

P.T. - Standard.  
Sun.

Thursday, Feb. 3, 1944.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

~~Further news~~

The latest news from ~~of a victory in~~ the Marshalls ~~is,~~ ~~and this one~~  
~~is the real thing.~~ Admiral Chester Nimitz himself  
announced <sup>ment</sup> ~~it~~ from Pearl Harbor <sup>that the</sup> ~~Uncle Sam's~~ marines,  
~~the good old marines,~~ have taken the ~~small~~ island of  
Namur, as well as other islets nearby.

~~At the same time, our fleet has landed~~

Also that

<sup>^</sup> strong infantry = reinforcements, and mechanized  
<sup>has been landed</sup>  
equipment <sup>^</sup> on Kwajalein. There the Japs are still  
<sup>fighting desperately with</sup>  
~~resisting the G.I. fighters of~~ the Seventh Infantry.

Admiral <sup>says the men of</sup>  
~~But, says~~ Nimitz <sup>^</sup>, the Seventh are going ahead

methodically with the annihilation of the Japs.

~~One may gather that our fighting forces are taking,~~  
~~seriously the new slogan provoked by Jap atrocities on~~  
~~prisoners: no quarter and no surrender.~~

LEAD - 2

Up to last night, ~~the~~ <sup>the U.S.</sup> marines and infantry, had killed one thousand, two hundred and fifty Japs on Kwajalein.

Namur and the four other islets ~~that we~~ captured

*so far,*

are at the northern end of Kwajalein.

As the news comes through, we find it is true that the force carrying out this invasion of the Marshalls is the largest ever assembled -- at least in the Pacific. Considering the fact that the Japs have been fortifying those atolls for more than twenty years, this is ~~quite~~ <sup>one of</sup> the boldest operation<sup>s</sup> of the entire war. ~~so far.~~

The Japs remaining on Kwajalein are cooped up on the eastern end of the islet, <sup>where</sup> they are evidently prepared to fight ~~to the last man~~ <sup>it out - to the finish.</sup> Their positions are strongly fortified.

Though the operation took months to prepare, it has gone <sup>along with surprising speed.</sup> ~~with incredible velocity since it began.~~

The marines, we learn tonight, had advanced one-third of the way across the Roi and Namur islets within thirty minutes after they had landed. And ~~it was not much~~ <sup>soon</sup>

only a few snipers remained to be mopped up.

Dispatches from a reporter aboard a Liberator over Kwajalein described the air over the island as being filled with American planes, while the sea is literally alive with Uncle Sam's fighting ships.

So far there is no confirmation from Admiral Nimitz of the Japanese claim that a great naval battle had taken place.

RAY CLAPPER

The American newspaper world, - (and we in radio too), <sup>are</sup> ~~is~~ in mourning today for Ray Clapper, *lost in the Battle for the Marshall Islands*,  
Ray was one of the best writers we had; and a grand fellow. None better. His death will be a loss to millions of readers of not only the Scripps-Howard papers, but the readers of scores of others which printed his famous column. And the radio audience too.

I was one of his steady readers and I shall particularly miss the solid information that Ray Clapper packed in *his column*, ~~by~~ and his level-headed approach to all subjects. He ~~se~~eldom if ever went off the deep-end. And the nation needed him - sorely. *Since Will Rogers, in his field there has been no greater loss.*

As a man, and a friend, he was tops. The ordeal of a trip to Washington was always lightened if you ran into Ray. *Or if you met him at a National Convention, or anywhere.*

As all his readers, and his radio audience, know, he left Washington

some weeks ago to make a tour of our fighting outposts in the Pacific. Only last week he wrote in one of his columns that he was particularly glad at having been able to get a ~~native~~ <sup>from a Marine,</sup> knife to take back to his <sup>little boy,</sup> ~~children.~~

A couple of years ago, said Ray, he had gone to Hollywood and returned home without a picture of Shirley Temple and without having seen her, and he never heard the end of it. This time he said he would not return empty-handed.

Tragically enough, it was not an enemy bullet or shell that killed <sup>Ray</sup> Clapper, but an accident. He was in a plane with a squadron commander, observing the invasion of the Marshall Islands. While forming up, the plane collided with another. The Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet reported that there were no survivors.

