

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The battle of the Gilbert Islands is virtually finished and our high command is already planning ^{the} conquest ^{st of} the Marshall ^{s.} ~~Islands~~ ^{This} is not officially announced; but the indications are unmistakable. Admiral Nimitz ^{reported} ~~announced~~ this evening that giant Liberator bombers of the U. S. Army Seventh Air Force are raiding those islands ~~to~~ north of the Gilberts, ^{and} The inference is that Nimitz has begun softening up the Jap garrisons on the Marshalls.

The Japanese High Command can now write off as a total loss something like six thousand troops, most of them killed, in the Gilberts. A couple of sentences in the communique from Nimitz' headquarters report, grimly enough, that we took very few prisoners.

~~That in turn~~

which in turn indicates how desperately the Japs resisted. Obviously, they were really a small suicide army.

Nimitz also reported that the chief business in the Gilberts now is mopping up Jap remnants on Tarawa.

This afternoon's news was dramatic. The Admiral at Pearl Harbor told the newspapermen the Gilberts were now securely in our hands and fifteen minutes later ~~came~~ came the news that U.S. Forces had taken the most important bit of land of Tarawa, the little island of Betio with its air strip. Which was the most important thing for which our people were fighting.

Construction engineers were already at work fixing up an airdrome on Makin which fell yesterday and at Abemama and as soon as Betio was captured they got busy there.

This means Uncle Sam now controls the entire

■ Gilbert group.

LEAD - 4

~~_____~~ That brings the list of
enemy ships sunk in the southwest Pacific ~~ix~~ during
November to at least two hundred and fifty four,
most of them warships.

RUSSIA

The news from Russia tonight is not so good, although the Reds themselves declared the situation isn't as bad for them as the Germans make out.

Here are the two reports; Berlin announces the recapture of Chernyakhov and Brussilov, important towns north of Jitomir. The Nazis claim that tank and infantry divisions under Field Marshal von Mannstein attacked the Russians in force for the tenth day on end, and are still forging ahead.

The Nazi high command goes on ~~to~~ to allege that the success of Mannstein has resulted in the surrounding of strong Soviet forces. And they claim to have destroyed or captured thirty tanks, six batteries and forty other guns.

A still later dispatch from Moscow tells us that all the German counter-attacks were driven back and how the Red army has improved its positions. The Russians claim to have destroyed or captured German tanks in such huge numbers that the German claims are pale by comparison. In the last nine days on that

Jitomir front alone, they knocked out five hundred German machines, and ~~xxxxxxx~~ all fronts one thousand, two hundred Nazi tanks; they say.

At Gomel, Kremenchug and the Pripet Marshes the Russians have advanced, capturing the many towns.

L.T. SUNOCO, Wed. November 24, 1943

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

Good
~~Dramatic~~ news from Admiral Nimitz.

We now have that airfield in the Tarawa Atoll,
the air strip on the little island of Betio.

And the men ~~who~~ who took it were the Second
Division of ~~the United States~~ Marines, veterans
from Guadalcanal.

As a matter of fact, the reports from
Nimitz' headquarters encourage us to believe that
the entire Gilbert Island group is ~~xxx~~ virtually
ours, that it ~~is almost~~ *virtually* all over but the shouting.

Construction engineers are already at
work fixing up an airdrome not only on Makin, which
fell yesterday, but also at Betio and Abemama.

Just before the capture of Betio, the

Jap Division on the island made a ferocious counter-attack, a suicide attack. It was completely crushed; but ~~and~~ to show how desperately the Japs fought, ~~our men~~ *almost no* ~~took only very few~~ *were taken. It* prisoners. They had Betio just fifteen minutes after Admiral Nimitz had said to the newspapermen at Pearl Harbor: "The Gilberts are now securely in our hands."

The atoll of Abemama was taken *with almost* ~~very cheaply.~~

~~Nimitz' headquarters reports that the American~~

no casualties, ~~were negligible.~~ Even on Makin and Tarawa they were comparatively light.

And, with all these light casualties, our men virtually wiped out five thousand Japanese.

KING

The British high command has already begun making plans for an all-out war against Japan. The full military powers of the British Empire are to be turned against the Mikado as soon as victory has been won in Europe.

This announcement was made^{by}/none other than the King himself today. The occasion was the end of one session of the British Parliament and the beginning of another. According to the rule in such cases, the King made two speeches from the throne, one to prorogue Parliament and the other to convoke the new session. In spite of the war, the ceremony took place with all the historic pomp and ritual. As usual, there was a search for gunpowder, which might blow up ~~ix~~ the members. A part of the ceremony that ~~is~~ dates back from the Guy Fawkes Gunpowder Plot, three hundred and eighty-eight years ago.

first
The/speech was read to a joint session
by Viscount Simon, the Lord Chancellor. King George
the Sixth read the second one in person, from his
throne with Queen Elizabeth sitting beside him. There
was a time when kings of England wrote their own
speeches. That prerogative was the subject of a
long, long contest between numerous kings and numerous
prime ministers over a period of centuries. The
prime ministers, representing Parliament, won out,
and today the King reads a speech that is written
for him. In fact, no member of the royal family
ever makes any other kind of formal address.

