

*Sunoco.*

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

At last we have official news about the conference of the Big Three, and since it is official, we no longer need to call it an "alleged" conference. President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Marshal Stalin did meet in Persia, ~~but they did not meet in Tabris.~~ It was at Tehran, the capital, where they held their conversations.

And whom do we have to thank for this official information? The Russians. Tass, the official news agency of the Soviets, released the news at about seven o'clock this evening, Pacific War Time.

~~The~~ One significant fact about the release is that the Red wire service took pains to mention in

the first sentence ~~of the announcement~~ the military problems on which the Big Three decided. This was not what the diplomats expected. They had prophesied that political problems would be of first importance at Tehran. On the contrary, Tass laid emphasis on the "problems of warfare against Germany" as coming first in the discussion, and political problems next. The Tass announcement concluded with the words "Decisions were taken which will be published."

DAVIS - FOLLOW LEAD

The Tass announcement provoked another protest from Elmer Davis as Director of the Office of War Information. It was not, however, as direct and scorching a rebuke as he fired at the British Government last night. <sup>Elmer</sup> Davis used these words in a statement to the United Press: "We had no idea that this Tass announcement was coming tonight." Then he added, "We hope that hereafter we will be able to make better arrangements so that such stories can be released simultaneously in all capitals involved. We are trying to work out arrangements of that kind with our colleagues abroad."

For the first time in <sup>some</sup> ~~many~~ months Director Elmer Davis had the entire body of American ~~newspaperdom~~ newspaperdom behind him, in fact everybody engaged in the dissemination of news.

CONFERENCE - FOLLOW LEAD

That meeting at Tehran was the fulfillment of a wish that President Roosevelt had had for a long time, and he has made no bones about it. Mr. Roosevelt and the Prime Minister invited ~~Stk~~ Stalin to their conference at Casablanca last January, but then the Soviet Premier ~~and Chief Marshal~~ was too busy preparing the offensive of the Red Army. When he returned from Casablanca newspapermen asked the President whether he was planning to meet the Soviet chief one day, and he replied that, as he put it, "Hope springs eternal."

Several months later he repeated the same words. After the Roosevelt-Churchill conference at Quebec, the Prime Minister said that nothing was nearer to the wishes of Mr. Roosevelt and himself than a three-fold meeting with Marshal Stalin.

So now they have had their wish, and the

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whole world is waiting <sup>im</sup> patiently ~~as may be~~ for  
the Big Three to tell<sup>s</sup> what they decided at Tehran,  
what they planned, what we may expect.

PACIFIC

After the Cairo conference of <sup>Messers</sup> ~~Roosevelt~~  
<sup>Roosevelt</sup> Churchill, and Chiang Kai-shek, General ~~Douglas~~

MacArthur got together with Prime Minister Curtin of  
Australia. This was made known today by Curtin, who

~~after the conference was over. He~~ said that both he

<sup>Gen.</sup> and MacArthur had agreed that the Cairo decisions on

Japan made it clear to the Australians that there is

no short way to victory in the Pacific. ~~He also~~

<sup>Also,</sup> ~~realized~~ that final victory in the Pacific will have

to wait what they call "the turn of events in Europe."

<sup>Whereupon</sup> ~~therein~~ Curtin and MacArthur decided to change the

strategy on that front, ~~and~~ shift ~~it~~ to the offensive.

<sup>Prime Minister Curtin said</sup> ~~Curtin said that~~ he had assured MacArthur ~~that~~ the

Australian war effort will be the maximum of which

the Commonwealth is capable.

PACIFIC

Another tough battle on New Guinea! Tough fighting for the Australian foot soldiers. And they certainly can take it. <sup>The Aussies</sup> ~~They~~ have started a push northward on the Huon Peninsula of New Guinea. Backed ~~up~~ up by heavy fire from MacArthur's artillery, they captured a place called Kuanka only a half mile south of a Japanese outpost at Wareo.

