

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

4p  
*This may turn out to be*  
~~We seem to have started~~ one of the most exciting weeks  
in the history of the United States. The <sup>immediate</sup> ~~most important~~ news for us  
from Washington is that the negotiations with the Japanese envoys  
are still going on, in spite of <sup>those</sup> ~~the~~ defiant words from Japanese  
Premier General Tojo at Tokyo. Special Envoy Kurusu had something  
to say about that. He said his chief, the Premier, had been badly  
misquoted, and he added that General Tojo only made a radio broadcast  
for ten minutes and that he, Kurusu, had sent for the text.

Reporters asked him whether the discussions with  
Secretary Hull would be resumed, and Kurusu replied, "continued"  
would be the better word.

Nevertheless, there's the most acute kind of tension,  
not only here but all over the Pacific. The Premier of <sup>Australia</sup> ~~Australia~~  
called a special meeting of his war cabinet, which lasted four

hours. When it was over, he announced that steps are being taken to assure the resources and defense of Australian territories.

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But a high official of the Australian Government, who wouldn't be quoted, said the situation in the Pacific <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ fraught with anxiety, *as he put it.*

Then here's a dispatch from Batavia, capital of the Netherlands East Indies. The Governor-General has issued a decree mobilizing the army air force. All the reserves have been called up as well as radio operators and engineers.

At Singapore, a state of emergency was proclaimed for the entire S<sub>t</sub>raits Settlements including the great naval base.

*This also*

*It* extends to all the federated Malay States. All the armed forces of the S<sub>t</sub>raits Settlements and the federated <sup>Malay</sup> states, including the

volunteer and local defense corps, have been mobilized for instant service. The next step will be to extend the state of emergency

to the unfederated Malay S<sub>t</sub>ates, *like Trengganu and Pahang where the British let the Malay Sultans run their own show.* The British forces at Hong Kong have taken up war

*TP Up the China coast*

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*and all* positions. ~~All~~ British and Dutch vessels have been ordered away from Shanghai for fear of seizure by the Japanese.

From Bangkok, capital of Siam, comes the news that

Indo-Chinese troops and airplanes, commanded by alien officers, are <sup>seen</sup> maneuvering near the Siamese border. One of the Bangkok newspapers declares that "our neighbors already have fixed the bayonet."

From Manila comes a report that a fleet of Japanese warships, sixteen heavy cruisers and several aircraft carriers, <sup>is</sup> ~~are~~ concentrated around the southern Caroline islands, <sup>which are</sup> ruled by Japan under a mandate. That ~~puts them within~~ <sup>As for our own Manila, well it's</sup> striking distance of Borneo. ~~Manila seems to be literally~~ seething with rumors, particularly ~~now~~ after a meeting of Admiral Hart, Commander-in-Chief of Uncle Sam's Asiatic fleet, and General MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Army in the Far East. Not a word has leaked out about the results of that conference.

In Washington the situation was <sup>sharpened</sup> ~~emphasized~~ by the <sup>President's</sup> sudden return from Warm Springs, ~~of President Roosevelt himself.~~

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And now, just a few minutes ago, we learned that Admiral Stark, Chief of the Bureau of Naval Operations, was present at a conference between Secretary of State Hull and the President in

*today,*  
the White House, ~~That conference was held this morning, but it~~  
~~was not until a few minutes ago that the presence of Admiral Stark~~  
~~was made public.~~

The continuing peaceful attitude of the Japanese envoys, in spite of Premier General Tojo's remarks, is assumed in Washington to be not unconnected with the news of the German retreat from Rostov, and the successful operations of the British in Libya. It has been naively obvious all along, that after every Nazi victory, the Japanese got cocky, and after every German setback, they've talked in peaceful and friendly fashion.

Senator Thomas of Utah, ~~is~~ considered in Washington to be one of the best informed men in the Senate on Oriental affairs, ~~and he~~ said today that "If the United States will stand firm, there may be enough strength in that firmness to save the situation, because ~~for~~ every other nation interested in the Pacific area is logically and consistently standing with us."

To offset that, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek of China has telegraphed a warning that if we and the British do not quickly send him pilots and airplanes to defend the Burma Road, he may be compelled to sign a peace with Japan. This was conveyed in personal messages from Marshal Chiang to Mr. Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill.

WAR

*seems to be*  
In Russia, the Red Army still ~~is~~ pushing the Nazis back  
*Now is this a*  
from Rostov. ~~That is no~~ mere propaganda boast from Moscow, the

*definitely had their ears pinned back.*  
Germans virtually admit it. *tonight* There is no doubt that they have  
~~suffered a definite reverse in the Donets campaign. To be sure,~~

The way they put it themselves is that General von Kleist's army  
has withdrawn from certain positions. But the report from London,  
which is usually reliable, brings an account of a real German *rout* report,  
Cossack horsemen chasing the Nazis through villages *streets choked* ~~just littered~~  
*German dead.*  
with ~~Nazi corpses.~~ The Soviet official news agency claims that  
another Red Army, advancing from the north, is about to encircle  
the retreating Germans.

