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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

On the island of Saipan, Uncle Sam's leather-necks of the Second Marines are halfway through Garapan the capital of the Marianas. The same leather necks who conquered Tarawa. They have already knocked out half of the Japanese force on Saipan. In Garapan, they had to fight their way not only through Japs but through roaring flames, for the place is on fire.

Those Marines, together with infantrymen mostly from New York, are now in possession of almost two-thirds of Saipan. Admiral Nimitz tells us that they have already counted six-thousand and fifteen dead Japs on the island.

One reporter had a chance to watch the fighting from the top of a lofty cliff. Below him a batalion of American Marines was battling its way down a mountain side. Almost as tough a job as their fight up

the other side of the mountain had been. The way was blocked by huge pandanus trees with root structures that stick out like the ribs of an umbrella. The Marines had about as much chopping to do as fighting. They took thrn-about, one group chopping while others protected them with rifles and machine guns. The trail over the mountain runs almost as steep as a waterfall.

It is lined with ropes, without which it would be impossible to climb either up or down. Near the top of the trail the reporter could see Marines emerging from the jungle while Army units pushed forward in a broad front over the Plateueau. At that distance, the off shore destryers were thbrowing shells into the Japanese lines; and ahead of the advancing infantrymen were bursts of shells from the American artillery.

Uncle Sam's lads on Saipan may have concluded the worst part of that job. Those who have seen all theatres of war agree that Saipan has been the toughest of all, worse even than Guadalcanal -- or Tarawa. It will not be long now before Saipan is an American instead of Japanese outpose.

One more ~~item~~ ^{item} from the Pacific tonight. ~~General~~
MacArthur has landed troops on another island North of
Dutch New Guinea, an island called Noemfoor. Our men did
the job so well that already they have an airdrome, the
biggest of three on the island. The Nips offered only
slight opposition. In fact, MacArthur's Communique reported
no losses, either in the air, on the sea or on the ground.

Noemfoor is a small oval-shaped island fifteen miles long,
twelve miles wide, fifty-five miles west of Biak. At the rate
our troops are forging ahead there we shall soon have the
whole island. The spot is less than seven hundred and seventy
miles from the southern tip of the Philippines.

RUSSIA

In announcing the fall of Minsk Stalin today declared that it was taken by a deep outflanking maneuver. The two armies assigned to the job swung around the city, and cut all the roads of retreat open to the Nazis. Unless the Germans evacuated three hundred thousand of them have been trapped. So far, Moscow says nothing about casualties or the number of prisoners.

Tonight Red Army advance patrols are only a hundred and twenty-five miles from the frontier of East Prussia. The Germans are still holding a strip of land covering some five thousand square miles. But they are moving out fast, before the Russian avalanche. The Soviet High Command refers to Minsk, as one of the most important strategic centers on that front.

The Red Armies, the largest ever concentrated in the history of warfare, advanced twelve miles in the last twenty-four hours, to accomplish that victory at Minsk.

At Minsk, the Soviet legions are now five hundred and eighty-eight miles from Berlin. In Normandy, the British and Americans are six hundred and forty miles away. General Clark's Fifth Army, pushing up the west coast of Italy, is seven hundred and sixty miles from Berlin.

ADD_RUSSIA

And that was not the only sector on which the Russians advanced. On the Karelian Front the Soviet troops pushed ahead northwest and West of Petrozavodsk which they captured last Friday. In so doing they took more than fifty inhabited places, stations on an important railway line.

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The Red Armies also spread out further south on the Baltic front, southwest of Polotsk and they're they took more than four hundred localities, including several important ones. The third white Russian Army is now inside the town of Polotsk, fighting raging in the streets now.

All in all the Russian steam roller seems to be bowling along in high gear. The Nazi Armies appear to be hopelessly outnumbered.

LEAD ITALY

Secretary of War Stimson timed his movements most fortunately this week. He went to Italy to inspect the Allied troops, hospitals and front lines. His plane landed him in Rome just in time to learn that French troops from Algiers had captured the historic old city of Siena. All of which was particularly interesting for some of the newspapermen with the Fifth Army. For it was in Siena that they were interned for five months after Mussolini declared war on Uncle Sam. Reynolds and Eleanor Packard of the United Press report that they rode into the town in a jeep. The Sienese recognized many of the newspapermen.

