

Cavan

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Somewhere in Greece, the British and the Greeks are fighting back the German thrust along a new line of defense. This much was admitted by the War Office in London. Last Saturday night General Wavell's army withdrew to new positions. The communication adds that covering troops inflicted severe casualties upon the enemy, who maintained continued pressure on the British eastern sector during this withdrawal.

The Nazis have been shouting for more than a week that the British were on the run, preparing to desert the Greeks. They repeated the boast today, but there is no reason to believe it is true. They elaborate their story about the British

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evacuation by claiming that Hitler's heavy planes bombed a concentration of British transport and supply ships at Piraeus, ~~a~~ ~~the~~ port of Athens, and sank a total of thirty thousand tons, damaging eighty thousand tons besides. Other German dispatches carry stories that the British are embarking not only from Greek

harbors but from points along the open shore. *But these dispatches have the sound of ~~being just~~ Nazi propaganda*

In Rome, a radio broadcast crowed loudly that the Ninth Italian Army Corps had occupied Corizza to the west of the main Greek and British line. Corizza is a key railroad center in Albania, one of the first Fascist strongholds that the Greeks took from the Italians a few months ago. *That may have some connection with the British withdrawal.* ~~These two facts may be connected.~~ If the

Axis armies really have Corizza, they are in a position to threaten the northern Phlorina line. So ~~that~~^e announcement by the London War Office ~~may~~^{might} mean that the British and Greeks have fallen back upon a secondary defense line in mid-Greece from Janina to Larissa.

That would place the line of battle in the middle of the plains of Thesaly. *But this much is more conjecture.* The London War Office adds that "persistent German attacks failed to penetrate the center of our sector owing largely to our vigorous artillery fire. The weather is extremely cold, with snow falling."

The Greek announcements on the other hand, are more optimistic. The Athens radio continues to be quite cheerful and chatty, ^{saying that} ~~said~~ the failure of the Germans to break through in the first day and the continuous massing of Allied troops, encourages the conviction that the Allied position is strong and the situation highly satisfactory. ^{It also says! —} ~~And it adds;~~ "The Greeks and the British are waiting eagerly to ~~fighting~~ fight the Germans." The announcement from London hardly indicates any waiting.

News about the Yugoslav armies is of necessity vague, and ~~unreliable~~. ³ ~~The stories from~~ London report that the Yugoslav armies are intact although the generals are fighting independently of each other. ^{also that} They've surrounded a German force to the south of Belgrade and ^{have} recaptured two cities, southeast of Topole and Nish. There was a rumor in Vichy, the temporary capital of France, that the Yugoslav forces in south Serbia have got together and driven the Germans out of Skoplje, captured Durazzo, the chief seaport of Albania, and bottled up the Italians in Tirano, the capital of Albania. But that's just a rumor, without any confirmation.

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The Nazi high command ~~contradicts these reports flatly,~~ ^{all this and}
declares that the Yugoslav forces have been smashed, ~~into~~
~~disorganized remnants.~~ The Nazi communique uses these words:-
"~~The fighting today is marked primarily by~~" complete dissolution
of organized Yugoslav forces, "~~and the Germans go on to say that~~
~~the operations in Yugoslavia now consist chiefly of mopping up,~~
~~preparatory to releasing the Nazi forces in Yugoslavia for a full~~
~~attack upon the Greeks and British.~~

From Africa the news grows ^{and more} ~~more ominous.~~ ~~almost every~~
~~hour:~~ British spokesmen in London make no attempt to conceal the
gravity of that ferocious drive of the Panzer divisions toward the
Suez Canal. From six to eight divisions are employed, between two
and four German Panzer divisions of about ten thousand men each
and four Italian divisions with some mechanized units. There are
probably eighty thousand men in all with the most complete modern
equipment speeding along the Libyan coast in the teeth of the
Army of the Nile. The Germans are using larger and more powerful
tanks than those that the British have. If they're the big twenty
toners that won the Battle of France, the British are facing

devastating machines that are impervious to anti-tank cannon fire.

Berlin declares that ^{the Nazis} they are now well inside Egypt, ^{in possession of} attacking

Sollum, while an advance guard is on its way to Buqbuq. In fact ^{the Germans} they are now where General Graziani was before Sir Archibald Wavell

hurled him back.