In that sector there was a two-mile front, and the officer who gave out the news at MacArthur's headquarters told correspondents that much more stiff fighting may be expected before the Australians and the Americans have <sup>New Guinea</sup> Wareo in their hands.

~~In the dispatch dated Saturday, December, Fourth, Admiral Halsey advises us that the air force of the Solomon Islands made no fewer than two hundred and thirty sorties in one day. That was Wednesday. For ten days in succession our pilots had no opposition~~

## AIR WAR

Last night's raid on Berlin appears to have been the most terrific, of all. Terrific not only for the damage that it did: but the circumstances of the attack in general. Just how many four-engined bombers the R. A. F. sent out, we <sup>do</sup> not know; but the British censorship passed a dispatch from London estimating the number at more than six hundred. So 1000 planes or more of various sizes may have been involved.

A good deal of our information comes from the Nazi radios, which have been singularly frank in admitting the devastation. According to a Nazi broadcast, their air defense was all set and waiting for the R.A.F. from the moment the first big Lancasters were spotted in the air over the Reich. From airdromes all over the country German interceptor planes went aloft in a fruitless effort to fight off the attack. A shield of defense



such as

~~that~~ no previous raiders had ever encountered. The

British Air Ministry admitted that the heavy bombers

literally had to fight their way <sup>right</sup> ~~all~~ across Axis

Europe to the capital and back. The moon shone brightly

<sup>too, making</sup> ~~and every~~ every bomber a good target for the <sup>German</sup> ~~whole~~ night

fighters. ~~At the same time~~ <sup>And</sup> anti-aircraft batteries by

the hundreds were <sup>hurling shells</sup> ~~throwing fire~~ at the British.

<sup>Lancasters</sup> But they fought their way through and found a

Berlin that was still groggy and blazing from the last

raid. The crews of the great Lancasters and Blenheims

were undeterred by that shield of defense and sent home

every bomb they had brought, at least one thousand,

five hundred tons of <sup>high explosive. Including</sup> ~~them~~ ~~Among them were no fewer~~

~~than thirty of these great~~ <sup>many</sup> blockbusting <sup>era.</sup> ~~affairs~~ <sup>Some</sup> They

~~fell~~ on a factory district, and on ~~the~~ railway stations,

~~and on the~~ <sup>and</sup> Potsdamer Platz, ~~an open square~~ in the heart

of Berlin.

Nazi propaganda ~~apparently made~~ <sup>makes</sup> no attempt to conceal ~~the terrific fire power which the great planes aimed at the city.~~ <sup>the vast scale of this raid,</sup> The German authorities permitted dispatches to Sweden ~~which~~ <sup>ing</sup> described the effect of the attack as ~~truly~~ devastating. A Scandinavian radio service controlled by the Nazis, declared that the City is completely paralyzed, street traffic blocked, no newspapers in the streets. According to one dispatch, Berliners tonight are without gas, water or electricity.

<sup>And</sup> ~~there is~~ chaos ~~at~~ every railroad station. <sup>with</sup> Only one ~~railroad station is~~ functioning, the Anhalter Station, ~~which, as everybody who has been to Berlin will realize,~~ <sup>recall,</sup> ~~is not on the main line that runs through Berlin.~~ <sup>so</sup> ~~if this is true, it means that~~ all through-traffic on the railroads <sup>must be</sup> at a standstill.

The attack lasted ~~only~~ little more than half an hour, and the pilot of one Lancaster reports that

when he reached the city, it was just ending, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup>  
~~the~~ fires were burning fiercely <sup>with</sup> ~~and the~~ smoke stream<sup>ing</sup>  
up to a height of three miles over the Brandenburg Plain.

— 0 —  
A violent air battle was fought between the British  
attackers and the Nazi interceptors over the city, with  
the result that at least twenty planes, British bombers  
and German fighters, <sup>actually</sup> crashed in the streets of the city.