When the newspapermen reached the Palazzo Pubblico, which is what the Sienese call their city hall, city officials ran down the steps, embraced the reporters and tried to turn the government of Siena over to them. The Packards explained to them that they were there only as correspondents and all they wanted was a place ~~for~~ to write their stories. So they were led to a sumptuous office where they typed

out their dispatches, under considerable difficulties, because the room was filled with excited, shouting Italians, slapping the Americans on the back, and bringing them bottles of delicious Tuscan wine. So, as the newspaper people couldn't accept the government of Siena, they compromised by taking the wine.

The capture of Siena was preceded by a terrific barrage from General Clark's artillery. When the cannonading was over, the Goums, those fierce Algerians with the French forces, stormed the city.

And that places the Fifth Army only thirty miles south of Florence. By capturing Siena, the Americans have cut the last main lateral road south of the highway from Florence to Pisa, the main German line of defense.

Also, today on the Adriatic end of the Allied line, the British Eighth Army forged ahead to within eight miles of Ancona.

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~~at the same time~~ *Also, Today* on the Adriatic end of the Allied line, the British Eighth Army ~~is~~ *foraged ahead to* within eight miles of Ancona. ~~Further in the center of the peninsula, the British have driven into the German defenses around the Trasimeno Lake. According to all accounts, these defenses are rapidly crumbling.~~

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The Germans are rushing reinforcements, ~~for all they are worth~~, trying to stop the advance of the Fifth Army *as it approaches the important seaport of Leghorn.* ~~Of course, the way the Germans describe the day's events is that they withdrew Leghorn. The Germans say they without pressure from the Allies, and they were anxious not to destroy the valuable cultural monuments of Siena. Rather late in the day for the Germans to make *nevertheless they took time to* ~~that pretense, still they make it. They loot~~ Siena; ~~thoroughly~~, carrying away everything that was portable and not hidden by the Italian inhabitants. ~~Everything except such art treasures as they had not already stolen.~~ They also wrecked the electric, gas and telephone systems. *TP American* ~~our United States~~ artillery men *glorious old* took particular pains to spare the city of Siena,~~

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American artillerymen took particular pains to spare the glorious old city of Siena, with its Cathedral, and clock tower, and many other beautiful monuments. All are undamaged.

Spokesmen at headquarters declare that many of the Nazi divisions are below strength. Because they have lost so heavily during their northward retreat. A German document which fell into the hands of the French, indicates that General Von Mackensen, Commander of the Fourteenth Army, was removed from his post after losing most of his men.

One piece of news from Italy brings word that Gigle, the famous opera star is dead. You may recall that only a couple of weeks ago there was a great to

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do because Gigue had been invited to sing at a show from American soldiers. Italian newspapers protested vehemently because of Gigli's Fascist sympathies. They said he was much too friendly with the Germans while they occupied Rome and after the Allies drove the Nazis out. A mob attacked his villa and sacked it. And now comes the word that Gigli is dead.

INVASION

Twenty-seven days have passed since D-Day and in that time the Allies have chased the Germans out of one thousand, one hundred square miles of French territory. In other words, they now occupy an area roughly the size of Rhode Island. They hold a hundred and twenty-five miles of the coastline of Normandy, and the territory they occupy extends twenty-two miles inland at some points. Supreme Headquarters in London points out that the Nazis have suffered more than ninety thousand casualties, the equivalent of eight to ten enemy divisions. In addition to that, the Allies have taken more than forty thousand prisoners

We have knocked out more than three hundred enemy tanks, of which a hundred and fifty were destroyed utterly. In addition to that, the Allies have knocked down or destroyed on the ground some thirty Nazi planes a day, which adds up to a total of more than eight hundred. That by itself is of great importance, whittling down the strength of Germany in the air.

A German officer who surrendered only two days after he arrived in Normandy, made a bitter comment on this. He told a British officer that the German Fighters in Russia were told that the Luftwaffe was in the West. And now those in Normandy are being told that it's in the East on the Russian Front. German soldiers who have been on both fronts, resent that said he.

According to Allied Supreme Headquarters, all the Luftwaffe can do now is to carry out hit-and-run raids and nuisance attacks.

