the British lines to the southward.

Disaster Faces Duce

The eventual magnitude of the British success will depend on the extent to which the British Mediterranean fleet is able to continue the severance of communications between Libya and Italy's home supply bases.

If Libya can be permanently cut off from Italy, following the present British victory, a disaster of the first magnitude will overtake Signor Mussolini's ambitions in Africa.

Isolation of Libya is the principal objective of British strategy, as association with the expulsion of the Italian forces from Egypt. This purpose is to be fulfilled, circulation reports that Il Duce eventually may be compelled to risk a major naval engagement in the Mediterranean, although his fleet is less powerful than the British.

If the Italians refuse an engagement at sea and if the British can continue to keep Libya bottled up, the surrender of the Libyan army would become within the realm of probabilities, provided the war continued far into next year.

Reserve Supply Unknown

To what extent Libya has reserves of supplies is not known, but probably not for more than six months if the present scale of fighting continues, especially since the British capture of material is said to be large.

Rome's principal port for receiving home supplies is Benghazi, on the western coast of the Cyrenaica district of Libya. Benghazi is nearly 500 miles across the Mediterranean from Italy and only 300 miles from the new British naval base in Crete.

The operations of the British fleet, therefore, require a shorter radius of action than the Italian for keeping Benghazi under the hazard of attack. This fact has now become gravely important for the Italians and it is difficult to see how there can be much optimism at Rome regarding the Italian chances for regaining the offensive in North Africa.

Report Sand Storms

Today, Rome reports sand storms at Benghazi which seriously interfere with the movement of supplies to the Egyptian port. Benghazi is 300 miles west of the present area of combat and even under the most adverse conditions, it would be difficult to move material quickly to the battle front because the roads are inferior.

With sand storms interrupting

SLAYER SENT TO MENTAL COLONY

James Prather's Freedom 2 Years Ago Obtained by Wife He Killed.

James Prather, 27-year-old slayer of his wife, Rosalind, today was adjudged insane in Criminal Court and committed to the colony for the criminally insane at the Indiana State Prison.

And from the testimony of Dr. Rogers Smith, psychiatrist who examined Prather, it was learned that his wife was responsible for his being outside an institution for the mentally ill for the last two years. In 1938, Dr. Smith said, Mrs. Myrtle Prather, his mother, asked Dr. Smith to examine the youth, explaining that he acted in an odd manner.

Recommended Hospital

At that time, Dr. Smith said, he recommended that Prather be placed in an institution. Prather was suffering from dementia praecox and imagined he was being persecuted by his wife.

In the face of this diagnosis, Dr. Smith said, Prather's wife at that time signed a release and promised to watch over him. Had she not done so, Prather probably would have been unable to slay her.

Representing Prather in Court was Attorney Earl C. Townsend. Mr. Townsend and Prather played as teammates on the Tech High School basketball team which went to the finals in the state tournament.

Killed Wife Oct. 25

Mr. Townsend said that even at that time, Prather's mother was worried about his unpredictable actions.

Mrs. Rosalind Prather was shot and killed in a restaurant in the 1500 block N. Illinois St. Oct. 25. Prather went there, according to his statement, to try to effect a reconciliation. After the shooting, he fled but later surrendered to police.

DISMISSES CHARGE IN TAVERN CASE

Municipal Court Judge John L. McNelis yesterday dismissed on motion of the prosecution, a charge of violating the Indiana Alcoholic Beverages Act against Emmanuel (Mike) Lorraine, part owner of the P. & M. Bar, at 843 E. Washington St.

The court continued until Dec. 28 the cases of a waitress and a bartender accused of selling beer to a 15-year-old girl.

Another case is pending against Mr. Lorraine and the two employees in Criminal Court, where they are charged with assault and battery. This charge is based on an alleged altercation at the tavern.

The State Alcoholic Beverage Commission yesterday completed a hearing ordered to show cause why the tavern's license should not be revoked. The case was taken under advisement by the commission.

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