

L.T. - SUNOCO. WASHINGTON, Dec. 10, 1942 (Thurs.)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY

I am in Washington tonight, and with me is a member of the President's Cabinet who has something to say to you, and to me that is of importance to all of us. But before I tell you which member of the Cabinet, and before he speaks, let's take a look at the world - as it looks tonight, from Washington, D.C.

WAR POWERS

In Washington today the bill to give the President additional war powers was definitely killed---so far as the present Congress is concerned. The House Ways and Means Committee voted unanimously to postpone further consideration of the measure until the new Congress convenes, on January Fourth. Chairman Doughton of North Carolina explained that it would not be possible to get the bill passed by the present Congress during the remaining three weeks of its existence.

The bill, as originally presented, would have permitted the President to suspend all laws governing the movement of people, property and information in and out of the United States. When it got to the Congressional Committee, the part of the bill that concerned persons was cut out--- the clause giving the President power to suspend the immigration laws. Now, the whole thing goes over to the new Congress.

MANPOWER

At Detroit today, six hundred and sixty thousand war workers were frozen in their jobs. They will have to continue working where they are, will not be permitted to shift from one job to another. The freezing order, issued by the Michigan director of the War Manpower Commission, affects two-thirds of the workers in the Detroit area--- employees engaged in war production at such huge factories as the Willow Run bomber plant and the Chrysler tank arsenal.

The freezing order was okayed yesterday by a committee representing labor and management. Its purpose is to stop what they call "labor pirating." That is, one plant getting workers away from another plant by paying higher wages. There might be a dislocation of production because of employees shifting from one job to another.

2-Manpower

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Today's order directs employers to refuse to hire any worker from any essential industry unless the applicant presents a certificate of release from his former employer or from the United States Employment Service.

Changing jobs is permitted only under certain circumstances. ~~These are outlined by the Manpower authorities as follows:~~ If the worker can perform more highly skilled tasks than he is doing; if he is employed at present at less than full time; if his home is too far away from his job, and if his wages and working conditions are substantially less favorable than those prevailing in his community. *And so on,*
~~Also--if he has personal and compelling reasons for wanting to change employment.~~

Here in
~~From~~ [^] Washington we ^{also} hear that the war manpower commission will ~~soon~~ freeze merchant seamen in their jobs---a hundred *and* ten thousand men to be affected. They will be kept out of the draft, and will have to stay in the merchant marine service. It is not clear whether the Manpower Commission

3-Manpower

intends to force merchant seamen to keep the kinds of job they have and on the same ships.

9. The CIO maritime union states that nearly three thousand merchant seamen have been lost because of enemy attack at sea, another one thousand have been taken into the army, and a host of other^s have left their ships for jobs in shipyards. All of which has caused a manpower shortage in the merchant marine---hence the necessity of a freezing order.

NORTH AFRICA

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In this war, time and again the news emphasis has been placed on weather. All the miracles of mechanical terror notwithstanding, armies are not able to overcome these age-old elements---rain and storm, blizzard and snow. In some respects, modern mechanism makes military forces more susceptible than ever to such elemental things as wet skies and bogged ground. (~~All of which is exemplified tonight in the news from Tunisia. There military operations have been slowed down to a halt by rain and mud.~~)

We think of North Africa as desert, but some of it is not---Tunisia, for example. (~~Much of the ground at the tip of that French province is moist enough and Tunisia has frequently an abundance of rain---an over-abundance as is the case right now.~~)

Today's communique issued by the War Department in Washington states: "There was little activity, except patrolling, in the forward areas yesterday because of

2-North Africa

rain---which has made much of the terrain impossible."

And the story of yesterday continues today, the war bogged down for a while.

Military observers are speculating about the halt--- who will benefit the most by the delay, we or they? Both sides are utilizing the interval to bring up new forces, and the assumption is that we have more to bring up--- especially more air power to reinforce General Doolittle's forces of the sky.

London tells us that our side is mustering men and machines---not only to take the tip of Tunisia, but also to close in on Rommel's battered Afrika Korps in Libya.

