

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Britain's Army of the Nile wins another smashing victory. For the capture of Tobruk is official, final. With the Australians in the lead, Sir Archibald Wavell's forces crashed through the last lines of a fierce resistance by the Italians.

So the British now have a new point of vantage on the Mediterranean, a wide deep harbor, and a strong naval base with several modern airdromes. An excellent taking off point for air attacks, Sicily, and Albania.

General Wavell can now send food, water and supplies to his troops by sea and relieve the strain on his long line of communications.

In point of prestige the fall of Tobruk is not ~~xxx~~ as great an Italian disaster as the fall of Bardia. But from a military standpoint it is a richer prize.

The news came through in exciting fashion with plenty

of suspense throughout the day. First, Prime Minister Churchill told the House of Commons it might well be that Tobruk was already in British hands. As a matter of fact he was quite conservative about that, for the British took the place shortly after noon, after a whirlwind assault that lasted almost thirty hours.

A cable from Canberra, capital of Australia, that that city was full of rumors of the fall of Tobruk. The Acting Prime Minister investigated and announced that these rumors were premature.

Next came dispatches from correspondents in the field with the Army of the Nile, reporting that the Australian vanguard had stormed into the center of the town and captured the headquarters of the Twenty-Second Italian army corps.

Dispatches, which came only about an hour ago, said also that fighting still was going on, and that the Fascist Legions were resisting desperately.

Then just forty-eight minutes ago came the flash and bulletin that the capture of that Libyan base was official.

~~base was official.~~

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Along with Tobruk the British took between twenty and thirty thousand ^{more} Italian prisoners. But the victory means ^{far} more than that. Military experts declare it means that the British blitzkrieg in Africa, which began only December First, has put out of action one hundred and eighty-five thousand soldiers, two-thirds of the Libyan ~~armies~~ armies that Marshall Graziani had when the campaign started.

Prime Minister Churchill made to the House of Commons another interesting statement ^{today}. The British campaign against the Italians in East Africa is extremely important, he said. ^{This} ~~That~~ contradicts reports from other quarters that it was merely ~~and~~ a sideshow.

As for the Campaign in Albania, a frontier ~~is~~ dispatch from Jugoslavia brings the rumor that five columns of Greek soldiers are converging on the seaport ^{important} ~~is~~ of Valona, ~~a most~~ crucial Italian base. Further north the British Royal Air Force delivered a ~~smashing~~ smashing attack on Elbasan, only twenty miles south of Tirana, the capital of Albania.

CHURCHILL

Prime Minister Winston Churchill today gave his countrymen both encouragement and a warning. You might say the gist of it was that Britain is better armed, better prepared, better equipped, but don't be too complacent.

More specifically, he told his House of Commons that there are now four million men under arms and in uniform, protecting Great Britain that includes the Home Guard. Then he said QUOTE"Our army is growing in strength, efficiency and equipment But it is munitions -- factories and agriculture which in the next six months will make the chief demand on the man power of our country." He hinted that he might have to withdraw men from the armed forces to put them to work in munition, plants, shipyards and on the farms.

Churchill went on to tell the Commons that in the sixteenth month of the war Britain has one hundred thousand more workers in factories, particularly aircraft, than at the end of four years of the last war. To which he added: gravely, "We are now about to enter for the first time in this war a period of man-power stringency. Because for the first time we are going to have apparatus and layouts which this man-power will be required to handle." And after sixteen months of war not more than sixty thousand British folks have lost their lives,

nearly half of them civilians.

Then came the warning and the words: "The whole English-speaking world is passing through a dark deadly valley." However, the British Government has now built sufficient factories to make every kind of supply for the army and navy necessary for continuous action against the Nazis. The Prime Minister said that the most of the new factories are really only just starting. With peak-production still to come.

