

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Admiral Nimitz says the toll of Jap men-of-war sunk or damaged now goes up from fifty-eight to sixty-two, possibly sixty-four. And Halsey's planes are continuing their attack on the fleeing squadrons.

The battle of the Philippines leaves the empire of the Rising Sun reduced to a third-rate naval power.

Tokyo today was throwing out hints of another battle. The Mikado's war lords appear to be whistling in the dark. They say the battle for the Philippines is just beginning in earnest. They claim

~~that their air forces have attacked American warships,~~
~~and the shore installations on Sumai and Leyte. They~~
~~claim~~ to have damaged an American cruiser and set
one of our aircraft carriers afire. But there is no
confirmation of ~~the~~^{it} from our side. ~~Furthermore, it is~~
~~well, it's~~ improbable that they, having just had the worst
naval licking since the battle of Trafalgar, should be
able to muster enough strength for a major attack.

It was a fleet of sixty Japanese warships that
set out to challenge American power in ~~the~~ Philippine
waters. ~~Out~~^{And} of that armada only a handful of destroyers
came through unscathed. And even they are in a bad
spot, along with the twenty or thirty damaged and
crippled ships, the only survivors of the battle.
For they are open to the attacks of our submarines and
carrier-based planes. In addition to those carrier-
based aircraft, ~~the~~^{our} bombers based on China ~~are flying~~^{today, again,}
~~over~~^{were} enemy waters looking for cripples.

Admiral Nimitz announces ~~now~~^{now}, that, in
addition to all previous reports, planes of Halsey's

Third Fleet hit three Japanese Cruisers in Manila Harbor on Friday, and probably sank one of them. The chances are that at least one of them ^{was} ~~was~~ a cripple, ~~having been~~ damaged in the Sibuyan Sea in the second battle of the Philippines. Moreover, on Friday and Saturday our planes destroyed more than ninety Japanese aircraft, making a total of at least ~~ix~~ two hundred and sixty-one ^{destroyed} ~~destroyed~~ last week.

As for MacArthur's operations, he has virtually completed the reconquest of Leyte. He reports that the shattered remnants of the Mikado's Sixteenth Division is ~~on the sea~~ ^{fleeing} toward the West coast of the island, with three columns of Yanks in pursuit. The enemy is making for a base they have on the west coast, from which they hope to escape across the twenty-eight miles of the ^{adjoining sea} ~~sea of Cebu~~ to the island of Cebu. But if they try that, they are doomed because the sea is absolutely controlled by surface and air units of our fleets.

Later tonight MacArthur reported that his men had hit the ~~creek~~ ^S Japanese ~~troops~~ in the Philippines with such force that the Mikado's men *have* suffered twenty-four thousand casualties. In the midst of a typhoon with seventy mile an hour winds, *our* ~~men~~ ^{men} ~~the~~ ~~Yanks~~ ~~has~~ fought to within ten miles of the west coast of Leyte. ~~The~~ ~~Twenty~~ ~~Fourth~~ ~~Division~~ ~~is~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~verge~~ ~~of~~ ~~joining~~ ~~up~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~Cavalry~~ ~~units~~ ~~fighting~~ ~~as~~ ~~foot~~ ~~soldiers.~~ ~~All~~ ~~internal~~ ~~communication~~ ~~lines~~ ~~are~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~hands~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~Yanks~~ ~~and,~~ ~~all~~ ~~the~~ ~~side~~ ~~roads.~~

~~Our PT boats and land based planes are chasing the enemy off the coast wherever they find him. They have sunk two freighters and ten large barges carrying Japanese soldiers to Cebu.~~

A Russian military commentator in Moscow ~~and~~ observed today that Japan's naval Maginot Line has turned out to be inadequate. By that he means, of course, that the Mikado's war lords thought they were safe behind their navy, just as the French in Nineteen Forty thought they were safe behind ^{their} ~~that~~ line of fortifications in Eastern France. The Russian says the battle has not yet reached its final phase, but it is already quite clear that Japan is in an extremely unfavorable position. The Japanese, he points out ^{further,} have a one-fleet navy. ^{And} Once it is completely destroyed the nation will be at the mercy of the Allies.