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General Omar Bradley's men had hardly finished their job of clearing the Cherbourg peninsula of Germans before they started another big scale attack. In pouring rain, the right flank of the American Army advanced all along the line in a southeastern direction. Owing to the rain, planes can't operate; so the infantrymen are on their own. The Nazis are defending every hedge now, every tree, every stone house. And much

fighting and marching over a country of fields, woods, and endless hedge rows. Consequently, ~~there~~ there is no room for tanks ~~if~~ to maneuver. Owing to the rain, ~~the~~ planes can't operate; so, the infantrymen are on their own. Correspondents on the front line report that it is warfare of the Indian type. ~~Our men are staling the enemy whenever they find them.~~

The Nazis are defending every hedge now, every tree, every stone house. *And much* ~~of~~ of the fighting is hand to hand, with the bayonet.

Before the men started, the American artillery kept up a barrage all night; *And now they are* ~~this first U. S. Army~~ ~~under Bradley is~~ fighting on a forty mile front. If they continue as they have started, *before long they'll* ~~they will~~ reach the neck of the peninsula of Brittany, at the end of which is the great port of Brest. *↑* ~~In that first army~~ ~~of Bradley's~~ are two corps and eight divisions, more than a hundred thousand men. ~~It is to be hoped~~ that the power of his attacks will force the Germans to withdraw some of the strength they have concentrated around Caen.

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One Nazi Commentator admits that the Allies now have enough ~~ix~~ power in Normandy to drive on into the interior of France.

DOODLE_BOMB

Tonight we are told what it is like to be almost killed by a robot bomb in England. A reporter for the United Press had a hair breadth escape from one. He was riding to work on top of a bus. Suddenly the passengers heard the roar of a winged torpedo. And there came two thousand pounds of flying tnt, heading straight for that bus.

Reporter Murray of the U.P. tells how someone shouted "It's going to hit us!" Murray took one glance and made a dive for the floor.

An R.A.F. **H**irutenant was under the same seat as the United Press reporter. He raised his face and said: "This is it, Chum!" Then the gears of the bus screeched and it lurched forward. At that moment the bomb hit with a crash. Murray said his first sensation was of the bus rising up and hitting him on the chest. Then his lips sputtered as the vacuum created by the explosion drew the air out of his lungs. All around could be heard the noise of splintering glass for minutes after the explosion.

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The bomb had missed the bus but had hit a nearby building and literally spalled it into the street.

As the excitement subsided the driver of the bus exclaimed, "did you see how I dodged that one?" Then he added, "I pulled away just in time. I was looking the blooming thing right in the face when it blew up."

The reporter asked, "Why did you stop the bus in the first place?"

"Oh" he said, "the traffic light went red, but I jolly well got hold of myself and drove through it!"

PRODUCTION

Today two important men at Washington gave out information about the war which, to say the least, is not discouraging. First of all, General Arnold of the Army Air Forces reported that Allied Airmen have cut by two-thirds the German production of planes, gas and oil. And those are three of the most vital parts of the Nazi war machine. In addition to that he said, the Air War has destroyed about half of the center of Berlin.

The crippled condition of the German Air Force said General Arnold, became obvious when the Nazis failed to use their planes to attack the huge convoys crossing the English Channel to Normandy. The impotence of the Luftwaffe was further illustrated by its failure to attack the huge concentrations of men and material on the Normandy Beaches.

He went on to say that German Oil Refineries are operating at only thirty per cent capacity. The German Generals have been forced to dip heavily into their reserves of gasoline. Our bombers have hit all

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fourteen of their refineries in Germany where they produce their hundred octane gas.

On the same day, we learn that here on the home front our production of four-motored bombers is ahead of schedule for the Month of June. This from Charles E. Wilson, Chief of Aircraft Production. This includes the new B-29's.

ROOSEVELT

Here is a man from New Orleans with a queer story. He says President Roosevelt will positively refuse to run for fourth term. The author of this report is J. J. Kramer of New Orleans, and he is the executive secretary of an organization that has been formed to draft Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia for the Presidency.

Mr. Roosevelt to turn down the nomination!
If that were true, it would be news, to say the least.

Now Hugh, how about some news from you?