

MR. HUGH GIBSON. FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Moscow reports tonight the capture of two places of great importance. One -- Elista, the other -- Velikie Luki. And the location of those two places tells with precision the magnitude of the victories claimed in the Soviet.

Elista is in the Caucasus -- it is the capital of the Kalmyk Republic. Last night Lowell Thomas told you how the Soviets had by-passed Elista, encircling it -- and tonight we are told the city has fallen. It was one of the forward points of the Nazi advance toward the Caspian Sea, and its recapture by the Soviets would seem to indicate collapse of the German push toward the Caspian.

~~in Southern Russia, with disaster and destruction.~~

The Moscow communique today stated that in their defensive on the southern front during the past six weeks the Red Army forces have put a million Nazi troops out of action. ~~The German losses in men and material the equivalent to that~~ -- a million killed or captured or left without the armament for fighting.

The capture of Velikie Luki by the Red Army ^{appears to be a} ~~is a truly~~ startling success. That city is on the northern front -- the line facing Moscow. Velikie-Luki was a key strong point of the Germans. In their retirement last winter they held onto it with grim tenacity. For a year the Soviets have been assaulting the place with one drive after another. ~~Now they have succeeded, have retaken Velikie Luki.~~ Moscow says the city was stormed and the entire German garrison wiped

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out. *appears to be serious*
This loss for the Germans *is* not to be passed
over with an explanation that it was a case of
withdrawing to prepared positions for the winter.

Velikie Luki itself was a number one prepared position -

48 and its ~~six~~ recapture indicates the Soviet offensive

on the Moscow front must be rolling ~~xxxx~~ *no - a way* ~~desperately~~

~~xxxxx~~ dangerous for the Nazis. *on a big scale.*

NORTH AFRICA

In North Africa there's a flare of activity in Tunisia. The Allies have started a three-prong defensive designed to cut the coastal corridor between Tunisia and the adjacent Italian province of Libya. London reports an enemy position captured southwest of Tunis -- that and other gains by the Americans and British. If our men are able to hammer their way through the narrow belt to the coast in ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ southern Tunisia, they would cut the route ^{by} which Rommel might *effect junction* ~~join~~ with the Axis forces in Tunisia.

Rommel's main army, meanwhile, is believed to be establishing a defense line immediately east of Tripoli, the number one Axis base in Libya.

The battered North Afrika Korps will try to make a stand there -- according to a report flashed by radio Morocco.

As for the third sector, the French

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force that is pushing its way northward across the Sahara and into Italian Libya -- this desert army reports the defeat of an enemy motorized column in Fezzan, southwestern Libya.

GIRAUD

One of the cardinal points of statesmanship in the war at this moment, is the ^{difference between} ~~question~~ of the French regime in North Africa, headed by General Giraud, and the Fighting French forces under the leadership of General DeGaulle. The two factions are negotiating, trying to ^{reach} ~~form~~ an agreement - which would be of the greatest importance to ^{the cause of} the United Nations. Today, the DeGaulle spokesman in London gave out an official statement of at least one condition for a settlement with Giraud. He said the DeGaulle people will not cooperate with the Giraud regime until the French North African Imperial Council is eliminated - removed from the picture.

Now, what is this French North African Imperial Council? It is part of the colonial government that has been in control of the French North African colonies all along. The DeGaulle spokesman characterizes

the Council with these words: "packed with Vichyites."

The Council, of course, functioned with the

50 ~~collaborationist~~ regime at Vichy, and was one of the

North African organizations that Admiral Darlan brought

over to the cause of the United Nations - ~~when Darlan~~

~~himself changed sides~~. The DeGaulle people object to

its former Vichy connections, ^{and the} ~~but~~ Free French spokesman

today stated that DeGaulle will not recognize any

North African administration that includes ~~persons~~ ^{people}

formerly connected with Vichy - "even slightly

connected," said he.

"This," declared the spokesman, "is the

cardinal question which must be decided before there

is any union between DeGaulle and the Giraud forces."

