

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The late war news comes with a ringing sound. The British are within ten miles of Tobruk. This means a long and swift advance, seventy five miles - from the Egyptian border to that stronghold, which has been under siege ever since last spring.

The United Press bulletin from Cairo reads as follows:-

"Imperial troops have captured an escarpment only ten miles

southeast of the perimeter defenses of Tobruk." ^{Only} Ten miles

to go to get to ^{those} the outer defenses ^{that have been held so} held by the British. ~~A~~

^{long and tenaciously} by a British garrison. ^A
A brilliant beginning of the north ~~off~~ African assault, which was

announced only yesterday - late yesterday afternoon. The first

main objective of the drive launched by the Empire forces would

be to relieve that garrison at Tobruk, and if they did - it would

be a vivid success.

You'd think, that having driven so far, all the way

to Tobruk, the empire forces must have had hard fighting -

- crashing through the tank divisions of the Germans and Italians. Yet the Cairo dispatch speaks of only feeble resistance. So the real battle may be only beginning. Mechanized British columns may have swung around deeply through the empty desert, only to clash with the Axis powers ~~to~~ near to Tobruk. The Cairo bulletin indicates that Nazi tank divisions are retiring, perhaps concentrating to meet the shock. And this afternoon, in London, Prime Minister Churchill stated: "We ~~we~~ do not know whether the trial of strength has yet taken place ~~here~~ between heavy armored forces, but it ~~we~~ cannot be long delayed".

Churchill spoke in the House of Commons, and gave a description of the kind of warfare that is now raging on the desert - something special, not like any other. ("This ~~offensive~~ ^{offensive} ~~offensive~~ has been long and elaborately prepared," said the British Prime Minister. "There is nothing in the world quite like war ~~conditions prevailing in the western desert, in which swift, far reaching movements are only possible by extraordinary use of air power and mechanization.~~) Conditions in many respects, he went on, "are like those of sea war. The principal units involved ^d keep wireless silence while preparing or making

rapid extensive movements. The encounter, when it is achieved, he said, "is like the clash of fleets ^{at sea,} ~~of flotillas~~. And, as in a naval battle, all may be settled one way or the other in perhaps two hours.

~~(Nothing could be more opposite than the desert and the ocean, but desert battle is like sea battle, as Winston Churchill tells us - pointing out a paradox of war.)~~

The war in Russia is particularly vague tonight. It has been shrouded in doubt on ^e previous days, but tonight it is more so. Presumably the battle before Moscow is continuing - after some measure of Nazi advance to the north of the city. We had this last night and it was ~~confirmed~~ confirmed this morning.

Berlin is silent, and the most graphic piece of war news we have is from the temporary Soviet capital. And yet this news is cryptic in character. We don't know where it happened. The Soviets tell of a terrific blitzkrieg assault, but merely locate it as - in the south. Just where in the south, they don't xx say. Possibly in the Rostov area, the ~~gateway~~ gateway to the ~~xx~~ Caucasus. ~~Heavy Nazi panzer forces x have driven~~

~~Red Army units back.~~ The Panzers are launching what the Russians call "terrific blows". And the Soviet newspaper Red Star declares the situation is "serious". But where?

On the other hand, the Red Army claims advances in front of Leningrad, where the Army defending the city is said to be driving forward with a powerful assault of planes, artillery and infantry.

WEYGAND

Last night's reports about General Weygand are amply confirmed tonight. The government of Marshal Petain at Vichy announces that the French- pro-consulto North Africa has been removed. Weygand held the post of delegate for Coordination of North African defenses, - which gave him the command of all the French forces in Africa. That job is now abolished. Weygand was also Governor of Algeria, and in that post he is now replaced. The Vichy government announced the appointment of a series of new governors of French African possessions.

Last night we had Washington advices saying that the question of food for the French would be held up until the Weygand affair is made clear - what it means. This was confirmed today by the State Department, which stated that the whole question of aid to the French would be reconsidered. Hitherto, the United States has been sending provisions to the North African forces under Weygand's command -- this as part of a policy of trying to keep them from yielding to the Nazis. General Weygand has been regarded as the number one factor in resistance to Hitler. So it's only logical that his disappearance from the North African scene should

immediately bring American aid to a halt.

The State Department declaration made the outright assertion that Weygand was ousted because of Hitler.

However, the Washington word would seem to be that the United States does not intend to withdraw recognition of the Vichy regime - by recognizing the Free French group headed by General de Gaulle, However, a resolution has been introduced in Congress calling for the recognition of DeGaulle.