— 0 —  
Last night's figures bring the total tonnage of  
bombs dropped on Berlin up to fifteen thousand; — —  
fifteen thousand tons of bombs, ~~a really cataclysmal~~  
~~attack~~. The British admitted that forty-one bombers  
were lost, ~~but that is less than ten per cent of the~~  
~~more than six hundred that went out.~~



ADD AIR WAR

Later dispatches quote refugees from Berlin as reporting that ~~even the Anhalter railroad station~~  
~~is now useless because a whole viaduct had fallen~~  
~~across the tracks.~~ <sup>HP</sup> They ~~say that~~ the great German bank had burned out, and, that the Nazi Air Ministry ~~building~~ was wrecked.

MURROW - ADD AIR WAR

An American correspondent had the extraordinary luck to accompany that raid on Berlin. He rode in a Lancaster bomber, a plane christened "D-For-Dog."

As a matter of fact, five correspondents went on the raid, but ~~Edward~~ Murrow and one Australian newspaperman were the only ones to return.

Murrow said that when the two-ton blockbuster bombs were dropped on Berlin they burst like great sunflowers gone mad.

The first waves of bombers dropped sticks of incendiaries. They made Berlin look like a piece of black velvet with a fistful of white rice thrown on it. To a lay observer the raid had a quality of unreality.

At one moment the Nazi searchlight struck the Lancaster on the starboard beam of the plane in which Murrow was riding. The lights, he said, seemed to be

supporting <sup>the plane,</sup> And then, with no warning at all, the D-for-Dog, the plane in which he was riding, was filled with an unhealthy white light. The pilot warned everybody aboard: "Steady lads, we've been coned." Murrow could see the fingernails of the pilot turning white as he gripped the wheel. The next thing he knew he was on his knees because the pilot had whipped the plane into a climbing turn.

As the bomb-aimer and the pilot were <sup>discussing</sup> ~~discussing~~ the target the smoke grew thicker down below. The bomb aimer called his shots one by one: six left, six left. Five left, five left. Finally he said, "Cookies gone, cookies gone." And then <sup>with Berlin aflame</sup> the D-for-Dog turned back home.

ADD AIR WAR

It is possible that Berlin has already undergone still another devastating air raid. In Hitler's capital it is now six o'clock Saturday morning. And a dispatch from London reports that at dawn a strong force of heavy Royal Air Force bombers, British and Canadians, were seen streaking over the East coast of England toward the Continent. The giant Lancasters and Blenheims roared out from their bases in Britain shortly after midnight. That was a new wrinkle in Royal Air Force tactics. As a rule they carry out their raids in the early evening.

We do <sup>not</sup> know definitely that they attacked Berlin again; but, ~~at any rate~~ it is definite that some big German city <sup>is</sup> the target <sup>tonight.</sup> ~~for heavy punishment.~~

NELSON

The United States in November produced a record number of airplanes. The total was eight thousand, seven hundred and eighty-nine, and of those more than a thousand were giant four-engine bombers. This news was released tonight by Donald Nelson, Chairman of the War Production Board. He pointed out that this meant turning out airplanes at the rate of three hundred and thirty-eight for each working day, one plane every five minutes.

But, said Nelson, that still is not enough. We need even greater numbers of planes, and, still bigger ones. Which confirms the rumors that the army is building monster new bombers, beyond all previous ideas of great planes in size.

Nelson points out that our possible losses have to be made up and that we must keep on adding to our striking power.



KNOX - FOLLOW NELSON

Evidently Secretary Knox was determined that the Navy should not be outdone by the War Production Board. For he promptly released the news that in the month of November Uncle Sam's Navy completed men-of-war with a displacement of more than two hundred and fifty thousand tons. ~~They~~ *Including* about a dozen aircraft carriers of all types. The Secretary hinted to the newspapermen that eight of those aircraft carriers were big ones.

In addition to this the Navy finished more than two thousand war planes in November, <sup>—</sup>fighters and <sub>^</sub>bombers.

