

Good Evening, Everybody:-


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The speed of Hitler's Nineteen Forty-one war machine is well-nigh incredible. There have been plenty of prophets of gloom in these last few months, but the gloomiest of them never predicted that Hitler's motorized hordes would break the line in the Balkans, the strong Metaxas line, in three days.

But let's look at the picture through British eyes. With characteristic English reserve a spokesman in London said tonight that it is obvious the immediate outlook in the Balkans is very serious. When those words "very serious" came through, Wavell's army had not yet been engaged in that terrific Balkan battle. But it was obviously on the verge of its first big fight with the Nazis, the first real battle between German and British arms in almost a year, since Dunkirk.

As a matter of fact, we don't even know exactly where the British expeditionary force is. But, it's believed that

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Wavell's men are helping the Greeks in Western Thesaly and two other provinces, to the Northwest of Salonika. The British part of the line is the only one properly equipped with tanks, heavy artillery and anti-aircraft guns. Until today it was thought perhaps the British were making a stand at, or near, Salonika. But at four o'clock this morning one of the Nazi panzer columns dashed onto that Aegean port, and the Germans now hold the great Greek port which was an important Allied base in the World War twenty-three years ago.

Here's the story from the German High Command, all corroborated by the Allies. At first no news came from the Germans. But now their bulletins are pouring in like bullets out of a machine-gun. The Nazis say they took five southern Yugoslav cities in seventy-two hours. Apparently their armored divisions moved almost with express-train speed. They paid



but little attention to northern Yugoslavia, where the Yugoslav high command had most of their troops concentrated. Instead, they dashed through mountain passes where they were not expected.

That thrust into southern Yugoslavia has isolated the Yugoslavs, cut them off from the Greeks and the British. Furthermore, the Nazi hordes are now in control of both the Vardar Valley and the Struma Valley. So at the moment it looks as though the British and Greeks are worse off than they would have been if the Yugoslavs had signed that treaty with Hitler. For, according to that agreement the Nazis were permitted only to send military supplies and hospital trains down the Vardar Valley. Now, within a mere seventy-two hours they have complete access into Greece, for all their forces, and the Swastika is now on the shores of the Aegean. The German account indicates that Salonika gave up without a blow. But Greek dispatches acknowledging surrender of the port, declare that Salonika fell only after many savage repulses. German casualties are reported to be terrific.

The explanation is given that the Yugoslavs were the weak link in the defense -- that the Allies would have been better off without them. The Nazi army struck from Bulgaria, swept through the

Jugoslav mountain passes, captured the line of communications down the Struma Valley, and swooped down on Macedonia. Perhaps helped by the inhabitants of those Macedonian regions, who have long hated the Serbs. However, nothing of that appears in the day's communications. By capturing Salonika, the Germans have the eastern wing of the Greek army cut off, cut off and helpless. They cannot retreat, for there's no place to which they can retreat. There can't be another Dunkirk there, because there isn't any shipping. Prime Minister Winston Churchill told the House of Commons he was sure that the Greek army would fight to the bitter end.

Turning our eyes west, the latest is that the Nazis in south Serbia have cut their way through into Albania and will be on the shores of the Adriatic before long.

From the other side, however, comes the claim that one Jugoslav army has crushed through the Italian lines in Albania, crossed the Drin River, and driven into the Albanian interior. They are hoping to make a junction with the Greek forces in Albania. But in Rome the Fascisti spokesmen claim the Greeks are withdrawing from Albania.

In Athens, the Greeks are treating the capture of Salonika as

something to be expected. Be that as it may, Salonika is a big seaport, giving the Nazis access to the Aegean and cutting off a large and helpless Greek army, which Berlin says has now capitulated.

It became obvious today how seriously the sending of that expeditionary force to Greece had weakened the Army of the Nile. The German high command announces that Hitler's General Rommel has taken Derna, where they say they captured two thousand troops including six British generals and a huge amount of booty. That's not confirmed by the British, but also it's not denied.