In one of the speeches today, the King
used these words: "The mounting strength of the
United Nations has enabled them to wrest the
initiative from the enemy and take the offensive
in all parts of the world. In the Far East the advance

of the enemy has been halted and the offensive of the United ~~Six~~ Nations has begun. In ~~the~~ south-east Asia, a new command has been created with new commanders ~~are~~ appointed. In the western Pacific, freedom has ~~been~~ already been restored to some islands which were overrun by the enemy".

In the second speech, King George said:

"My ministers have undertaken a special review of problems which are likely to arise as hostilities in Europe come to an end, and, of adjustments which will have to be made when we turn to prosecute with fresh vigor the war against Japan".

And he continued: "On the frontier of India ~~is~~ and in the Pacific, Japanese aggression has been halted and the forces of the United Nations are now moving to the offensive".

AIR WAR

The people of Berlin tonight are sitting
~~in~~ ⁱⁿ their shattered city ^{crouching} in terror, waiting for the
noise of sirens which ^{may} ~~will~~ tell them of the coming of a
fourth air raid. More than a thousand fires are ^{reported to be} raging
in the capital of Hitler's Reich. That ^{nightmare} ~~horror~~
metropolis is today the most heavily bombed of all
German cities this year, ~~the king of all targets~~
Something like thirteen thousand, four hundred and forty
tons of explosives and incendiaries have ^{pounded and blasted it} ~~hit it~~

Travelers from Germany were pouring into
Switzerland and Sweden today, telling hair raising
stories of conditions on the banks of the Spree. A
neutral diplomat said it was like a vision of the
Apocalypse. Civilians are complaining loudly that they
have been left unprotected, that the much vaunted
anti-aircraft defenses have been fatally weakened by

the succession of British and American attacks.

One fact is notable - even the German official
communique does not claim that more than nineteen

British planes were shot down. But it adds that

defensive conditions were difficult, which means that

they were fine for the R.A.F. *And,*

↘ Last night's raid dropped almost fifteen hundred
tons of explosives. *R* In the Monday and Tuesday night

raids no fewer than twenty-five thousand persons were

killed, according to conservative estimates from neutral

countries. More than thirty-eight thousand were bombed

out of their homes. *And,* ~~the~~ Berliners are leaving their ~~city~~

city by the tens of thousands.

All buildings where Hitler used to make his
triumphant speeches are in ruins. The presidential

palace where von Hindenburg lived when he was President
of Germany, is a mass of ruins. The British, French and

United States embassies are destroyed, and numerous legations. Most of the railway stations are out of commission, and there is very little subway traffic.

"Berlin is a city of horrors," said one refugee.

Along the ~~Wilhelmstrasse~~ Wilhelmstrasse and Unter den Linden are rubble heaps where the large and elaborate

but ugly government buildings used to be. *The heat from burning Loups is so terrific that it is impossible to walk in some of the bombed districts.*

One German report claims that art treasures were

For that matter about all destroyed. ~~the~~ the art treasures of any value in Berlin

were looted from conquered countries, principally France and Holland.

For all the destructiveness of last night's raids, it was one of the shortest, ~~of the war.~~ The Air Ministry

announced that it took only twenty minutes. The R.A.F. dropped their bombs at the rate of $\frac{2}{1}$ ton $\frac{1}{1}$ second.

Two hours after the raid, a reconnaissance plane flew over the city and the pilot reported that the fires lighted up the darkness for a hundred miles around Berlin.

ADD AIR WAR

A late dispatch from Sweden alleges that the German military authorities admit privately that the last three raids on Berlin have been a complete success from the military standpoint. It is also rumored in Sweden that the Germans are talking about using the ultimate reprisal. That, of course, is ~~im~~ interpreted as threatening the use of poison gas.

Late bulletins from Switzerland report that the Berliners who are leaving the city by the thousands are not even waiting to take ~~with~~ ~~them~~ their personal belongings.

Further northeast, another division of British and Canadians, advanced six miles to capture the town of San Angelo, and ~~occupy~~ three other places. ~~on the way~~

On the American end of the line, General Clark's Fifth Army is still drowned out. ~~(The only fighting~~ ^{there} ~~was~~
~~an artillery duel, with American long toms blasting~~
~~away at the enemy batteries.)~~

PATTON

The case of Lieutenant General Patton has become the subject of official action in Congress. The Military Affairs Committee of the Senate asked Secretary of War Stimson for a full report. Senators explained that this does not mean a congressional investigation. The Committee merely wants all the facts. Senator Reynolds of North Carolina, as Chairman, said the Committee will not pass any hasty judgment. He said that he and most of the other Senators felt that General Patton may have been afflicted by the same kind of battle fatigue from which the soldier was suffering, the soldier whom he struck.