The idea being ---to launch a drive against Rommel from the west, ^{from} Tunisia, while the British army based on Egypt smashes ahead from the east. Right now General Montgomery's forces in Libya are thrusting at the German fortified line, in preparation for a new advance.

3-North Africa

The news from Soviet Russia is also about the weather.

~~largely. The Russian front is in the grip of that same
sort of bitter winter that was agony for the Germans last
year.~~ The Red Army continues its attacks in various
places along the line, but winter has slowed down the
war.

ITALY

Rome today conceded that there was heavy damage at Turin ^{again} last night. British bombers smashing at the big Italian industrial centers started many fires and wrecked many buildings. So says Rome, and adds---that during the previous raid, on Tuesday night, seventy five persons were killed when British bombers blasted Fascist war plants.

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London states that when R. A. F. planes reached Turin last night, they found fires still burning from the previous bombing the night before. ~~The R. A. F. gave Mussolini's industrial center a second dose, dropping block busters and incendiary bombs. One pilot says the biggest fire was in the middle of the target area---and~~ ^{with} smoke ^{rising} rose to eight thousand feet.

GERMAN GENERAL

Hitler has fired the chief of staff of the German Army, and appointed another. This ^{definite} news comes from Nazi Germany today, after it had been reported by United Press dispatches from Stockholm more than a month ago. At that time, the Nazis made no admission of the fact, but today the ouster of the chief of staff was revealed in Berlin.

The Nazi military shakeup may well be taken as evidence of things going badly. Chief of staff, General Halder, was at odds with Hitler's war policy. He disagreed with the Nazi Feuhrer over the strategy in Russia. Halder proposed caution. This was particularly true last winter when he is said to have opposed the final Nazi offensive against Moscow---the winter drive bogged down and was beaten back. So there was no surprise among military insiders when, a month ago, neutral dispatches declared that General Halder had been tossed out as chief of staff.

2-German General

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Today's admission in Berlin was given in typical Nazi fashion---oblique and indirect. There was no statement that Halder had been sacked by Hitler, no forth-right statement of any sort. The thing was disclosed in a photograph published in a Berlin newspaper. It showed Hitler with a group of high German officers---Hitler talking with one of them, General Zeitzler, ^{who is still the Chief of the General Staff} Beneath the photograph was printed the following caption, "the Feuhrer at a military demonstration in conversation with Chief of General Staff of army, infantry General Zeitzler." So that's how the German people were informed---the former Chief of staff was out, because a new chief of staff was in.

SHACKLING

Both Great Britain and Canada announce the unshackling of war prisoners. The German captives who have been in chains will be released in Canada tomorrow night and in Britain on the following day.

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This follows a proposal made by the Government of Switzerland, which neutral country has been dealing with the British and Canadians on the one side and the Germans on the other---trying to get both sides to relieve war prisoners of manacles. Britain and Canada are complying--- they never did like the business of putting prisoners of war in chains, and did it only in retaliation.

What about the Nazis? Will they too take the shackles off British and Canadian prisoners? The Swiss have asked them to, but both London and Ottawa say they do not know anything about the Berlin response to the Swiss proposal. Prime Minister MacKenzie-King said today, in announcing the unshackling, that he hoped the Nazis would agree---

2-~~S~~hackling

and unchain the prisoners. If they do not, if they continue to keep British and Canadians in manacles--- what will Britain and Canada ^{then} do? That is not stated.

The number of German prisoners shackled has never been disclosed---save for the statement that it was the same as the number of British and Canadians manacled in Germany. That number was a hundred and seven officers and one thousand, two hundred and sixty nine soldiers. This in turn was the number of Germans who, claimed Berlin, had been shackled by the British after the Dieppe raid---the whole thing being on the basis of retaliation.

NEW GUINEA

Australians and Americans under the command of General MacArthur have captured that key Jap strong point-- Gona, in New Guinea. And this accomplishes one half of the job of getting rid of the enemy along an important sector of the North New Guinea coast. General MacArthur's men pushed the Japs back through the jungles until they were pinned against the coast---along a set of beaches from Gona to Buna. Then they did the strategic thing of driving to the sea between those two points, isolating one from the other. Whereupon they concentrated on Gona, and knocked it out.