CHINA

In China the battle for Kweilin is ~~sagging~~ ^{still on,}
~~furiously~~ ^{with} Street fighting ~~now goes on~~ in the outskirts
of the city. But the Chinese, ~~have~~ ^{are} attacked the Japanese
in the rear, ^{have} and recaptured another city eighty miles
northeast of Kweilin. *The latest is*

that They seem to be holding the Japanese at bay
in a semi-circle eleven or twelve miles away from the
heart of the city. The Japanese ^{is in} ~~are attacking most~~
~~heavily north of Kweilin.~~ Several columns, are advancing
from ~~ix~~ different directions. There does ^{not} seem to be
much hope that they can be kept from capturing the
place before long.

STILWELL

Here is an explanation for the ^{recall of} ~~firing of~~ General Stilwell, an explanation which comes through in spite of the harsh attempts of Chungking to silence all information. The inside story that we get tonight is that the removal of ^{Gen.} Stilwell is the climax of a sharp difference of opinion between Washington and Chiang Kai Shek over the conduct of the war in Asia.

As we learn it tonight, the removal of ^{Vinegar Joe} ~~Stilwell~~ does it ~~not~~ settle the dispute. ~~It proves unquestionably that Chiang Kai Shek and Stilwell have not got along~~

~~together~~ Correspondents have been telling us ~~for some time that the Generalissimo and~~ ~~but now for the first time it comes into the open,~~ ~~the General have been on the outs, and~~ ~~Removal of Stilwell does not settle the dispute,~~ ~~now this puts~~ ~~but it puts~~ upon Chiang the burden of proving his side of the argument, ^{which} ~~that~~ he can only do by thoroughly reorganizing the Chinese Army and conducting the war against the Japanese with more vigor.

As one result of the recall of Stilwell, U. S. Ambassador to China, Clarence Gauss has offered his resignation. From the first ^{Gauss} ~~he~~ has wanted a strong

policy in China. ^{TR} For some time Washington has been disturbed about China. It now turns out that the dispatch of Major General Patrick Hurley and War Production Chief Donald Nelson was one move in the game. They went to Chungking, and made several demands upon Chiang. One, ~~of them was~~ that Stilwell be made Commander-in-Chief of all Allied forces in China. Another, ~~was~~ that the Chinese Army should be thoroughly reorganized, ^{and} ~~that dead-heads in the Chinese High Command should be thrown out, and that the Chinese forces should be~~ made into an efficient hard-hitting Army.

Hurley and Nelson further asked Chiang and his ^{colleagues} ~~colleagues~~ to come to terms with the Communist Armies in northwestern China, ^{and} ~~unite them,~~ ^{with} ~~with the~~ ~~armies under Chiang.~~ The argument was that this could only be achieved under a foreign commander in chief because the Communists distrust ^{all those} ~~the ones~~ around Chiang and would not serve under one of his Generals.

The first result of the visit of Hurley and Nelson to Chungking was that Chiang notified President Roosevelt that he had complete confidence in Stilwell. *But we hear that* ~~By~~ the moment Stilwell started to act ~~up~~ on that theory, Chiang backed ~~water~~ ^{down.} Chiang Kai Shek's side of the case is that ^{Gen.} Stilwell disobeyed his orders when he started the North Burma campaign.

He charged Stilwell with being responsible for the lost of Kweilin and other U. S. ~~XXXXX~~ Air Bases in China because he did ~~not get~~ ^{not get} adequate supplies ~~for~~ the Chinese Army. ~~Gen~~ Finally Chiang undertook to

carry out the reorganization of the Chinese ~~army~~ war effort himself ~~provided Mr. Roosevelt removed~~ ^{on the proviso that Gen.} Stilwell ~~be removed.~~

~~The understanding is that although the President did withdraw Stilwell he declined even to~~ ^{So it still isn't altogether} ~~clear,~~ ~~consider any of the charges made against the American~~

~~General by Chiang~~

~~Altogether, not a very cheering situation.~~

BURMA

Although General Stilwell has been recalled, British and Chinese forces in Burma are carrying out one of the last campaigns that he planned. They are advancing on the cities of ~~Katha~~ ~~and~~ ~~Bahman~~ and ~~Bahmo~~ on the Irrawady River, both important centers of Japanese communications. They have advanced thirty-six miles from Myitkyina.

The United Press today made public the text of nine cables which its correspondent in Chungking sent to New York about the removal of General Stilwell. The first merely reported that Stilwell had been withdrawn, and from that one only four words had been censored. The next five cables were completely ~~xxxx~~ censored. In the seventh the Chungking censor allowed just fourteen words, the eighth and ninth were completely bluepencilled. So the Chungking correspondent ~~xxx~~ sent four hundred and eight words, of which the

censor permitted only thirty-two to come through

about this much discussed and puzzling affair.