Several New York newspapers editorialized that the General had been punished enough, and that in view of his exceeding usefulness in the field and also his complete apologies, nothing further should be done.

The boy's father himself said he would prefer to drop the whole thing and get on with the war.

DOWNEY

A Senate Committee on military affairs took testimony ~~in~~ about the riots in the Japanese evacuation camp at ~~R~~ Tule Lake. Among the witnesses were Breckenridge Long, assistant Secretary of State, Major General Millard White, Chief of Army Personnel, ^{and} Congressman Clair Engle of California. The Committee was considering a bill offered by Senators Walgren of Washington and Holman of Oregon, to transfer the control of the camp from the War Relocation Authority to the War Department.

After the witnesses were heard Senator Sheridan Downey of California ~~took the ball.~~ He told the committee that he was going to California, Friday, and expected to go to Tule lake. He offered upon his return to Washington to make a report to the Committee. Thereupon the Committee decided to postpone action on the bill pending Senator Downey's report.

FAGIN

Here is a bit of Charles Dickens from Los Angeles, California, [—] ~~—~~ Dickens up-to-date. It brings to light a school for thieves, a school of which the head is not a male Fagin but a woman, a highly respectable and sedate looking grandmother.)

Grandma's name is Mrs. Katherine Stager. ~~a Los Angeles grand jury did not think that she was so sedate because they indicted her in connection with a murder case.~~

Ten days ago, a man was killed on the streets of Los Angeles. ~~But~~ He was carrying a satchel with ^{about} ~~about~~ eight thousand dollars in it. It was an unprofitable crime, because whoever killed him was scared off and did not get the money. The cops arrested a sixteen year old boy who had escaped, they said, from a reform school at Ogden, Utah. The police claim that he admitted having shot the man who was killed. His confession, the cops

add, led them to the establishment of Mrs. Stager, who, they say, operated that house of Fagin. She would stay at home while her pupils and protégés went out to commit crimes that she ~~had~~ planned. Then she would sit by the radio waiting for news and praying for their safe return. If her prayers failed, she had a set of signals to warn them. For instance, a ribbon draped over the knob of the front door was a warning to stay away from the house. If one of the young folks called up and heard the words, "Wilmer is well," that meant "Come on in, everything is fine." If he heard, "Wilmer is sick", that meant "Stay away, the cops are ^{watching} ~~seeing~~ the house."

While the grand jury was considering her case, Mrs. Stager was in the hall outside and with her was her nineteen year old daughter, a beautiful girl with a three-months' old baby in her arms. There was a

terrific scene when the deputies arrested the two women,
the old woman and her daughter yelling and struggling,
the baby crying, and the deputy sheriffs fighting.

The daughter, incidentally, was indicted on a charge of
harboring criminals in her home.

And now, here's ~~George~~,
who usually is harboring a
good idea.

LEATHER

Thirteen tanneries at Peabody, Massachusetts, are now being operated by the Army of the United States. ~~They were~~ Seized by the War Department at the order of President Roosevelt after they had been strike-bound for three weeks, ^{holding} ~~and held~~ up the production of leather. The minute the strikers heard about the President's order, the picket line disappeared immediately. The Army colonel charged with the job of taking them over, said he expected those tanneries ~~would~~ be operating pretty close to normal by Friday.

QUEBRACHO

Here is a story about quebracho, a name I never heard before. Quebracho is not a person nor a place, but stuff you use for tanning leather, and there is plenty of trouble afoot about quebracho. It became the subject of a speech in the Senate, a statement from the Department of Justice, and a potential difference of opinion with the Government of Argentina, where most of the stuff is found.

It seems that the supply of quebracho is mostly *a combine,* in the hands of a cartel, controlled by ~~our good friends~~ the British. Wendell Berge, assistant to the Attorney General, says that United States ~~leather~~ tanners are at the mercy of the ^{is} ~~the~~ cartel. He so testified before a committee of Senators on war mobilization, a committee whose Chairman is Senator Harley Kilgore of West Virginia.

The Senator announced that his committee was worried to learn that this cartel is run with the

sanction and encouragement of the government of Argentina. ~~Argentina is not only unfriendly to the democratic principles for which we are fighting, but still keeps up diplomatic relations with the Axis~~

The Assistant Attorney General urged ^s the committee to find out what protection we have against being cut off from the supplies of quebracho and thus run into a complete lack of leather.