DEFENSE

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In another three months or so our production of instruments of war will begin to go ^{at high speed, so we} ~~really fast~~. That's what we infer from the words of William S. Knudsen, Chief of Defense Production. ^{Knudsen} ~~He~~ spoke to the Council of State Governments in conference in Washington. And he told the ~~several~~ officials of the many states that if we are willing to ^{ex} spend a little sweat for a year or so we may be able to save a little blood later on.

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TR We are still engaged principally in making the tools to turn out those instruments of war, rather than the instruments themselves. *

As Knudsen puts it in characteristic factory language, "We are still ^{tooling} ~~building~~ up. But we are ⁱⁿ ~~not~~ reasonably fair shape, and in another three months or so we ought to have something real to

TR show in the way of quantity." ^{TR} Later he told reporters that he sticks to his opinion ~~that~~ by July Nineteen Forty-two we shall have built thirty-three thousand fighting military planes.

On the other hand there's news of more strikes.

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Seven thousand men walked out ~~ix~~ at the Milwaukee plant of the L. S. Chalmers Company. They stopped work on twenty-six million dollars worth of defense orders. A strike was also voted at the Milwaukee factory of International Harvester, while a strike election was being held at the Chicago works of the ~~same~~ company.

To offset that, at the airplane factory of the Ryan Aeronautical Company in San Diego, the strike there came to an end by agreement.

CONGRESS

In all the arguments about the Lend-Lease Bill we have hitherto heard nothing from Senator McNary of Oregon - the Number One Republican in the Senate, the leader of his G.O.P. colleagues. Well, Senator McNary spoke out today and said pretty much what had been expected of him. He will oppose the bill to get help to the British, not in principle but merely in its present form. He objects ~~to~~ ⁱⁿ these words: QUOTE - "It grants extraordinary and total power to one person." That person, of course being the President. And Senator McNary thinks that's going too far.

This was the first time in three months that Washington has seen the Oregon Senator who happens to be about as well liked by the Democrats as by the Republicans. During his absence he went through a bout with pneumonia.

About the bill, Senator McNary declares that it's contrary to the democratic way of life. He says he is eager to rush help to the British, and joins with others in approving every possible aid short of war. He hopes the bill will be modified. Put a time limit on it, and a money limit.

In the House the Foreign Affairs Committee today heard more witnesses. One of them being Hanford MacNider of Iowa, former National Commander of the American Legion. MacNider also is in favor of helping Britain. But, he objects to what he calls an abdication by Congress almost at the moment Congress is convened. He says he's against a delegation of such powers to any one man, no matter how wise and able that man. Further, says Legionaire Hanford MacNider, the bill in its present form would hoist the while flag of surrender for free men everywhere.

The opposition to the bill does make curious bed-fellows. Hanford MacNider is here lined up on the same side with Norman Thomas, the perennial Socialist candidate for President. Socialist Thomas told the Congressmen that the bill would give the President the power to commit any and every conceivable act of war except the dispatch of large armies abroad. At the same time Socialist leader Norman Thomas admitted that he much desired a British victory to a German one. At the same time he says he is convinced that British victory will not automatically solve the problems of the world.

Whereupon Norman Thomas ventured on a prophecy. After the war, he predicted that England will have a Collectivist government.

At this point the spirit moved Congressman Hamilton Fish to bring up that announcement by the State Department yesterday, the news that the United States Government has lifted the embargo on shipments of airplanes and other war material to Soviet Russia.

Ham Fish asked whether this country was going to make distinctions

to the House Affairs Committee
between one aggressor nation and another. Norman Thomas declared

that the action by Secretary of State Hull, lifting the Russian embargo, was an amazing act, unless, he added, there are reasons

not obvious to a layman. And he went on to describe it as

appeasement of the first water. Maybe, he said, it is justified

by some inner state secrets which most of us don't know.

The Senate Foreign Affairs Committee will start holding its public hearings on the Lend-Lease Bill next week.

Here's further news on the subject:- Senator Taft of Ohio intends to offer his own suggestion for a plan to help Britain. It will be a substitute bill and he may introduce it tomorrow.