Before we turn to the western front let's hear from Stan, of Calif.

Stan's British and Canadian fighters have driven
thousands of Germans ~~back~~ ^{into} the tangled
swampy country west to the river. A dispatch from
headquarters reports that their defenses ~~are~~ ^{has} disintegrated
and ~~they~~ ^{are} making a hasty flight for safety in
small boats and over portage bridges.

They still hold a few ^{patches} ~~small~~ ^{patches} of dry ground to the
south, ~~and~~ ^{where they} are fighting rear guard actions. Desperately
trying to keep the roads to the river open. But they
are gradually being surrounded as one of Stan's
columns are rolling ahead. They advanced seven miles

South of the River Scheldt the Canadians
found their way into ^{near} ~~the~~ ^{the} Belgian frontier,

WESTERN FRONT

~~Good news from Holland tonight! Field Marshal~~

^{TP} Montgomery's armies have captured Roosendaal, the last stronghold the Nazis held in Holland below the River Maas. Monty's British and Canadian fighters have driven thousands of Germans ^{into} ~~to take refuge in~~ the tangled swampy country next to the river. A dispatch from headquarters reports that their defense ^{has} ~~is~~ disintegrated ^{is} ~~and has become~~ a route, a ~~fight~~ flight for safety, in small boats and over pontoon bridges.

They still hold a few ^{patches} ~~pieces~~ of dry ground to the south, ^{where they} ~~are~~ are fighting rear guard actions, desperately trying to keep the roads to the river open. But they are gradually being surrounded as nine of Monty's columns are rolling ahead. They advanced seven miles today.

South of the River Scheld the Canadians fought their way four miles ^{nearer} ~~toward~~ the Belgian frontier,

~~capturing an important place on the way. They are now,~~

and now are

within two miles of a German defense point where ~~some~~

enemy guns still control the channel ~~to~~ Antwerp.

~~But they will soon be ~~is~~ eliminated.~~

Another British and Canadian force north of the

river has swept the enemy off the big island known as

Beveland, *they have* and reached the causeway to Wolcheran *where*

~~There~~ British warships and planes have silenced the

German batteries.

Montgomery's divisions have trapped ten thousand

Germans on Wolcheran and the two Beveland islands, *in* ~~and~~

addition to

captured or *killed* eight thousand of the nine thousand

Germans to the south of the river, ~~and~~ ~~is~~ completely

~~cut off~~ ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~mainland.~~

RUSSIA

In Hungary a Red army has launched a new advance toward Budapest on a sixty-mile front. ^{So we} ~~learn from~~ ^{says} Berlin. For more than three weeks the Nazis have been able to hold up that army, ~~fifty-three miles southeast of Budapest,~~ ^{but now} The Russians are ~~now~~ carrying out a wheeling movement in order to attack the Hungarian capital from the South, ^{where} ~~they now~~ already hold important positions south, southeast and southwest of Budapest, ~~and~~ they have flat open ground, no hills, no rivers, between them and the city.

On the East Prussian front, ~~snow~~ ^{is reported,} ~~has begun to~~

~~the~~ and, the Germans have redoubled their resistance.

These factors ^{are} ~~have~~ hold up the drive of the Red armies, ~~into the province,~~ ^{and} The Nazis have been able to reinforce the ⁱⁿ defenses in the region of the Masurian Lakes and the Baltic area also.

Military observers point out that the Russian
armies now are fighting on the longest front ever
~~seen~~ recorded in military history. ~~It reaches~~ *All*
the way from the Arctic Ocean ~~almost~~ to the Adriatic,
right across Europe at its broadest point.

SPAIN

A London newspaper reports that German soldiers in Spain are helping ~~the troops of General Francisco~~ Franco; ~~They are~~ fighting the Spanish Maquis ⁱⁿ ~~along~~ the Pyrenees ~~frontier~~. The Maquis had penetrated into Spain and gained some success to begin with. But, ^{the word is that} Franco mustered the Germans on Spanish territory, Germans who had fled across the frontier from France. According to the laws of neutrality they should have been interned. But, according to the London paper, the Falangist government of Spain neither interned nor disarmed them.