*tonight*  
The Reds also claim to have fought Hitler's armies to  
a standstill around Moscow. *still* ~~but~~ they don't ~~admit~~ attempt to  
minimize the danger to the capital. *with* Hitler ~~is~~ bringing up an army  
of a million men *for a fresh* ~~in a strong~~ effort to break through the Kremlin *to*  
before Christmas.

The way the Nazis put it is that Moscow is now plainly  
visible to Germans with good field glasses. However, the spokesman  
*what that meant,*  
who made that boast would not specify just how close they were in

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miles to the Kremlin. He just said in general terms, "During the last two days the battle of Moscow has developed very much in Germany's favor."

And the British are winning in Libya. That's announced at Cairo and not denied in either Berlin or Rome. Germany infantry and tanks had slipped through the British lines on the east three days ago, joined <sup>ing</sup> what was left of the defeated <sup>German</sup> armored division, ~~and~~ <sup>it</sup> then swung around and attacked the British imperial army from the west. <sup>But</sup> The Anzacs delivered a counter-attack and drove ~~the~~ Germans off *with the bayonet.*

~~But~~ <sup>There</sup> near Sidi Rezegh there is fighting tonight which the correspondents describe as a bitter battle. <sup>has</sup> The Imperial army ~~of the main body have~~ the Axis infantry and tank divisions <sup>and</sup> encircled. So far they have defeated every ~~attempt~~ of the Germans and Italians to break out.

GOEBBELS

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There's <sup>an</sup> ~~peculiarly~~ interesting arrangement of ideas in a fulmination from Nazi Propaganda Minister Goebbels today.

Hitler's mouthpiece begins by thumbing his nose at the United States,

with <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ boast that the Nazis have lost any terror they might have had of the help given by the United States to Great Britain and

Russia. Let the United States do what they will, says Goebbels,

all the armament ~~they can~~ produce cannot beat the output of Europe,

let alone eclipse it, <sup>he boasts. Adding that</sup> Nothing ~~that~~ President Roosevelt does can

prevent the conquest of Britain, ~~to add.~~

But <sup>he sings a different tune. He</sup> In the next sentence, ~~Propaganda Minister Goebbels~~, tries to

reassure the United States that the Nazis have no designs on the

American continent. (These are his words: "We could not attempt

an attack on the Western Hemisphere because it would be particularly

unfavorable.")

~~In other words, the Nazi <sup>says</sup> announcer that he doesn't care~~

~~what we do, but he wishes we wouldn't.~~

The next sentence uttered by <sup>said today</sup> Goebbels ~~is~~ that the

Germans are not only facing their greatest chance for victory,

but also their last. That sounds rather extraordinary, after all

his boasting. He added that "the Axis powers are fighting veritably for their elementary existence."

Perhaps the Nazi Propaganda Minister is preparing the German people for more bad news. Hitler you know had promised them complete victory by Christmas.



ITALY FOLLOW GOEBBELS

The Fascist Italian spokesmen were also talking gravely today and without boasting. Mussolini's own newspaper published the warning that the people of Italy must be prepared for even greater sacrifices before the war is over. And ~~the~~ Mussolini's *Gayda* ~~mouthpiece~~ also admitted that the campaign in Libya has the Duce's government worried. On top of that Mussolini announced a shakeup in his air force, a new Chief of the Ministry for Air, a new chief of the Air Staff and Under-secretary. It is believed in Rome that the raids by British bombers over South Italy and Sicily almost every night have a good deal to do with that shakeup.

At any rate, both Nazis and Fascists instead of crying victory tonight are calling for more sacrifices.

PETAİN

Marshal Petain did not meet Hitler today. Instead, he met Goering -- in a town in occupied France. This was announced from Vichy in a non-committal dispatch, with no news so far about that meeting. However, there's an undercurrent of grumbling from France. The attitude of the French is that Petain has been humiliated. That it should have been Hitler that he went to meet instead of the Nazi Number Two man.

The announcement from Vichy did add that the Petain Government will continue its policy of collaboration with the Nazis.

From a Paris Nazi-controlled newspaper we get the report that our own government is handing out a warning to Petain. Secretary Hull, says the French paper, has transmitted a note to Vichy, pointing out that France will run the risk of losing the friendship of the United States if Petain yields to German pressure any further.

PRICE CONTROL

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Our neighbors in Canada started practicing price control today. They have gone all out for a measure of a strictness that would <sup>startle</sup> ~~horrify~~ our own legislators in Washington. The new Canadian law that went into effect today compels all merchants, manufacturers and wholesalers to have licenses. Licenses, apparently, for practically everybody, though I don't see the farmers mentioned in the dispatch.