The united Germans and Italians are not any too far from Mersamatruh, ^{at the western} which is the end of the railway line to Alexandria. The British have a consoling communication about Sollum, which the Germans claim to have captured. The Army of the Nile is in contact with advanced enemy detachments in the vicinity of Sollum, and has inflicted considerable casualties. ^{So says Cairo,} There has been bloody fighting around Sollum all day. Nevertheless, military observers in Cairo admit that they are uncertain how long General Wavell will wait before ordering a retreat to stronger and better prepared positions near Mersamatruth. It is recognized in Cairo that the German and Italian forces are threatening to outflank the British military position in the Middle East.

There is fierce fighting at Tobruk, which the German advance guard left in the rear. The British say they beat off a

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stiff German attack of both tanks and infantry. The Germans claim that fourteen British tanks attempted a sally out of Tobruk and that eight of them were immediately destroyed. Whereupon the others fell back. The Germans also say that the British are trying to evacuate Tobruk by sea.

TREATY

There is much confusion,

~~Feelings are powerfully mixed~~ over that Russo-Japanese Treaty.

~~In some cases you might even say they're scrambled.~~ Wishful thinkers

declare that it doesn't matter so much; ^{not} ~~isn't~~ as grave and portentous

as it sounds. More forthright observers pronounce it a blow to

Britain, ^{and} a blow to Uncle Sam.

Congressman Hamilton Fish of New York made a speech on the floor of the House, describing it as the "inevitable result of our militant interventionist policy in the Far East." And he added that "our bewildered policy of quarantining Europe and Asia has brought ruin and disaster wherever we have intervened."

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Secretary of State Hull declined to be ruffled. The importance of that neutrality agreement, he said, could be over-estimated. It's no surprise to the State Department, he said, ^{they he} and allowed himself ~~for once~~ to be quoted. ~~QUOTE:~~ "The policy of this government remains unchanged. The agreement," ^{added} ~~explained~~ the Secretary, "would seem to be descriptive of a situation which has in effect existed between the two countries for some time past. It therefore comes as no surprise, although there has existed doubt as to whether the two governments would agree to say it in writing."

When the Treaty was announced there was immediate wonder *as to* what would be the effect upon the Chinese. Here's the word as it comes from Chungking today.) Unofficial spokesmen say that the Chiang Kai-shek government has been assured by Moscow that the neutrality pact with Japan will not change the fundamental policy of the Soviets of giving help to free China.

2 And Chiang Kai-shek's Foreign Minister indirectly asked what business Russia and Japan had making agreements about Outer Mongolia and Manchuria. The Chinese look upon both those countries as being still Chinese territory. (The Chinese government and people cannot recognize any engagements among third powers affecting Outer Mongolia and Manchuria," says the Chinese Foreign Minister.)

CONGRESS

In the eyes of Uncle Sam, Henrik de Kauffmann still is Minister to Washington from Denmark. He received that notification from the State Department today in a note from Secretary of State Hull.

That note indirectly ~~is~~ was a reply to the message received by deKauffmann from Copenhagen, the message protesting against the Greenland agreement and recalling deKauffmann. Said Secretary Hull, and I quote his words:- "My government considers it to be the fact that the government in Denmark in this respect is acting under duress." The Secretary continues:- "In consequence I have the honor to advise you that the Government of the United States continues to recognize you as the duly authorized Minister in Washington." And he added:- "It renews its hope for the speedy liberation of Denmark."

Washington observers declare that in effect this makes deKauffmann the acting head of an exiled Danish government presiding in Washington. deKauffman issued a statement that he believes it his duty to his King and country to carry out the work entrusted to him when he was appointed Minister to Washington by a free

government, and he added, "This attitude of mine has the full support of the other members of the Danish foreign service stationed in the United States."

STEEL

There will be no strike in steel, not at present. First of all, at Johnstown, Pennsylvania; Bethlehem, the second largest producer of steel in the United States, announced an increase of ten cents an hour for all its ninety thousand workers. Thus Bethlehem became the first big time steel producer to raise wages.

That bulletin still was hot when there came a dispatch from Pittsburgh. United States Steel and its five major subsidiaries, had given their employees a new contract, including an increase of ten cents an hour. Women employees also will get more in their pay envelopes, some as much as six dollars a week more. This news concerns wage increases to two hundred and sixty-one thousand workers. And -p- these wage boosts will start as of April First.

On two points the Union failed to win. There'll be no closed shop and the companies will not act as collectors for the Unions, will not deduct union dues from the pay envelope. Also, there's no provision in the new contract whereby men who are drafted will just automatically get their jobs back when the emergency is over.

News comes from Cleveland today that Republic Steel has followed suit.

JAIL BREAK

In the great New York penitentiary at Sing Sing, there is a fog horn contraption, a fearsome sounding instrument. Whenever it blows, the people on both banks of the Hudson for miles around are on the alert, for the blowing of that siren means someone has just escaped from Sing Sing.