ITALY

~~In Italy the Allied armies have run into increased Nazi resistance, so there is not much fighting news from there today.~~ But a story from Rome, reports that Sicily, under the Allied Military Government, is again ridden by Mafia, the century-old secret criminal organization. Hold-ups and kidnappings are every-day affairs. Respectable people don't dare travel the highways outside the towns at night. The gangsters are taking not only ^{the} ~~their~~ money, jewels and cars of their victims, but even their clothes. ~~They~~ leaving them by the roadside naked and helpless.

The old Mafia was a single organization, so victims knew with whom they had to deal. But today there are at least eight independent gangs. One rich landlord of Palermo was kidnapped and held for six days until he ransomed himself for two and a half million lire. When his captors released him he asked them to give him a safe conduct to protect him from other gangs. But the bandits refused, said they had nothing to do with the other gangs and ~~so~~ could not protect him.

INTRO TO CRAWFORD

Captain Bob Crawford, of the Army Air Forces, is with me tonight. Bob belongs to a part of the Air Forces of which we haven't heard half enough. He's a ferry pilot of the Air Transport Command. In addition to sixteen odd years of flying, he is widely known in the musical world, as a baritone singer, also as a leader of the Newark Symphony Orchestra, and as a composer.

One musical selection that he brought forth a few years ago looks as though it would bring him almost undying fame. For Bob Crawford is the author and composer of the Air Corps Song. Every man in the U.S. Army Air Forces, and that means about two million and a half, has sung and marched to the stirring Air Corps Song. Already it ranks as a marching song with MADELON, the marching song of the Poilous of France.

I've known Bob for many years. We've had a number of interests in common, including Alaska.

He's an Alaskan. As a matter of fact, he was born just over the line, at Dawson in the Klondike. But he spent most of his youth in the heart of Alaska. Bob, tell us just a little about the Ferry Command.

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CAPT. CRAWFORD: My knowledge is limited mainly, Lowell, to my own outfit. I'm with the Seventh Ferry Group. At present I am at Gore Field in Montana. Our job is to deliver airplanes, all over the world. And usually we are flying almost all the time, nights and Sundays included. I stopped off here to see you just because I have been delivering a Fortress from the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Coast.

There are a large number of colorful and experienced airmen in our outfit, fliers who have taken planes nearly everywhere on this planet except to the regions around the South Pole. Some of my associates are what are called "Bush Pilots," chaps who until the war were flying in the Far North. One,

for example, for many years had his own fleet, carrying passengers and cargo between cities, towns and remote settlements in Arctic Alaska.

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L.T.:- Are you going back to Alaska, Bob -- some day?

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CAPTAIN CRAWFORD: I've just recently returned from there, Lowell. And I hope I'll never stop going back. Thanks to aviation, Alaska is going to open up rapidly after this war. The distances there are tremendous -- as great as they are across the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific. But the airplane, in Alaska, as elsewhere, is annihilating time and space.

Our far northern empire is going to come forward for many reasons, of which I'll only mention two. First, from our neighbors the Russians, we are going to find out about the agricultural products with which

they have had such great success in Arctic Siberia. This, agriculturally, will enable us to open up Alaska.

And then, it's going to be on one of the main air routes of the globe. Planes flying from North America to Asia will go by way of Alaska. And, I believe that my home town, Fairbanks, is going to become a great and flourishing city as a result. I would like nothing better than to go up and down the United States telling our people about the opportunities and wonders of Alaska.

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L.T.:- Well, go ahead flying airplanes, Bob. Help finish off the Japs, and then you can take your own plane again and tour the country singing your songs and telling America about Alaska. For that matter, I'd like to suggest you for Governor of Alaska. And now let's let our Cheechaco pal, Hugh, take over.

POLITICS

In Washington Congressmen today declared that the Political Action Committee of the C.I.O., and the National Citizens Political Action Committee were instruments with which Communists are fighting for control of a major political party. This was the gist of a report to the Dies Committee ~~xx~~ after an

investigation of the P.A.C. The report continued that the National Citizens Political Action Committee was the "principal Communists' front organization" of the moment, the rallying point for the Communist party and its allied clubs. The Congressmen who wrote this report were Democratic representatives Costello of California, Starnes of Alabama, with Republican Parnell Thomas of New Jersey.

They declared further that eighty-three percent of the members of the ~~National Citizens~~ Political Action Committee had been affiliated with the Communist party or its front in recent years.

Sidney Hillman himself denied all charges.