

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The city of Hartford, Connecticut, is in mourning tonight as well as the communities around it, and everybody connected with Ringling Brothers Circus. *This afternoon* The Big Top of the Greatest Show on Earth had an audience of ten thousand people in spite of the heat. *Alfred Court's great* ~~The~~ animal act had just finished and the Orlando Brothers with a girl performer were beginning their high wire *stunt* ~~act~~. Suddenly flames broke out in the canvas. Somebody, as usual, had thrown a cigarette. The flames shot up to the top of the great tent, in what seemed to the spectators just a few seconds. Before people could properly realize what was ~~g~~ going on, everything was afire. The sight of that mass of flames ~~precipitated~~ precipitated a panic, ~~in part of~~ the ~~audience~~. At the north end of the big top, the crowd stampeded. Screaming, struggling men and women

pushed each other aside, climbing over each other's bodies to get to the exit. Many small children perished in that stampede.

According to first estimates no fewer than ^{two}~~one~~ hundred people perished. The latest reports reduce that figure a little. So far one-hundred and twenty-six dead bodies have been carried to the State Armory at Hartford. Of those one hundred and twenty six more than eighty bodies ^{are} ~~were~~ those of children.

3
A The big top ~~is~~ of the circus is a total loss ~~and~~ ^{but} no animals perished. It was a huge mass of canvas weighing twenty tons, six hundred feet long and two hundred feet wide. It had been treated with chemicals ~~which~~ which were supposed to render it flame resistant. But apparently they were not powerful enough. One hears that all the flame proof materials are now being used by the U. S. Government.

The Bandmaster kept the band playing until his musicians were driven from the stand by the heat. Ushers did their best to stop the panic, canvasmen,

stake pullers, performers, everybody. But nothing could stop the rush of that panic stricken crowd.

General Manager Smith announced that the circus would immediately go to Winter Quarters at Sarasota to rebuild. If possible it will resume ^{its tour} later.
~~its tour later in the season.~~

And now let's hear from Hugh — something about Victory.

PACIFIC

C.J. - Standard. Thursday, July 6, 1944.
Sunoco

Admiral Chester Nimitz and the ~~men~~ under
him were not to be outdone by the successes of our
Armies in Europe. He ~~announced~~ ^{announced} a short while ago
that a speedy task force of ~~the~~ ^{his} Pacific Fleet made
a raid on the Bonin and Volcano Islands July Third.
It sank or probably sank twelve Jap ships and shot
down thirty-four ^{more} planes.

~~Aircraft~~ Carriers celebrated ^{Independence} ~~Independence~~ Day with
new attacks ^{the} on Pagan Islands two hundred miles north
of Saipan, and Guam ^{on} ~~one~~ ^a hundred and eleven miles south.

General ~~Douglas~~ MacArthur ~~has~~ also has news
for us. ~~tonight~~ He landed ^a small unit of American
^{landings} forces on Manim, three miles off the southeastern
coast of Noemfoor. Uncle Sam's troops have already two
airdromes there, and the operation ^f on Manim cuts off a
third.

CHINA

There have been stories that the Japs were using poison gas in China. An officer of our Army confirmed this today, Captain Ralph L. Thompson of the Chemical Warfare Branch. The enemy are using both mustard and lewisite gas against the Chinese garrison at Henyang. Captain Tompson found victims with burns and blisters on their legs which could have been caused only by mustard gas and by lewisite gas. President Roosevelt last year warned the Axis that the United States will retaliate in kind if poison gas is used.

And now a message from Hugh.

CHURCHILL

Now about Winston Churchill's speech. That robot bomb is indeed a serious matter. So he says. But it will not have any effect on the outcome of the war.

The Prime Minister informed the British House of Commons today that the inner circles of the ~~the~~ government have never under-estimated it, ~~in fact~~ ~~have taken it with the utmost seriousness for more than~~ a year. He told the Commons that ~~As~~ as early as Nineteen Forty-three ~~Intelligence~~ intelligence officers began bringing in reports of this new long-range weapon.

Churchill gave the House a thrilling ~~account~~ ^{hint} of the conflict of wits in what he called "this invisible battle between the British and the Germans." The Nazis, of course, took every precaution to keep their plans a secret. But last July, by a combination of reports from intelligence agents and air observers, the British located the principal experiment stations of the Germans; at a place called Peenemunde, on the Baltic.