## TOKYO FOLLOW PACIFIC

The Mikado's government is not going to wait for us to bomb Tokyo. The inhabitants have already been evacuated. Apparently this is official, for it was told by the mayor of the city to the Tokyo correspondent of Hitler's news agency.

Tokyo has a population of more than eight million people. The mayor says that the evacuation is voluntary. The Nipponese officials are taking advantage of the experience gained by the Germans in the destruction of Berlin, Hamburg and other cities of the Reich. Also, from the great Japanese earthquake of Nineteen Twenty-Three. All those citizens who want to move receive help, money to pay the cost of moving and maintenance. Half of this comes from the imperial government, half from the municipality of Tokyo.

A broadcast from Batavia, reported that the government has ordered the partial evacuation of not only the capital but all six other large Jap cities.

RUSSIA

*[widely separated parts]*  
From three ~~sectors~~ <sup>more</sup> of the Russian front ~~we have~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
Good news tonight. One of them may turn out to be the

most important Soviet victory since the relief of Stalingrad. ~~Joseph~~ Stalin, as Marshal of the Soviet Armies, announced in a special order of the day that two Red armies have broken through the Nazi line south of Kiev, simultaneously, at two different points. Stalin's

order <sup>claimed</sup> ~~announced~~ that no fewer than ten Nazi divisions are surrounded, <sup>one hundred and fifty thousand men</sup> ~~ten of the best~~, under the command of

Field Marshal von Mannstein. <sup>And that</sup> ~~and this in turn threatens~~ <sup>is now threatened. For</sup> Mannstein's entire force, Without those ten divisions,

he will have a <sup>desperate</sup> ~~forbidingly hard~~ time <sup>fighting</sup> ~~fighting~~ back the pressure from the Soviet armies.

Another piece of good <sup>Cheer</sup> ~~news~~ comes from the Germans themselves. Berlin admitted <sup>5</sup> ~~to~~ having had to give up

<sup>Look</sup> Rovno and Luck. This means that the Red armies have swept <sup>eighty-two</sup> ~~fifty-five~~ miles inside the frontier of old Poland

and are well along the ~~classic invasion~~ road to <sup>Warsaw</sup> ~~Warsaw~~!

*the classic invasion route.*

At Rovno the Germans had set up <sup>their</sup> ~~the~~ administrative center

*the occupied*

*Look*

~~of the~~ Ukraine and Luck is a railway junction forty-three

miles to the west.

In the north, the Soviet armies under General Govorov, are <sup>swarming</sup> ~~fairly pouring~~ over the Estonian frontier.

Inside Estonia they are fanning out, with some divisions heading towards Narva Bay on the Gulf of Finland, and others advancing south toward Latvia. In fact, a

broadcast by the Cairo Radio reports that the Germans have already cleared out of Narva without trying to defend the place. In any event, the Red army has been recapturing more than fifty inhabited places along that road. <sup>It</sup> ~~The story of the German evacuation is not at all~~

~~unpleasible, because we know that another Red army, under General Meretskov, is fighting towards Riga.~~

~~If the Russians were to recapture Riga, they would have~~

*Can drop*



<sup>U.S.</sup>  
The ~~United States~~ Eighth Air Force today carried out its sixth heavy bomber operation in seven days.

It was <sup>a big</sup> ~~a~~ monster raid against the greatest German naval base of all, the place where the U-boats are spawned; at Wilhelmshaven. <sup>The attack was made by</sup> ~~It was~~ a huge fleet of eleven hundred aircraft. Of these, at least six hundred were Liberators

and Flying Forts; <sup>hear,</sup> ~~or so we are led to believe.~~ The others were <sup>fighters!</sup> ~~fast~~ Thunderbolts, Mustangs and Lightnings;

<sup>More than a</sup> ~~who went as~~ escorts. ~~They dropped more than one~~

thousand, six hundred and eighty tons of explosives

<sup>were poured down</sup> and incendiaries on the Nazi base, <sup>AW losses?</sup> ~~and came back with~~.

