

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Today brought a series of Allied claims about the losses the Germans have suffered in the Norway fight. In Paris Premier Reynaud used these words:- "The French Admiralty informed me an hour ago, that the German fleet has been really mutilated." He listed the Hitler losses like this. The Nazis have lost twenty per cent of their ~~destroyers~~ cruiser strength, twenty-five per cent of their destroyers have been sunk. Fifteen per cent of their remaining destroyers have been damaged. And they've lost seventy-eight thousand tons of merchant ships - all this since the beginning of the Norway drive.

Today brings still another Swedish report of one more big naval engagement in the Skaggerak. One gets the impression that some of these Swedish battle stories are on the order of the great Scandinavian fabulist, Hans Christian Andersen.

NORWAY

Premier Reynaud declared today that the Allies have
captured and occupied Narvik, that far northern Norwegian port
for the shipment of iron ore. ~~The Paris Premier declared this~~
~~in the most positive terms.~~ ^{all} It is just as positively ^{this is} denied by

Berlin. The Germans claim that the Allies have not taken Narvik.
~~They~~ ^{They suggest that Allied forces may have landed}
^{at a point further south. The Nazis} declare their expeditionary force still holds the harbor

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and issue a further bulletin stating that ^{their} ~~Nazi~~ troops in the
Narvik area had driven across to the frontier of Sweden. Norway

is very narrow at that point, only a few miles ^{wide.} ~~across.~~ Reports
from Sweden confirm the fact that German troops from Narvik

have cut across the narrow ^{neck} of Norway. ~~They advanced along the~~

~~line of the railroad, that runs from Sweden's famous iron mines~~
~~to the Norwegian iron shipping port.~~ ^{Stockholm} The news bulletin that I

have here states ^{quote:- (not)} "It is indicated definitely whether the Germans
were attempting to escape from Narvik or were broadening their grip
on that district."

In other places, further south, the Nazi troops are
cutting across to the Swedish frontier. This is particularly the
case in the area of the important port of Trondheim, ^{which is} ~~that is-~~

somewhat to the south of the middle of Norway, at the latitude where narrow Norway begins to broaden out for its more ample southern extension. From Trondheim the German regiments have driven across almost to Sweden. They made it by rail-train.

AIR RAID

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The British report a spectacular air raid. The Germans confirm it - and add a sinister note to the story. Royal Air Force planes bombarded the airport at the Nazi occupied port of Stavanger. London tells how the British air men rained bombs on the military flying field, set great hangars on fire and raised havoc generally.

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Berlin puts it this way, and mark the words - "open city." "British planes," it says, "dropped a number of incendiary and high explosive bombs on the open city of Stavanger as well as on the nearby airport."

That reminds us of the loud Nazi complaint the other day, the charge that the British had bombed a small railroad station in Germany. This was accompanied by the threat that if such a thing occurred again, the Germans would retaliate with raids on British centers of communication, *And maybe the air raid* ~~and the war of the air~~ limits would be off, the limits that have restricted ~~the~~ bombing to ships and sea bases. The menace was - to begin the much dreaded bombing of cities. So you see the significance of the Nazi statement today - that R.A.F. planes bombed what it called "the open City of Stavanger."

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The Berlin report goes on with these words:- "Unfortunately,
several private houses were hit and a number of Norwegian
civilians were killed." All of which points to that sinister
possibility which is always threatening - retaliation of one side
~~XXXXX~~ against the other ^{— and} ~~of~~ indiscriminate bombing.

CRUISER

The Germans claim to have sunk a heavy British cruiser. The name of the ship is not given, but it is described as a ten thousand tonner, which is top tonnage for cruisers. The Berlin dispatch tells how the warship was hit by bombs, turned over on its side, and sank.

This report was taken to the London Admiralty with a query, ^{and the} ~~the~~ Admiralty refused to make any comment. But the British deny that one of their Sunderland flying boats was sunk. The Sunderlands are monster bombers, British versions of flying fortresses. They're the pride of Britain. Berlin announces that Nazi attack-planes shot down a Sunderland. But ^{to} ~~this~~ London ~~denies~~ ^{says no.}

CHAMBERLAIN

Prime Minister Chamberlain, in a war declaration today, touched upon a point rather more interesting than the scathing rebukes he administered to Nazi Germany. In addition to saying how deplorably bad the Nazis were, and how indubitably the Allies would win the war, he referred to the question of how long he'd remain Prime Minister of Great Britain. There have been persistent rumors that the Chamberlain Government would not last long, that the aged Prime Minister would retire in favor of some other political chieftain.