## BALKANS

It became obvious today that the Nazis are expecting one of the Allied invasions of Europe to come through the Balkans. Swedish newspapers have been saying that for some time, but tonight a dispatch from London reports that Marshal Rommel, who is in supreme command there, has been bringing thousands of reinforcements to the coastal defenses of Jugoslavia. <sup>Which</sup> ~~That~~ can mean only one thing, that the enemy expects us to try that doorway into Fortress Europe.

Rommel has made considerably headway in clearing the Yugoslav armies away from the Dalmatian coast, which at one time they had reconquered. Nevertheless, Jugoslavs in London believe that although Rommel has the coast all the way from Fiume to Albania, the Partisan guerrillas will be able to weaken his defenses quite substantially and open ~~avenues~~ <sup>avenues</sup> doorways through which the Allies can enter.

ITALY

Last night we had information from Italy ~~which~~  
indicated<sup>ing</sup> that the Fifth Army was about to begin an  
attack on the Nazis. ~~at the west front. That attack is~~  
*And now hear that the*  
*attack is definitely*  
~~now~~ under way. It began with a terrific cannonading  
from massed batteries of General Clark's heavy guns,  
plus a bombardment from hundreds of planes ~~overhead.~~

The Fifth has a particularly tough spot at  
that end of the Allied line. The job ahead of them is  
to force the gateway to Rome through the mountains,  
a gateway literally stud~~ed~~ed with Germany heavy guns.

~~But~~ The Eighth Army on the Adriatic flank has  
*advanced another six miles,*  
~~forced its way six more miles further, and capturing~~  
Kastel Frentano. Thus the Germans have been ~~pushed~~<sup>priced</sup>  
~~entirely~~ loose from their <sup>last</sup> anchor on the Adriatic, and

we may hear at any moment that <sup>Hitler's</sup> ~~their~~ Winter Line has  
crumbled all the way across Italy. ~~That will throw open~~  
~~the valleys leading Romewards to the forces under Gener~~  
~~Clark.~~

~~General~~ <sup>has just</sup> Montgomery issued another of his

dramatic addresses to the Eighth Army, ~~He~~ congratulated <sup>ing</sup>  
them on their great success in the Battle of the Sangro.

He said the ridge from which they dislodged the Germans,  
the ~~ridexdaminx~~ ridge dominating the valley, was the  
real framework of the enemy Winter Line on the Adriatic.

~~He asked his commanders to please tell the soldiers  
how delighted he is with all this.~~

Cold winds have dried the muddy roads, and  
both armies now have ideal fighting weather. Guns ~~and~~  
~~armour can~~ be moved quickly; <sup>and</sup> ~~as well as other equipment.~~

Airplanes <sup>do their part.</sup> ~~can support the ground forces for all they  
are worth~~

## RUSSIA

In White Russia Soviet General Rokossovsky has sent ski troops into action. And if they keep on as they have been going, they will outflank the German north of Gomel. They are already threatening the junction point of Zhlobin from the North, the junction point on which the Nazis depend for their escape,

The Red Army attacked on all sectors northwest of Gomel shortly before dawn yesterday. They drove the Germans away from an important road junction that they were holding, so that advance units of Rokossovsky's army are now on the main highway to Rogachev and Bobruisk.

In the Kiev bulge where a great battle is being fought, Moscow believes the Nazis have concentrated some two thousand tanks between Korosten and Brussilov and have launched a new strong Counter-attack.

Moscow says nothing about a new Soviet attack west of Smolensk, but Berlin declares that the

## SOLDIER\_VOTE

The United States Senate today declined to pass the Green-Lucas Bill, which was an attempt to set up machinery whereby soldiers at the front could vote for president next year. Which doesn't mean the lawmakers Don't want the soldiers to vote. But, they want to restore control of this matter to the states.

The defeat of the Green-Lucas Bill was accomplished by a combination of Republicans and southern Democrats. Some southern states do not let anybody vote who does not pay the poll tax. And the southern Senators were afraid that would be affected if the voting of the soldiers was regulated by federal machinery.

And now George what's your final bit of wisdom tonight?