<sup>much smaller than usual</sup> ~~negligible loss.~~ <sup>(6 bombers + 9 fighters.)</sup> ~~In fact, the report says that they~~ <sup>our planes</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>made this one</sup> ~~virtually unchallenged by the Nazi air arm.~~

With five hundred fighter planes, they had the equivalent of a flying umbrella to protect them. It was <sup>a</sup> ~~seven~~ hundred miles round trip, and the combat leader declared that the bombers had the best cover

## ITALY

The fortress which the Nazis built themselves at Cassino has been a hard nut to crack; <sup>and</sup> The efforts to take it by storm have cost many good American lives. But at last it <sup>'s</sup> about to fall, if indeed it has <sup>not</sup> fallen already. Early today ~~Lieutenant~~ <sup>Major</sup> General Clark's artillery had set the Nazi fortification on fire, whereupon his infantry, the good old foot slogging <sup>nearly always</sup> infantry who have to do the hardest part of the work, <sup>went in to</sup> ~~were~~ storming it from two sides.

Meanwhile, a third column of that Fifth Army was working its way around toward the southwest of the town, so as to cut off the German garrison. In fact, Radio Cairo went so far as to report that the hammerhead of the Fifth Army <sup>was</sup> ~~were~~ already fighting in the streets of Cassino and that we might expect to learn ~~in~~ any minute that it has been taken.

The German report, however, does <sup>not</sup> encourage that expectation. Berlin admits that a bitter struggle is going on for <sup>Cassino,</sup> ~~that mountain fortress,~~ <sup>with heavy</sup> ~~and there are~~ high losses on both sides. But, say the Nazis, the dominating heights are still in German hands.

Late this afternoon came official word that American tanks and infantry have broken into Cassino from the northeast, <sup>now</sup> ~~and were~~ fighting in the streets.

~~The~~ American advance guards have pushed far ahead of Cassino. Our ~~armored~~ divisions have widened the breach in the Gustav Line, and progressed <sup>some</sup> ~~as far as~~ five miles north of Cassino. But that doesn't mean ~~that~~ the going will be easy from there, because they next have to come up against the Adolf Hitler Line, nine miles back of the forts on the Gustav Line.

The news from the beachhead front nearer to Rome is <sup>not</sup> so good today. A communique from Allied

headquarters reported <sup>S</sup> hard fighting, <sup>and</sup> ~~there,~~ heavy German counterattacks which were beaten back by the American and British divisions. Military spokesmen announced that the Fifth Army there has widened that beachhead.

But tonight it turns out that the attempt to take Cisterna, thirteen miles north of Nettuno, away from the Germans was not a success. ~~Our men attacked heavily Sunday and Monday, and their advance guards were actually at the gates of that town on the Appian Way. But~~ The Germans cut in behind them, threatened to

surround <sup>our men,</sup> ~~them~~, and compelled them to withdraw with considerable losses. However, the attack on Cisterna has been renewed, and is probably going on at this moment. ~~We will not have to wait long before the final battle, the show-down battle for Rome, will be fought.~~

Three of the American G.I.'s in that beachhead army had a ~~remarkable~~ swift series of adventures. They were Corporal Guy Sage of Tacoma, Washington; Corporal Leo Sramkosky of Saginaw, Michigan; and Private ~~Bill~~ Whitney of Los Angeles, ~~California~~. While they were moving up to the attack, they got cut off. Eleven Germans captured them and took them to a house behind the lines. The Nazis treated them quite well, gave them bread, cheese and sardines. There they stayed all through that day. Late in the afternoon, an American tank destroyer came rumbling down the road, poured twelve ten-inch shells into the house and killed five

of the Germans.

Next morning, the remaining six Germans who had captured them, took the three Americans into a ditch <sup>hiding when they were</sup> ~~ditch, and there they were~~ caught midway between a ~~German barrage and one of their own~~ <sup>one from our</sup> side.

where ~~advancing~~ American infantry columns <sup>came</sup> ~~advanced~~ upon them. Whereupon the 6 <sup>↑</sup> Germans behind the barrage, reached the ditch where they were ~~became the prisoners of~~ ~~hiding, set free~~ the three Americans, ~~and captured the~~ ~~who apparently were pleased~~ six Germans, <sup>↑</sup> who were only too glad to be captured. at the outcome.

SOLDIER VOTE

President Roosevelt was defeated in the House of Representatives tonight by a vote of three hundred and twenty-eight to sixty-nine. It was a sensational <sup>ten o'clock</sup> finish to a debate that had lasted <sup>and the most spectacular setback he has had in six years</sup> eleven hours over the soldier vote bill; The Republicans and Southern Democrats united to pass the measure which Mr. Roosevelt described last December as a fraud.