With the capture of that place, as announced today, General MacArthur's men are now turning against the rest of the Japs fighting with their backs to the sea at Buna.

MAN OF THE YEAR

Crowded around me, as I broadcast from Washington tonight, are some of the nation's leaders, cabinet officers, senators, congressmen, writers - and Beau Jest - Beauford Jester - men of all types who are playing a part in the war. And we are here to pay honor to two young airmen whom none of us have ever even met. The Kappa Sigma Fraternity has what it calls: "The Man of the Year Award." But instead of giving it to one man this year we are giving it to two - two flying lieutenants who took part in the greatest - well, the most remarkable air raid in history - the raid on Tokyo. These two young men who were with General Jimmy Doolittle are J.H. Macia and J.E. Mausch of the University of Arizona, and Hampton and Sidney College.

We don't even know where these two flying lieutenants are tonight. But the chances are they are in North Africa, with their chief, General Doolittle. In their absence the award will be accepted for them

MAN OF THE YEAR - 2

by Drew Pearson. The citation, by the way, pays tribute to all eighty of the men who flew in the great raid on Tokyo.

CHRISTMAS MAIL - 3

higher than ever. People have more money, and they are spending it - spending it for objects smaller than automobiles and refrigerators -- smaller things that can be mailed. All of which is complicating things still farther.

L.T.: Well, that's right straight from headquarters. You have just heard a member of the President's Cabinet, Postmaster General Frank Walker, explain why your Christmas mail and mine will not get through in time - unless we mail our gifts almost at once. And even then the wartime postal handling and transportation problem is so tremendous this year that Uncle Sam can make no guarantees. So, Mr. Postmaster General, I think I'll do my Christmas shopping tomorrow!

some 25,000 of its best men to the Army, Navy and Marine Corps. And short-handed as we are we are handling the largest volume of mail in history.

L.T.: Then, the problem of transportation itself?

What about that?

POSTMASTER: Yes, the railroads are loaded almost to the limit - with troops and war materials. And hundreds of cars ordinarily used for mails are just not available. But the Postal Service is going to do its utmost to get your Christmas gifts to their destination by December Twenty-Fifth - if you hurry up and mail them.

L.T.: Mr. Postmaster General, what's this I hear in Washington that retail sales throughout the country are greater than ever this season? It hardly seems reasonable. We can't buy automobiles, refrigerators, radios - and endless things?

POSTMASTER: Nevertheless retail sales are running

CHRISTMAS MAIL

L.T.: Here's something rather startling that I learned in Washington today: Your Christmas mail and mine may not be delivered this year - that is, not in time for Christmas. That's a subject of a good deal of interest to all of us. So much so that I went direct to one of the members of the President's Cabinet to find out if the report were true. And the Postmaster General himself, Mr. Frank Walker, said that the situation is so serious that he would be glad to come along with me, and tell you just what it's all about. Mr. Walker has just told me that the volume of mail this year far surpasses anything Uncle Sam has ever been called upon to handle. Mr. Postmaster General, I haven't done my shopping yet. And there are a large number of gentlemen in this room with us who are in the same boat, as well as countless thousands throughout the country. How about it? Is it true that we are already too late?

POSTMASTER: It isn't quite as bad as that, Mr. Thomas. But almost! First of all the Postal Service has lost

WIVES

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Today a program was presented for wives whose husbands are in the army and navy. It was offered by Mrs. George S. Patton, wife of General Patton, commander of American tank forces in North Africa. She told a women's conference at Atlanta today that she is a war wife who has had to sit out three wars---including the previous World conflict and this one.

Point one on Mrs. Patton's program concerns letters. "Write cheerful letters to your fighting men," says she. In other words, don't send them pages of lugubrious complaining.

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Another point deals with 'soldiers' visits home. "If you are in a lucky family that has a man home on leave," says Mrs. Patton, "make it a holiday---not a family problem study." Meaning, give your soldier or sailor some family happiness---and not a lot of worries and troubles to figure out.

2-Wives

"It will be a real victory--not to worry," declares
the general's wife, and, she concludes: "If you can't
see your way clear---try praying."

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And ^{-o-} now Hugh, what
advice from you?