The British government today apologized for discourtesy to Maxim Litvinov, Soviet Ambassador to the United States. Litvinov has been having quite a time, making his way from the temporary Soviet capital en route to Washington. First, his plane was reported lost .They turned up safely, but had an exciting air voyage flying down the Caspian way to Persia.

Then at Teheran, Litvinov and his wife were refused a seat in a British plane - there wasn't any room for them. He was highly indignant about it, said he had been insulted. Apparently the trouble was because of a midunderstanding by a minor British official, but it caused plenty of annoyance in London - where members of the Churchill Government ~~are~~ are constantly being attacked for not loving the Soviets too much.

Today brought an apology, when a spokesman for the Cabinet told the House of Commons that a full investigation is being made - as to why Litvinov and his wife were refused space in the British plane? The promise of an investigation was accompanied by an apology in the House of Commons.

JAPAN

Thanksgiving was no holiday for Secretary of State Cordell Hull - not with the American-Japanese negotiations in ~~an~~ such a state of crisis and suspense. Today, special Emissary Kurasu and the Japanese Ambassador to Washington went to the State Department for a formal conference. This was unusual, not according to diplomatic custom - transacting business on a holiday. ~~But~~ ^{representatives have received} the Japanese ~~had got~~ word from Tokyo, and negotiations are so urgent that the holiday didn't count.

Emissary Karusu and the Tokyo Ambassador ^{have} ~~had~~ received the instructions for which they had been waiting. So the diplomatic parleys were renewed at once.

They had a conference for an hour with the Secretary of State. Naturally, we ~~maintain~~ we are not told what transpired. But we are informed that the negotiations are still in the exploratory stage, ~~an~~ examining plans and ideas, presenting viewpoints. No definite decisions have been arrived at, no specific proposals presented.

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^{Direct} From the Far East, the news is mixed. From Tokyo today an ominous warning was issued to the Japanese Parliament.

Major General Sato stated ^{by} ~~plained~~ ^{breaks} that if war ~~broke~~ out in the Pacific, Japanese cities ^{will all} ~~would~~ be bombed ^{and} burned. He referred to the well known fact that the Japanese towns are built mostly of wood, flimsy construction, and incendiary bombs would turn them into a sea of flames. The Tokyo General stated that this is exactly what would happen - a vast burning of wooden houses. The peril of fire, he added, called urgently for a promotion of the fighting spirit among the people - fighting morale to ~~withstand~~ withstand the bombing and burning.

Another Japanese General appeared before the Tokyo House of Peers and made the grave ~~an~~ statement that the island empire is now confronted by what he called "an unprecedented crisis". Furthermore, Premier General Tojo spoke out with these words:

"The nation ~~is~~ literally stands at the crossroads, ^{where it will} ~~of~~ rise or fall".

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The Tokyo news would seem to paint the Pacific crisis in dark colors. On the other hand, ^{important} Japanese quarters in Shanghai today were expressing optimism - the cheery belief that the conferences in Washington would result in an ~~agreement~~ agreement. The word among the Shanghai Japanese was that Tokyo is offering

to guarantee to the United States that Japan will stay out of

the European war and will not touch Soviet Siberia.

*Also, Japan to get out
in return
of Indo-China, and Uncle Sam to negotiate
a peace ~~with~~ between Japan and China,
for ~~this~~ this, Great Britain and the United States ~~would raise~~
immediately to raise*

the economic restrictions against Japan. They say that these

economic measures against the Mikado's empire are having

such a drastic effect that Japan must either have them raised

by ~~agreement~~ agreement, or try to break them by war. Today

the Shanghai Japanese were ~~sm~~ smiling with the belief that it

would be -- agreement.

RELIEF

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by Former President Hoover —

In Congress today, there was a reappearance of the question - food relief for the hungry in the conquered countries of Europe. A resolution demanding food relief was announced - a resolution ~~a resolution~~ signed by two hundred and twenty members of the Lower House, a majority. They proclaim themselves in favor of - such as was suggested months ago a soup kitchen test to see whether or not it is possible to feed the starving, without benefiting the Nazis. Begin with Belgium, establish soup kitchens in that country for the relief of three million of the most pressing starvation cases - and see how it works out, a practical test.

The resolution was announced by Congressman Lesinski, a Democrat of Michigan. He stated that the food relief demand has the support and signatures of a hundred and sixteen Republicans, a hundred and two Democrats, three progressives, and one farmer-laborite, a majority of the House. *All of which* ~~So that~~ brings back to a focus of interest the plans advocated by ~~former President~~ Herbert Hoover, *who has long* ~~He has~~ been urging a food kitchen way of feeding the Starving, *but* ~~hitherto~~ *his* ~~the~~ efforts of ~~Herbert Hoover~~ have ~~be~~ been blocked by the British -- who insists on maintaining

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their blockade. The British have been unchanging in their opinion that if Food is sent to the conquered peoples, it will help the Nazi invader. Now, however, the resolution signed by a majority of the House of Representatives, may provide new and powerful backing for the Hoover plan.