Today, in an address before the National Free Church Council at London, Neville Chamberlain spoke as follows:- "The press," said he, "is continually reminding you and me that I've passed three score years and ten." He's seventy-one. "Nevertheless," he added, "my eyes are undimmed, my natural forces unabated." ~~And he~~ has no idea of resigning as Prime Minister. Today Quite to the contrary, ^X he indicated that he intended ^S to stay in office for the duration of the war. "I feel encouraged," said he, "to carry on the task in which I am engaged - until our purpose has been achieved."

SOVIET

The Soviet Navy ~~is~~^{is} manoeuvring in the Black Sea; and that has started talk of possible moves by Moscow.

Another ~~xxxx~~ subject of rumor is Rumania. In fact, there ~~is~~^{was} a wild one circulating today ~~saying~~ that Nazi Germany had invaded Rumania. This was denied all around. Bucharest meanwhile was ~~also~~ denying that Rumania has put an embargo on supplies bound for Germany, ~~in~~ grain and oil. ~~(It's explained that there are some, restrictions on future shipments, which maybe needed for domestic use. But at present existing orders are being filled as well as possible.)~~

NAVY

The United States Navy made a series of statements today, and these are decidedly interesting in the light of the progress of the war in Europe, read by Admiral Stark before the Senate Naval Committee.

Admiral Stark read a navy statement expressing the belief that the battleship still holds its foremost place. He admitted that the news development of air power is having a great effect on war on the ocean. "The manner of employment of naval vessels," said the Admiral, "has been effected by the comparatively new form of attack from the air."

As for the continuing predominance of the battleship, the argument made by the Navy reads this way:- "The heavy bomb, with its restricted ability to penetrate armor plate, is certainly less potent than the heavy shell." Meaning - that the bomb which is dropped, has less penetrating power than the armor piercing shell fired at high velocity from a giant cannon.

What about the performance of American built planes in the present war? "Certain American fighting planes," said the Admiral, "have in actual combat abroad, demonstrated their superiority over comparable European types." And that obviously includes the German

types - the much vaunted Heinkels and Messerschmitts.

Moreover, the American planes sent to fight in the war across the ocean are not as good as the latest models built recently for our own armed forces over here. And, it is to be noted, these latest types, of ours, will also be sold to the Allies.

But not the bomb sight, not that famous but darkly secret device for aiming high explosive ~~a~~ from above. Admiral Stark stated that our mystery bomb sight will not be sold to anybody, Allies or otherwise. We keep it for ourselves.

Another theme of Admiral Stark's discourse was the Japanese Navy. How does it compare with our own? Since the scrapping of the navy treaties started all sorts of shipbuilding we've been given no clear idea of the extent to which the Mikado has been expanding his fleet. Admiral Stark said that if we keep our own Navy at its present size, Japan will catch up with us in two years. If we want to restore the old five-three ratio - five for us and three for them - we'll have to expand our fleet by twenty-five per cent. However, the present program calls for

an increase of only eleven per cent. That will bring about a ratio of five to four and three-tenths. The Admiral said the Navy was content with the eleven per cent idea, because our present shipbuilding facilities are not up to a bigger program - not enough shipyards to increase the fleet more than eleven per cent. He stated that at this present moment Japan may be close to the United States in warship strength. "Uncomfortably close, in my opinion," ~~he~~ said *he*.

GREENLAND

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The case of Greenland received some enlightenment today - from the British Ambassador to Washington, Lord Lothian. He spoke ~~in response to rumors that the Canadian Government~~ was prepared to take possession of that vast northern island, with its measureless fields of ice.

Across the Atlantic, the British Navy today took active control of the ^{Danish} Faroe Islands, the archipelago which lies ~~xxxxid~~ considerably to the north of Scotland. ~~The Faroes are a Danish possession, Denmark has been seized by Hitler, and London couldn't take any chance of the Nazis getting hold of those bits of far northern land.~~ The analogy of the Faroes applies forcibly to Greenland, also a Danish possession. So word was that the Canadians would move in.

To that Lord Lothian says - "No." He states that ~~xxxx~~ neither Britain nor Canada has any intention of occupying Greenland - unless, of course, Germany should try to reach in that direction. If the Nazis try to establish naval or air bases in Greenland, it would certainly be a threat to Canada.

But the British Ambassador said he very much doubted that Germany would try any such thing. He thought there was no danger. And so, there'll be no British or Canadian action concerning Greenland.