Having found out that much, the British, last August, sent out hundreds of heavy bombers, ^{their total force,} to attack the experimental stations. And costly business that was, because of the distance involved -- Peenemunde being way over in Pomerania.

~~He went on to say that~~ The raids were well worth the cost because they inflicted great damage, and killed some of the scientists who were at ~~the~~ work developing these flying robots, including the chief Nazi robot expert.

Churchill
He added that ~~the effect of~~ those long-distance raids ^{delayed} ~~was to delay~~ the development of the robot bomb, ~~the pilotless plane,~~ for many months.

Later, in Nineteen Forty-three, the British learned that the enemy ^{had built about a hundred} ~~were building,~~ launching platforms all along the French coast between Havre and Calais. ~~The Germans had built altogether about a hundred of these firing points,~~ said the Prime Minister. Thereupon the Royal Air Force began bombing them last December, with the help of the growing air power of the United States. *Churchill* He told the Commons ~~that~~ the airmen completely

destroyed ^{those} ~~the~~ first hundred launching bases. Then the Nazis developed a new series of pre-fabricated structures which could be put together quickly and well-camouflaged ^{under the cloak of} ~~during~~ cloudy weather. ~~Today he said that~~ ^{It is} ~~it is~~ from these light firing sites that the Germans ^{today} are ~~launching~~ ^{launching} their present attack on London.

Churchill then acknowledged that ~~the battle,~~ the "unseen battle" as he called it, may be long-drawn-out; therefore, he did not propose to keep silence about the casualties any longer. In fact he acknowledged that London has been bombed all around the clock, twenty-four hours a day, with somewhere between a hundred and a-hundred-and-fifty of the rocket torpedoes sent over every day, each weighing about a ton. This has been going on for the last ~~two or~~ three weeks.

Considering their rather small weight, he admitted that the damage has been extensive; but, ^{nothing} ~~nothing~~ like what the Germans claim. And, nothing compared to the terrific destruction inflicted by the Allies on Berlin, Hamburg, Hanover, Cologne and many other

German cities. ~~The worst part of this robot bomber attack is that it keeps the people worried. They have to get used to expecting them at any time, day or night.~~

Two thousand, seven-hundred and fifty-four already have exploded in London alone, killing two thousand, seven-hundred-and-fifty-two people, -- some of them our own American soldiers. And, eight thousand have been injured. The fatalities have been large, said Winston Churchill, mainly because the weather these last few weeks has prevented full activity by the British and American air forces. *But in the last two days it has improved* ~~He inferred that as the~~
and soon
~~weather improves~~ there will be a different story to tell. ~~"The "Indiscriminate in its nature, purpose and effect," was the way he described it.~~

Churchill
Then ~~he uttered a sentence which will lead to infinite speculation all over the world. He~~ used these words: "The introduction by the Germans of such an *indiscriminate* weapon obviously raises grave questions upon which I do not propose to touch today."

He explained

~~Churchill further said~~ that the casualties from the flying robots had not overstrained hospital facilities in London, because the casualties in Normandy had been so much less than the High Command expected. As a matter of fact, the ~~robot~~ *doodlebug* bombs actually have killed more people in London than the British have lost in action in Normandy during the ~~ix~~ first fifteen days of the invasion!

As for a general evacuation of London, Prime Minister Churchill scorned the idea and said Londoners themselves would repudiate it. Nevertheless, all people who wish *have been sending* ~~can send~~ their children out of the city. And, people of small means who are not engaged in war work, will be taken away if they wish, ~~the~~ government making full arrangements for transportation in such cases. The rest of the Londoners will do as they did during the Blitz of Nineteen Forty -- grin and take it.

London, said Winston Churchill, will never be conquered and will never fail. ~~Everybody, he added.~~

~~is asking what the ~~the~~ government is going to do about~~
~~it, to which he replied, "Everything within human power,~~
~~and we have never failed yet."~~ He spoke warmly of the
help given by American ~~supplies~~ soldiers in London.

The Prime Minister gave the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ reassuring
information that the problem of coping with these
weird rocket affairs is in the hands of a special
committee which has in its employ a great number of able
scientists and engineers, who report personally to the
Prime Minister and to the War Cabinet.

All of which sounds like bad news indeed,
but not to be accepted as a defeat.

Correspondents in London point out that these flying torpedoes have conjured up some awesome speculation as to what the wars of the future would be like.