Today the German and Italian columns are reported to be at Tobruk, just eighty miles from the border of Egypt. Evidently that is true, for Lord Moyne, the Colonial Secretary, told the House of Lords that British tanks and reinforcements are returning, presumably from Greece.

Berlin says the British are about to evacuate Greece and leave the Greeks in the lurch. But the real meaning appears to be that the British are returning some of their forces and equipment to Africa to meet the German threat there.

However, there is one notable British victory to report.

The troops of the Empire have taken Massawa, the oldest colonial seaport that Italy had, the seaport of Eritrea. That means the British virtually have all Eritrea, and the last Italian air base in East Africa. It also means that the British are able to clear the Red Sea of enemy ships.

CHURCHILL

Even the terrific news over the wire was hardly more hair-raising than the words of Winston Churchill. The Prime Minister drew a picture for the British House of Commons that was the most grave and ominous since Petain surrendered France.

For one thing, he admitted to the Commons that General Wavell's army in Greece is in danger, that it was ~~x~~ hazardous to send it there, ^{but he was} ~~that he is~~ convinced that sticking pedantically to the maxim of "safety first" was the most unlikely way of winning

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this war. *at the time he spoke to the House the British Expeditionary Force had not yet gotten into action.*

One part of the story that the Commons heard from Churchill was a repetition of the old slogan, "too late." If the Jugoslavs had helped the Greeks at the time that Mussolini struck, they could have destroyed the Fascist armies in Albania before Germany could move. But the Yugoslav Regent, Prince Paul, behaved just like the governments of Belgium, Scandinavia and the Netherlands. He tried to compromise with Hitler. He kept on compromising even while the German armies and air force were being concentrated in Bulgaria. He refused to receive Foreign Secretary

Eden and Chief of Staff Sir John Dill; he refused to discuss defense with the general staffs of Greece, Turkey and Britain. If Jugoslavia, Greece and Turkey had formed a defensive front, Germany might never have attacked. Greece alone stood strong. The Greeks told Eden that they would fight even if they had to fight alone.

The Prime Minister then went on to admit some of the worst disasters that have befallen the Allied armies. Belgrade, he acknowledged, is in ashes, and he said the Germans entered Salonika at four o'clock this morning. At the same time, he declared the Germans had suffered more than one bloody repulse at the hands of the Greeks before ^{they} got to the Aegean.

Churchill then explained the bad news from Africa. Evidently the army of the Nile was taken unawares. German troops and vehicles in Libya have made a rapid attack of greater strength than the British commanders expected at so early a date, and the British have fallen back upon stronger positions in country easier to defend. At the same time, he revealed the

fact that the British in Africa are fighting now not merely for Cyrenaica but for Egypt. In other words, that swift advance along the African coast begins to threaten Cairo itself and the Suez Canal.

~~All this of course was disclosed in the news elsewhere.~~
H But ~~Then~~ the Prime Minister went on to another picture of gloom. ^{still}
U-boats and Nazi surface raiders are ^{ranging} ~~raging~~ the Atlantic farther and farther westward, nearer and nearer to the shores of the United States. He tacitly admitted the possibility that ^{out} ~~the~~ great masses of weapons and instruments of war involved in the aid-to-Britain bill might sink in the depths of the Atlantic and never reach the fighting line. He then told the Commons about ² ~~those~~ ten Uncle Sam revenue cutters that President Roosevelt had sent over. He ^{disclosed} ~~revealed~~ the ^{news} ~~fact~~ that they were ships originally designed to help the Coast Guard enforce prohibition. But now, said Churchill, they will serve even a higher purpose.

The Prime Minister harped on the fact that the most important part of the war, the real crux of the whole conflict,

is the Battle of the Atlantic. Everything, he said, turns on that. And he ^{made it public} ~~revealed~~ that four million tons of British shipping have already been sunk. ^{He hammered} ~~He made~~ this point more portentously and eloquently than ever before. ^{That} The salvation of Britain depends upon a full scale ^{munitions} American effort, an effort at least equal to the prodigy accomplished by the Americans in Nineteen Eighteen.