The act which they passed <sup>turns</sup> ~~gives the~~ control of ~~the~~ voting arrangements <sup>for</sup> ~~the~~ soldiers <sup>over to</sup> ~~into the hands~~ of the states. Those who approved it declared that the bill ~~which~~ <sup>put through</sup> the President wanted ~~would have been~~ unconstitutional; ~~That was~~ the Green-Lucas Bill, <sup>for</sup> ~~which turned over control to~~ the federal government.

Many bitter words were exchanged in both chambers of Congress. <sup>President</sup> ~~Mr.~~ Roosevelt, you may recall, had demanded that those who oppose <sup>d</sup> him should stand up

and be counted. The Republican leader in the House, Congressman Joe Martin of Massachusetts, replied tartly that the members of his party were perfectly willing to stand up and be counted, which they did on a roll call.

In the Senate, <sup>Democrat</sup> Cotton Ed Smith of South Carolina declared that the Republicans are coming more and more to represent Constitutional government. He resented the President's words about the state ballot plan and urged his fellow Senators not to vote "just to please a boss who has called you a fraud."



TAXES

*As expected there were*  
~~There were caustic~~ criticisms by Congressmen  
today of Wendell Willkie's <sup>latest</sup> ~~the one~~ speech calling for a ~~tax~~  
~~bill which would force us to pay~~ twenty billion dollars  
~~tax bill. For instance~~  
~~more than the existing law. One of them came from~~  
Senator George of Georgia, Chairman of the Finance  
Committee, <sup>said to that</sup> ~~He wondered whether Willkie had given such~~  
~~thought to that speech.~~ <sup>And</sup> ~~The Georgia Senator added that~~  
a bill like that would probably destroy the morale of  
the American people.

The debate provoked Senator Vandenberg of  
Michigan to remark that the ~~Rm~~ present tax form was  
utterly insufferable. He called for simplification,  
and said that nowadays a willing taxpayer has to get  
an engineer and a crystal gazer to tell him how much he  
owes.

Congressman Johnson of Illinois told the House  
that Willkie's speech had convinced him that Willkie  
is the secret weapon of the Administration against the  
Republicans.

A young man in Hollywood stayed out of the army two years because his draft board thought he had a female dependent. As a matter of fact, he did, but instead of two legs she had four. She was a mare. When they rebuked the young man about it, his reply was: "Why not?" And he went on to show that the oats she eats has kept him broke. And he still insisted that he had answered the questionnaire perfectly honestly, wrote down literal and true answers to all the questions on it.

~~Unfortunately for him,~~ <sup>But</sup> the federal grand jurors had no sense of humor ~~and~~ <sup>and have</sup> they indicted him. ~~They were~~ quite indifferent to the popular song, "Mares eat oats, and does eat oats," and so forth.

## RIVERS

A ceremony took place in Washington this afternoon which means a good deal to the people of the southwest. For a long time there have been disputes ~~xxxx~~ with Mexico about the waters of the Rio Grande, the Tijuana and the Colorado Rivers. In fact, they have been the principal sources of argument between the two countries. The ceremony in Washington was the signing of a treaty between the United States and Mexico, which provides a fair distribution of those waters. It also provides for proper flood control under international management.

U.S.O.

The U.S.O. in its three years of existence, has received many strange letters and fulfilled many curious requests. <sup>But none so odd as one</sup> ~~This one came~~ from a sailor stationed in a tropical clime, a clime where apparently love is blooming. The letter reads (I quote): "My dear sirs or madam -- Just wondering if it were possible to get or have sent me a book of Napoleon's love letters. If it is possible, it would make quite a few of the boys happy. They are in love and cannot express their thanks on paper very well. We happen to be in the tropics where mail is a vital item, so to keep up the good correspondence, I believe this book will help considerably."

○

I telephoned U.S.O. and asked what they had done about it. And they replied -- yes, they had sent a volume of the late Bonaparte's love letters and, they added, they never turn anybody down if the request can

3 1/2

possibly be fulfilled.

If any of the ladies have noticed a Napoleonic touch in letters they have been receiving from the front, that's why.

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Roger, who helps you write your love letters?