He added that DeGaulle had no personal ambitions in

North Africa - but was merely opposed to anything

reminiscent of Marshal Petain's regime in Vichy.

This declaration today is the first official indication of the position of the Fighting French in the negotiations with Giraud - and the most delicate of negotiations they are! The conversations between the two French factions are of a sort that require both intelligence & finesse if they are to bridge the most subtle finesse considering ~~their~~ bitter divisions among the French leaders and people.

It has been reported that DeGaulle planned to visit Giraud, and thrash an arrangement out in personal talks. We now understand that this visit has been called off, the reason being - the DeGaulle hostility to the former Vichy elements in the French North African Imperial Council. Will Giraud eliminate the Council, as demanded by De Gaulle? ~~toss it out?~~ That remains to be seen.

From American diplomatic quarters in London we have the belief that the two French factions want to get together, but the ~~axi~~ causes of contention

between them are so grave that ~~an~~ agreement is

Neither easy nor

^ imminent. And from these same American diplomatic

quarters we receive a hint of another stumbling block

between the Fighting French and the North African

administration. They say that the general arrangement

proposed by the DeGaulle forces ^{*boils down to*} ~~is~~ this - that DeGaulle

shall become the political leader in North Africa,

and Giraud the military commander, limiting himself to

military affairs.

NAVY BULLETIN

The Navy today tells of two air attacks launched against the Japs in the Aleutians. One assault ran into trouble, apparently, while the other scored an explosive ~~ix~~ success.

52 On Wednesday a United States Air Squadron flew to the Japanese base at Kiska. Its objective was two enemy cargo ships or transports. The Japs were bringing in supplies and reinforcements. The American planes were intercepted by enemy zeros, and an air fight followed. One of their planes was shot down, while we lost three -- two fighters and a medium bomber.

The next day, Thursday, our bombers sallied to the attack again -- this time they accomplished their mission without any loss whatever, and scored five bomb hits on the two big ships in the harbor of Kiska.

This is reported in today's Navy Bulletin which tells of bombing attacks in a very different area -- the distant Solomons. Our American war planes based on ~~x~~ Guadalcanal struck another blow at the much bombed place called Munda, blasting the enemy airfield there.

WAKE ISLAND

We have tonight a vivid eye witness account of the mass bombing of Wake Island by American flying forces. This occurred on Christmas Eve, but the story was delayed in transmission until today -- the account given by a ^{newspaper} ~~United Press~~ correspondent who was in the raid. Newspaperman Olen Clements rode in one of the bombers.

53 He says it was the biggest mass raid of the Pacific War, and it ^{outraged} ~~wreaked~~ havoc on Wake Island -- that bit of land so heroically defended by a small force of Marines early ~~ixm~~ in the war. Peale Island was also hit -- in the bombing that hurled upon the Japs ~~seventy~~-six thousand pounds of high explosive.

The enemy on Wake and Peale Islands was taken utterly by surprise. "Frightened Japs," cables ~~a~~ ^{the} correspondent, "could be seen in the brilliant moonlight-running madly for their dugouts."

The bombing attack was on ~~for~~ a long time before there ~~ix~~ was any anti-aircraft fire. "Finally after what

seemed an eternity," relates the newspaperman, " a few Japs managed to reach two ack-ack guns, and let go wildly." The anti aircraft ^{fire} was ridiculous, according to the ^{newspaper} ~~United Press~~ man who states: "Shells burst fully six thousand feet above and two miles away from the nearest American plane."

54 He tells how belated Jap searchlights were turned on and swept the sky trying to pick out the planes. The searchlights were shot out by American gunners.

The fighter opposition was negligible. Several Japanese planes were seen and one exchanged shots with a bomber at long range. "The Japs did not want to mix at all," says the war correspondent. And he goes on to describe the havoc in these words: "Oil tanks were afire in the middle of Peale Island. More tanks were flaming near the entrance of the harbor, and columns of black smoke were rising." He says that there was blazing destruction everywhere on the

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two islands and adds: "Fires ~~xix~~ on Wake Island were visible for seventy-five miles."