The former President is in the news in still another way - an address that he made last night. Herbert Hoover declared that Hitler cannot win, and that this nation is not in any danger. He warned against a new A.E.F. which would imperil our own freedom and would result in a huge sacrifice of American lives. Or, in Herbert Hoover's words, "The wholesale loss of the best of our race."

STRIKE

The principal outbreak of coal strike violence today was at Brownsville, Pennsylvania. Union pickets clashed with non-union workers who were on the job in a captive mine. The trouble began when a non-union Negro miner fired two shots at a line of pickets and wounded one of them in the shoulder. Whereupon, groups of strikers and sympathizers opened fire with revolvers. There was an exchange of shots, and also a series of clashes with fists and clubs. Nobody killed, but several were injured.

Tonight, we continue to hear of the spreading of the strike. The United Press survey today indicated that the total number of men on strike now comes to a hundred and seventy-five thousand. And uUnion leaders tonight are predicting that in West Virginia alone an additional sixty-two thousand commercial miners will join the walkout tomorrow.

GIRL

At Garfield, New Jersey, today a cheering crowd attended a Thanksgiving Day wedding. Three hundred people jammed into the office at City Hall, where the Mayor of Garfield united in holy wedlock a husky sailor and his bride. Why all the public enthusiasm? Here's the story:-

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Until a couple of months ago Josephine Phillips worked in a silk mill at Passaic, New Jersey. Then she lost her job - employees laid off. She went looking for another job -- went to New York. No luck -- she couldn't find one.

The little money she had vanished in a few days. ~~She~~ She had no place to go. She became a waif and a stray ⁱⁿ ~~of~~ New York. She slept in subway trains, and walked in Central Park. Day ~~in~~ after day she became more and more downcast, hopeless -- and hungry.

Then one night, as she walked disconsolately in Central Park a sailor came strolling. He accosted the girl, spoke to her. He sensed that there was something unusual, something pitiful, about her. He asked her -- what she was ^d going. She was heart hungry for someone to talk to, someone who would give

her sympathy. She told him of ten long days and nights, hungry and wretched, with no place to go. Thus the girl in the park related her story to sailor Bill Langford of Victoria, Texas.

Sailor Bill took Josephine to a restaurant, and bought her a square meal. He offered to give her money to get a room for herself. She refused. She wouldn't take it. They spent the rest of the night sitting and talking -- until dawn. In the morning Sailor Bill had to go back to ~~his~~ his ship. He told Josephine he would meet her at the same place in the park on the following night.

Josephine spent the rest of the day ~~in~~ in the subway, catching a bit of sleep as she sat in a car. The day seemed terribly long, ~~Wouldn't~~ Wouldn't night ever come? It finally did -- and to the park she went, keeping the date. She waited -- no sign of Sailor Bill. Then a man approached and asked her if she was Josephine. He had a note for her. She read it, and her heart sank. By a bad break of luck and Navy Department orders, Sailor Bill's ship had put out to sea -- and he was aboard.

That seemed to be the end of things for Josephine.

All she could do was go on sleeping in subways and walking in the park, day after day, night after night. Finally she was picked up by the police and sent to the house of detention as a vagrant.

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The story became known, and got into the newspapers as a human interest heart throb. Aboard ship at sea, sailor Bill had not forgotten. He appealed to his Commander for leave to go to Josephine -- he wanted to marry her. The publicity attracted the notice of a cousin of Josephine's out in New Jersey. This cousin offered her a home until Sailor Bill could come and get her. So to Garfield, New Jersey, she went and waited -- until now. Today they were married -- Thanksgiving Day.

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The whole town was waiting for the wedding -- so appealing was the story of Sailor Bill and Josephine. The ceremony was a public event. A crush of people attended. There was a half an hour of congratulations and ~~handshaking~~ handshaking, before the newlyweds could get away. They started off on their honeymoon with enough money to set up housekeeping when they return. A Hollywood producer has ~~paid~~ paid them Two Hundred

dollars for the movie rights to their love story - to make a motion picture of it.

So it was just about a perfect Thanksgiving Day for homeless Josephine and her gallant Sailor Bill.

Now Sailor Bill -- I mean Hugh -- can you think of anything we have to be thankful for?