That's the way he put it.

^{the} ~~Another~~ high points of Churchill's address to the Parliament may have interested Soviet Dictator Stalin. He said there were many signs that point to a Nazi attempt to secure the grain fields of the Ukraine and the oil fields of the Caucasus, to gain the resources with which to wear down the English-speaking world. And he warned ^{Russia to} his people to ~~accept~~ expect an attempted invasion any day, any moment, also an attack on Turkey.

GERMAN SHIP

In all this turmoil, there comes a slightly ironic item from South America. A German freighter arrived at Rio de Janeiro with a cargo of airplanes for one of the Nazi air transport lines in Brazil. She sailed from Bordeaux and made the journey in twenty-nine days, across the Atlantic without ever sighting so much as a British warship or submarine.

NORTH CAROLINA

Back on our own home grounds there was one encouraging event, a ceremony at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Uncle Sam put into commission the United States Battleship NORTH CAROLINA. She's the most powerful battle ^{wagon} ~~liner~~ afloat, thirty-five thousand tons, with nine 16-inch guns. That means she can throw ten tons of tremendous shells for a distance of twenty miles at one salvo.

President Roosevelt was represented by a wire which points out that she's the first addition to Uncle Sam's navy since eighteen years ago, when the U.S.S. WEST VIRGINIA was commissioned. The NORTH CAROLINA, a little seventy million dollar affair, is the first of ten of her kind, and the next four will be still larger, forty-five thousand tons. The NORTH CAROLINA is five months ahead of schedule. ^{She} ~~The NORTH CAROLINA~~ brings our battle strength to sixteen capital ships. When her nine sister ships are completed, we'll have twenty-five, and that's a line of battle in any man's navy.

LABOR

The conference between the soft coal operators and the miners here at home has been extended another twenty-four hours. In the hope that the southern operators will sign on the dotted line along with the northern operators and the union.

Meanwhile, there's another coal conference going on between the operators and mine workers in the hard coal industry.

One of the busiest men in the United States today was Philip Murray, President of the C.I.O. Murray flew to Washington after a conference in Detroit over the C.I.O. dispute with the Ford Company. Murray had a long conference at the White House with the President. When he left the White House Murray told the newspapermen that there would be an important announcement from Detroit about the Ford situation at five or six o'clock this evening. He implied that it would be the news of a settlement. But no such announcement has been made and Detroit reports no indication of one.

A congressional committee today was asking William F. Knudsen what to do about all these strikes. Knudsen told them he didn't think legislation would help. He thought there ought to be a cooling off period but that should be brought about by an

agreement between management and labor. If defense plants are tied up by strikes, he added, then the government should be permitted to take them over and operate them until the strike is settled.

The Military Affairs Committee of the House decided to call J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. They're going to ask him how much of all the striking in defense plants is the result of Communist penetration.

GALENTO

With all the world toppling to pieces, there are doubtless people who still want to hear what actually happened to Two-Ton Tony, the garrulous Galento.

Tony for once in his life, was not so talkative after that defeat at Washington last night. For the first time he did not say to anybody: "I'll moider the bum." But the officials of the Boxing Commission in the District of Columbia were highly inquisitive. They wanted to know aht about the left hand that Tony claimed he had broken. The surgeon who examined the mighty paw last night after the fight found no sign of a broken bone. Whag's more, Tony refused to go to the hospital; so the Commission held up his end of the purse. They turned the X-ray on that left fist and found indeed no broken hand, but bones in such a sore condition that they could eaily have caused great pain and sloweð up his effort. Thereupon they let poor old Tony have his five thousand odd dollars. So there's the end of the latest turmoil of Two-Ton-Tony. And now Hugh for the end of this.