The Taft plan, instead of the Lend-Lease idea will make outright loans to the British through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, and that for just a period of one year, at the end of which Congress will be free to make a fresh decision. Senator Taft was asked what about the Johnson Act? And he replied that it did not prohibit any loans to defaulting foreign nations - loans by the R.F.C. - just private loans.

Hamilton Fish and Norman Thomas were not the only people puzzled over that announcement by Secretary of Hull concerning Russia. It evidently came as a surprise even to Senator George of Georgia, Democratic Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate. He said that, not knowing anything more about it than he does, he couldn't see any purpose in it. For one thing, he pointed out, American Aircraft manufacturers are so loaded down with business that they can't take care of our own orders and those of the British, let alone build planes for the Soviets.

One natural assumption is that our State Department's aim is to wean the Soviets away from the Axis and Japan. One thing that was being pointed out in the Capital today -- Secretary Hull withdrew the embargo the day after Japan's Foreign Minister Matsuoka declared that war between Japan and the United States was by no means improbable, and that Japan's purpose should be to achieve closer friendship with Moscow.

DRAFT

Near Pontiac, Illinois, a young man twenty-two years old, son of a farmer, ~~xxxx~~ decided he wanted no part of the draft.

At least, the authorities charge that he refused to register.

So one of Uncle Sam's deputy marshalls and a deputy sheriff went

out to the farm-house of the young man's father. Even the

appearance of the law in the person of two officers apparently

did not change the young man's mind. And that deputy marshall and

the deputy sheriff returned to Pontiac a few hours later, both

bleeding severely from knife wounds, but they had their man, the

young fellow accused of dodging registration. ^{And the draft} ~~To be sure he had~~

^{dodger had}

a bullet wound in his ~~xxxx~~ abdomen, ^{Also the deputies} and the ~~officers~~ reported that

^{had} they ~~had~~ left his father on the ground at the farmhouse, where he fell

during the fight.

RUMANIA

What's going on in Rumania? Nobody knows for sure, that is, nobody over here. Big-wig Nazis in Berlin say they have information that there ^{has} been a slackening of tension. London picked up a broadcast from Bucharest, and it was considered significant that the station, which usually identifies itself as Radio Bucharest, tonight called itself Legionary Rumania.

^{Which} ~~That~~ indicates that the Iron Guard has control of the broadcasting station at least. For the Guards describe themselves as Legionnaires. Aside from that peculiar identification, the broadcast uttered the claim that the Iron Guard ~~xxx~~ are full masters of the situation, in control of all public buildings in the capital, which means all government offices, also the naval base of Constanza on the Black Sea, also the air base at Craiova, also the military barracks at Galatz. A fuller report on that broadcast reveals that the Iron Guard claimed ^S ~~to~~ to have overthrown the government of Premier General Antonescu, the Dictator. All of which is pretty puzzling, since Antonescu was first reported to have seized the power with the help ^{of} and as a friend of the Iron Guard.

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BASEBALL

Thirty-five thousand dollars for six months' work

throwing a baseball!

Not so bad - is it? And
~~That sounds like not such bad pay. It's~~

that's this year
the salary of Pitcher Buck Newson, the top-flight hurler of the

Detroit Tigers. To offset that *handsome* ~~illustrious~~ income, we ~~have to~~ *should*

remember that a pitcher is lucky if he lasts ten seasons, though

the one and only Walter Johnson, I believe, was mowing the batters

down for twenty years.

That thirty-five thousand dollar salary for Buck

Newson is news because it's a record for pitchers. Although they

are such an invaluable part of any ball team they never yet have

been paid ^{the} spectacular salaries of the Babe Ruths, ~~Leo~~ Gehrigs and

Joe di Maggios. Still, thirty-five thousand ~~dollars isn't~~ *for having*

~~bad~~, with a lot of good fun ~~thrown in~~ -- not so bad, not so bad.

Eh, Hugh?

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