Shortly after two o'clock this morning that terrifying siren rent the Ossining air. Almost everybody in that house of punishment was asleep. But three of the inmates were particularly wide-awake. They had been working, plotting and preparing for six months to make the break, a "crush out" as they call it. All three desperate men, as convicts must be to plot an escape, since the punishment for failure is dire.

All three were professional criminals, miscreants who had started in New York City as juvenile offenders. They belonged to a mob called the "paper bag gang" because whenever they ~~committed~~ committed a robbery, ~~it~~ they would carry off their loot in paper bags. All of them were what is known as recidivists, fellows who commuted in and out of prisons. But - one of them had worked his way into the confidences of the Sing Sing authorities sufficiently to become a trusty in the prison hospital. The other two had shammed

illness. So finally there they were, all in the hospital together.

Meanwhile, they had procured keys and weapons. Guns had been smuggled in to them, under the body of a milk truck.

Confederates inside had conveyed the weapons to the three desperate fellows. The police also believe that a motor car had been stolen and left for the jail-breaking convicts near the railroad station at Ossining.

That prison drama began, as we have seen, shortly after two o'clock this morning. At a given signal, two of those hospital prisoners, fully clad, threw off their blankets and jumped up. The leader put a gun to the back of the prison guard in charge of the hospital ward and pulled the trigger, - murdered the guard. Then they scampered down two flights of stairs. On a lower floor they ran into another guard and were going to wipe him out too, but one of them said: "Wait a minute, we've killed one guy, that's enough." So they locked this other guard in a tunnel in the sub-basement of the hospital building.

Apparently they had all the door keys they needed. Then they made their way out of the prison through a tunnel leading

from the hospital building to the embankment of the New York Central Railroad tracks. They crossed the railroad tracks, and were apparently in full sight of liberty. Then they struck hard luck.

On the streets of Ossining they ran ^{headlong} into a couple of town policemen.

There was a short sharp pistol battle, which ended with one policeman

and one ^{runaway} ~~escaping~~ convict on the ground dead, ^{and} the other two

desperadoes making good their escape to the Hudson River. There

they commandeered a rowboat and pulled their way over to the west side.

On the face ^{of it} their chances looked good since the west ^{bank} ~~side~~

of the Hudson ~~River~~ there is heavily wooded. But in short order

~~appeared~~ a posse of state police and deputy sheriffs, fifty strong,

was on their trail. The state patrolmen had two well trained

bloodhounds on the job. Seven hours after they had started their

desperate attempt, those two remaining convicts were surrounded.

They came out from their retreat with their hands in the air,

whimpering, ~~and~~ ^[handcuffed,] licked. Without a struggle they were taken back to

Sing Sing, and then the authorities began to ^{run down} ~~find out~~ the details

of the plot and the ramifications of the conspiracy.

The Total result -- seven hours! liberty for two men,
three men dead! ^{And now} ~~With it all~~ the two survivors ^{must} ~~have to answer~~ answer
~~to the~~ ^a charge of ~~the~~ murder.

BASEBALL

President Roosevelt threw out the first ball of the season, while Vice-President Wallace led the march around the diamond. Maybe this game will be a portent for the season. The Washington Senators entertained the New York Yankees, which many experts are backing to win the American League pennant and the World Series. At any rate, baseball is with us again, with presidential sanction.

PRESIDENT CAMACHO (~~HSE MONDAY~~)

An American invasion of Mexico! Sounds ominous.

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But it isn't. Movie Producer James Roosevelt invited me to take part in it and halfway promised that my role in the invasion would be to escort Hedi Lamarr, ^{or} Ann Sheridan ~~and~~ ^{or} Norma Shearer [^] — or all three. So you can see why I am feeling sad tonight, because I couldn't fly to Mexico City with those three glamorous movie stars.

It happened this way: 'President Camacho of Mexico has proclaimed this "Movie Festival Week," in his country. The festivities will include a world premiere of a film, the first such event to take place in Mexico City. The picture is "Pot O' Gold," with James Stewart and Paulette Goddard.

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~~You never can tell.~~ The temptation ^{was} ~~is~~ almost irresistible. ^{Let's ask Hugh? Hugh would you} ~~Perhaps Hugh James and I will~~ run off to Mexico [^] tomorrow ~~with~~ Ann Sheridan ^{or} ~~and~~ Hedi Lamarr. ~~How about it, Hugh?~~ ^{or} would you stay right here and be true blue to Nu-Blue?

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