There has been a good deal of speculation as to whether or not Greenland would come within the scope of the Monroe Doctrine. Sundry American experts have been saying they doubt that it does. Lord Lothian today added his comment. He said he thought that Greenland does come within the scope of the Monroe Doctrine.

All of which leaves the Greenland question in the realm, not of politics - but of philanthropy. President Roosevelt has pointed out that the Arctic people up there are not ~~xx~~ self-supporting, and depend on their motherland, Denmark, for supplies. These now may be stopped, and somebody else may have to provision the Greenlanders. That's most likely to be done by the United States. We'll ^{might} ~~probably~~ have the Greenland question to handle, not as politics - but as philanthropy.

KEYNOTE

The Republicans have selected their keynoter. And what could be more majestic and oratorical than keynoting at a national convention? One might also ask what could be longer *than a keynoters keynote?* I will say, without fear of successful contradiction (talking like a keynoter) -- that no institution in the world's history has caused *as much* ~~the~~ outpouring of millions of words as the American habit of keynoting. Ordinarily, it's the ordeal of a lifetime to sit and listen for hours while the political spell-binder gets all keyed up in the most noted style of long-winded declamation.

However, there's hope for those of us who will be at *Philadelphia.* ~~Chicago~~ Today the Republican National Committee selected Governor Harold E. Stassen, Governor of Minnesota. He's a young state executive, only thirty-three. He's not of the excessively majestic and oracular sort. *But he is* ~~He's~~ one of the best speakers in the Republican party, and understands the value of brevity. Although -- maybe it would be too much to expect any keynoter to be really brief.

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Governor Stassen has the added advantage of not being a presidential aspirant -- at least not for this year. He is mentioned far and

wide as a likely possibility for Nineteen Forty-Four. But in
this year of Nineteen Forty he'll go to ^{Philadelphia}~~Chicago~~ as nothing more
than a keynoter. — which is considerable.

BASEBALL

President Roosevelt' didn't have such a good arm today. Maybe it was because of his presidential preoccupation with international affairs. He tossed out the first ball ~~ix~~ at the opening game in Washington, but it wasn't one of those mighty throws from the deep outfield all the way into the catcher's mitt. Maybe the President was too deeply engrossed with the problems of curbing aggression and dictatorship in this troubled world.

Anyway, from the presidential box he took what looked like a lusty enough heave, but he didn't succeed in propelling the sphere as far as the ball players. It went looping in the air and fell so short that a policeman caught it and relayed it to the Washington pitcher. The name of the pitcher for the President's home team was Dutch Leonard. No, not Franco-British Leonard -- Dutch Leonard.

And the President's home team lost the game. Lefty Grove of the Boston Red Sox beat Dutch Leonard by a score of one to nothing. A close margin -- not such a blitz-kreig. Low scores everywhere:-- Cininetti Reds beat Chicago 2 to 1. The Dodgers licked the Bess 5 to 0. The St. Louis Browns beat the Tigers 5 to 1. And look at Blue Sunoco glory in Philadelphia where the Phillies beat the Giants 3 to 1. And the Athletics smacked the Yankees 2 to 1.

But the sensation of the day was young Bob Feller of the Cleveland Indians who pitched a no-hit game against the White Sox - one to nothing.

STRIP TEASE

His Grace, the Earl of Clarendon, Lord Chamberlain of the British Court, issued a decree today, clothed in stately language. Not only is the decree clothed -- the girls will have to be, the strip teasers around whom the controversy is raging in war-time London. In fact, the only thing they have around them at the end of their act -- is the controversy.

This morning, His Grace, the Earl of Clarendon, Lord Chamberlain of the Court of England -- called a conference at St. James' Palace, in Queen Anne's drawing room. Queen Anne wasn't there, nor were any of the strip teasers. The gathering consisted of British theatrical producers, who have been exhibiting the kind of war-time theatrical art which has caused plenty of protest, not so refined, in fact, beastly shocking, don't you know. His Grace discussed with them the strip tease problem. They pointed out that this particular form of art was graceful, and His Grace didn't deny it. But grace or disgrace, something would have to be done about it -- said His Grace. The conference agreed on the general thesis that too few clothes on the stage was undesirable, even in a black-out. Later on, came the decree.

Prompt measures will be taken to check the vogue of indecency on the war-time London stage. The strip teasers are not in the good graces of His Grace, the Earl of Clarendon, Lord Chamberlain of the British Court - and now - Hugh James.