MOUNTAIN TROOPS

Here's a story that Lowell Thomas has just phoned in from Lake Placid, where he is tonight.

An urgent call has just come, a call from Uncle Sam for men to serve in the new Mountain Regiment.

55 C. M. Dole, Chairman of the National Ski Patrol, is canvassing remote sections of the country, the wilderness regions, also colleges where there are so many husky young fellows, and other sources, for men who can qualify for the eighty-seventh regiment.

According to what Lowell Thomas tells us, ~~xxx~~ men who are interested are asked to get in touch with their local registration boards or with the National Ski Patrol at Four Hundred and Fifteen Lexington Avenue, New York City, and do it within the next twenty-four hours. From this it looks as though Uncle Sam plans ^{to} ~~on doing~~ some mountain fighting. The call is for mountaineers, woodsmen, trappers, guides, rangers, and also skiers of more than average ability,—If they are of acceptable age and know how to live in the

wilderness under tough conditions!

Already a lot of famous men have joined the eighty-seventh regiment -- that is, men who are famous in mountaineering and skiing circles, brawny men of the out-of-doors.

"Get in touch with the authorities within the next twenty-four hours," says Chairman Dole of the National Ski Patrol!

ROOSEVELT

Today was not only the beginning of a New Year, but also the first birthday of the United Nations.

56 One year ago today, twenty-six nations signed at Washington the declaration that formally joined them together for the waging of war and for the arrangement of peace thereafter. The high significance of those signatures one year ago was voiced today by

President Roosevelt. "They thus created," said he, "the mightiest coalition in history, mighty not only for its overwhelming material force but still more for its eternal spiritual values."

The President went on to summarize the results that have followed the formation of the United Nations. "The unity thus achieved in its dire danger," said he, "has borne rich fruit. The United Nations are passing from the offensive to the defensive." This proclamation stresses that word - "unity."

DEWEY

At Albany, New York today, a ceremony was staged, and nobody will need to be reminded that this was of national, as well as of state, importance.

People are well aware that the new Governor of New York State, Thomas E. Dewey, is bound to cut a figure in presidential calculations for Nineteen forty-four.

7 { It is true that Dewey, before his Election Day victory, renounced all notion of seeking the Republican presidential nomination. But, his victory at the polls was so brilliant and overwhelming, that he cannot be kept out of the national political picture. (~~Candidates have been known to be drafted~~), so there is a national spotlight on what Dewey had to say today in his inaugural address. }

There were two subjects for which we might watch with interest, two themes for important discussion by a Republican of Dewey's eminence.

One - domestic economy. The other - the kind of peace to be made after the war.

As for the war itself, there was no doubt about what Dewey would say. He would make the oft repeated Republican pledge of all-out dedication to the cause of victory and loyal cooperation with the President in the waging of the war. (~~Dewey expressed that position~~ plainly ~~in these words: "In all things needed for the winning of the war, we are united in unswerving loyalty to our Commander-in-Chief, the President of the United States."~~)

In point of domestic economy, Dewey took a fling at the New Deal in its attempts to cure unemployment. Speaking of the young people in national service and what they will do when the war is over, he stated: "These young men and women are entitled to expect something better than the hopeless period of

government-made work and relief, of which they have seen so much in the past decade. They are entitled," Dewey went on, "to a fruitful, productive place in a free economic society, dependent on the favor of no man or political party for their livelihood or for their security." ~~The new Governor of New York then expressed an ideal for the individual, saying that the individual should have what he called - "a future limited only by his own skill and ability."~~

In the international field, Dewey made the following statement concerning the peace to be procured after the war: "It will not be enough," said he, "to put down by force of arms the military aggression that has been loosed against mankind. We need also to put down by force of ideas the reaction against liberal society which our enemies represent."

In other words - a ~~xx~~ sword to conquer the sword, and ideas to conquer ideas.

End quote