<sup>a</sup> ~~it puts a~~ blanket ceiling <sup>on all</sup> ~~upon~~ prices. And one man has most sweeping powers to enforce it. ~~He is~~ Donald Gordon, a former executive of the Bank of Canada; <sup>who</sup> ~~and he~~ says his Board is going to ask business men to cooperate rather than apply Gestapo methods.

for  
However, <sup>^</sup> those who don't want to cooperate, his Board ~~ix~~ has absolute power to revoke licenses without any time spent in the courts. And the Canada war time prices and trade board is going to concern itself primarily with retail prices. That is, to relieve the people who have to go into shops and buy what they need.

Meantime, the word from Washington is that our own Congress is in more and more of a dither about this price control business. Congressmen feel that they'll be hanged if they do, and ~~they'll~~ be hanged if they don't. They are receiving angry fan mail

from constituents who want to know why nothing is done to help  
the rising family budget. But Washington observers report that

the Congressmen ~~are more afraid of~~ <sup>even fear</sup> the consequences of a price  
control bill ~~even~~ <sup>more</sup> than they ~~are of~~ <sup>fear</sup> their constituents.

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LABOR FOLLOW PRICE CONTROL

~~On the subject of strikes in defense industries,~~

however, ~~Congress has its dander up.~~ Speaker Sam Rayburn has hopes

of getting <sup>an anti-strike</sup> a bill through the House this week. There are three <sup>such</sup> of

<sup>bills</sup> ~~them~~ ready to be debated. <sup>And</sup> It's interesting to learn that the

Speaker declines to commit himself on any one of them, although

the administration doesn't want a drastic measure. The most severe

of those three bills is that of Congressman Howard Smith of Virginia.

And Speaker Rayburn announced that he is going to recognize the

Virginia Representative and allow him to have his day in court.

Columnist Westbrook Pegler got his name into the

Congressional Record again today. <sup>Peg</sup> He has been fulminating against

Congress for not passing a new labor law, <sup>in fact he</sup> called the House a

"pathetic crowd of flappy political slobs." Representative Clare

Hoffman of Michigan brought up that remark in a motion to have <sup>it</sup> ~~them~~

investigated by the Labor Committee of the House. It was referred

to the Judiciary Committee. Hoffman said he wants to bring

Pegler up on the carpet and make him prove his words or eat them.

Meanwhile, the date set by the railway unions for their

strike comes closer and closer. The Brotherhood voted to begin

it on December Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth. That's less than a week

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ahead, and Washington begins to grow anxious. So far as the Fact Finding Board appointed by the President is concerned Wayne Lyman Morse, its Chairman put it this way today:- "the situation doesn't look so good." However, he's going to keep the conference going all day and night, if necessary

## LIGHT BRIGADE

A brief dispatch from Berlin tells us news that on the face of it doesn't mean much. The Nazi Army has occupied Balaclava in the Crimea.

But there's a world of historical interest behind that two-line report. Balaclava! That's a name that sounds ~~prattly~~ proud echoes in the <sup>ear</sup> ~~ear~~ of every Britisher. At Balaclava, a little more than eighty-seven years ago, there was a battle that inspired one of the best known poems in the English language, Lord Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade." Any ~~any British~~ schoolboy <sup>here</sup> ~~knows~~ as well as in Britain, ~~knows~~ those words:

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"Half a league,  
Half a league,  
Half a league ~~and~~ onward,  
~~All in the valley of death,~~  
~~Rode the Six Hundred."~~

~~And it continues:~~

"Forward the Light Brigade!  
Was there a man dismayed?  
~~Not though the soldier knew~~  
~~Someone had blundered."~~

Actually, that poem was a pretty good piece of war reporting. Lord <sup>Raglan,</sup> ~~Raglan,~~ Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in the Crimea,

had sent an order to Lord Cardigan, commanding the Light Brigade to charge the Russian batteries. They had to ride a mile and half up a narrow valley into the face of Russian guns. And the ridges on either side of the valley were lined with Russian artillery. They obeyed their orders, charging through the guns, and as Tennyson reported, "sabreing the gunners there." They captured the battery and lost two hundred and fortyseven out of six hundred and seventy-three men, all in twenty minutes." Tennyson described it

"Cannon to the right of them," and so on "vollied and thundered."

The French Commander-in-Chief there in the Crimea eighty-seven years ago added to our stock of historical quotations with the famous remark, speaking of that cavalry charge he said: "It's magnificent, but it isn't war."

And today's news is:- "The Nazis have captured Balaclava. But they still are not in Sevastopol, though they're only ten miles away.

Now, Hugh how about a little volleying and thundering from you?