— 0 —
And now Hugh, take us away from the War for a moment, and then we'll stop off in France and see how our soldiers are getting on — in Normandy

FRANCE

General Omar Bradley's army in Normandy has driven on past the hotly contested point of LaHaye, by-passed ^{it.} the Germans defending ~~the place~~. They have captured the railway station and many villages around it. In fact, they now have the garrison surrounded. Nevertheless, the Germans are counter-attacking with renewed ferocity. ^{have driven} and ~~drove~~ the Americans ^{from one point} ~~out of one place~~ they had captured.

This followed closely upon the news that Hitler had fired Field Marshal von Rundstedt; for reasons of health, ^{so} said German propoganda; and, ^{he} appointed a new Commander-in-Chief for the forces in the west. The new man is ~~von~~ ^{Von Kluge} Field Marshal von Kluge. ~~He~~ ^{he} resembles his predecessor von Rundstedt in one respect. They both took ~~the~~ command on the western front after being defeated by the Russians in the air. Not only did a new Commander-in-Chief arrive on the scene, but he brought with him

General Bradley's army is advancing in several spearheads, a formation with several prongs. But he is attacking the Germans simultaneously at many parts of their lines.

-----o-----

The evening communique from Supreme Headquarters reports that the Allied Forces East of La Haye had reached the forest of Mont Castre in spite of the fierce German counter-attacks. The British are also advancing on the road southwest from Carentan.

When the allies have Mont Castre, the Germans will be unable to hold on to La Haye. But as night fell, the Nazis were still holding on, although the place is no more than a rubble heap.

The Allies have now forty-three and one half ^{SQUARE} miles of Normandy.

PATRIOTS FOLLOW INVASION

A story from London tonight reports that the army of French Patriots in the interior, under Lieutenant General Koenig, now musters five hundred thousand armed men. The Patriots have been so successful in sabotaging German communications in France, that the Allied air force ^{have} ~~has~~ been able to concentrate on ~~fixe~~ fewer targets. They have ^{been} derailed ^{ing} trains and destroyed ^{ing} ~~ed~~ locomotives in all parts of France through which Germans ~~need to~~ move troops and supplies.

AIR WAR

As Churchill intimated, the Air War in Europe has begun again with a vengeance. Formations which added up to eight thousand ^{British and American} five hundred planes swooped down on Nazi installations all over Europe *today*. Their attacks ranged from the Robot launching platforms in the Calais area to the Bay of Kiel, northeast end of the Kiel Canal on the Baltic. They included all of one thousand five hundred of the heavy bombers of the U. S. Eighth Air Force. Aside from that, Thunderbolts, Lightnings and Mustang fighters escorted the Flying Forts and Liberators. In the late afternoon Royal Air Force Lancasters and Halifaxes took up the job and as night drew on the American Flying Forts and Liberators ^{Resumed,} ~~continued~~. The Huns are now feeling the full force of the greatest ~~aggregation~~ aggregation of war planes in history, a force greater than any of which they ever dreamed.

ITALY

~~Great~~
~~Great news from Italy tonight. The United States,~~

the
Fifth Army is now only ten miles away from Leghorn,

and twenty-six miles from Florence. *TP* Little more than a

month has passed since Rome fell, and already the Allies

are more than a hundred and fifty miles ~~to the~~ north of
the Eternal City.

Headquarters reported tonight that the Germans in Italy

have suffered losses beyond calculation, at least three

of their divisions destroyed and many of the remaining

twenty-four reduced to mere skeleton forces. The

5
campaign is described as one of the most vigorous and

carefully planned in modern blitz warfare.

On the Adriatic flank, the Eighth Army of

British and French, under Lieutenant General Sir Oliver

Leese, is also on the march, coming close to the highway

junction at Arezzo and the important port of Ancona.

RUSSIA

The Russians have another spectacular victory to their score. They ^{now} have captured Kowel, the great Nazi base a hundred and seventy-five miles to the southeast of Warsaw. Kowel fell to the first White Russian Army under Marshal Rokossovsky. ~~The place is only~~ ^{This is} forty miles east of the Bug River, which Moscow expects to become the chief line of Nazi defenses before Warsaw and Brest-Litovsk.

At the same time, other Soviet forces were advancing further north. One of those columns took a town only thirty ^{three} ~~five~~ miles away from Vilno, the key to the Baltic provinces.

Still another ^{Russian} force is driving westward from Minsk toward East Prussia. The Red armies have taken more than five hundred and fifty inhabited places, including several sizeable towns.