

L.J. - Sunoco Monday, June 15, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

At last we have definite news about the Battle of the Aleutians, <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ naval and aerial battle in those fog covered waters of the north Pacific. We heard last week that the Japanese had established beachheads on Attu and Kiska Islands far out <sup>at the extreme tip of</sup> ~~on~~ our northern archipelago. It was known that they had also sent a task fleet into those waters with transports carrying land troops; <sup>also</sup> several warships as an escort, and at least one aircraft carrier. ~~And~~ ~~It~~ was an open secret that our naval and air forces were out looking for that Japanese armada. But for days no official information was forthcoming.

About half an hour ago, the news came in.

After a silence of nearly seventy-two hours, the Navy

*announced*  
~~let it be known~~ that our Army and Navy forces in the Aleutians area have damaged at least three <sup>Jap</sup> cruisers, one destroyer, one gunboat and one transport. Some, adds the communique, have been damaged severely.

*TA* The Navy adds that foul weather and fog, characteristic of this locality at all seasons, have been hampering our reconnaissance and attack operations.

Our forces evidently had to fight against the elements as well as against the Japanese to find that enemy force.

It also appears that Army bombers did even more decisive damage to the enemy. They have sunk one cruiser in that battle and hit a Jap aircraft carrier with torpedoes. The Army and Navy make separate reports on these joint engagements, so we have no *and coherent official* complete account of what happened. The news of the Army success was made public through a communication

from Lieutenant-General Arnold, head of the Army Air Force, to an aircraft builder in Baltimore.

All this does not mean that the battle is over. On the contrary, it still is going on, as the Navy tells us definitely. Air attacks on enemy landing parties and the Jap warships that are supporting them, are continuing. The Navy's announcement concludes with ~~xxxx~~ the words:- "The general situation in the Aleutian Islands appears unchanged." In other words, although our forces sunk one Jap cruiser and damaged five other enemy warships, plus one transport, the Japs have not been ~~kicked out of~~ *driven from* their beachheads on Attu and Kiska.

A ~~xxxxxxxx~~ story from Pearl Harbor brings word that still another Jap naval force will again attack us either somewhere in the Central Pacific, or further south. The natural strategy being to split our forces.

The Japanese today made another extraordinary acknowledgment. The Tokyo Radio admitted that the losses they suffered were considerable in that Midway Island Battle as well as in their operations to date in the Aleutian Islands. As the Tokyo Radio put it:- "They are the greatest losses the Japanese Navy has had to suffer since the beginning of the war."

From Berlin we learn something else about Japan. The Mikado's Government is going to join the Axis in its <sup>studied and savage</sup> ~~serious~~ persecution of the Jews. Radio Berlin quotes an article written by a Japanese general, who said:- "Although there are only about a hundred thousand Jews in the Far East, appropriate measures must be taken against them to avoid their destructive influence."

## RUSSIA

The war reports from Russia also tell us of a naval battle. The Soviet Black Sea fleet in action, steaming to the rescue of the badly battered garrison of Sevastopol. That story comes from Stockholm.

The Red warships not only came into battle with their heavy guns, but landed reinforcements of marines to attack the German attackers in the rear. The fleet had to fight its way through a line of Italian motor torpedo boats and ~~they had~~ flocks of German dive bombers.

~~Several~~ Several Soviet ships were sunk, but those that got through <sup>headed straightway into</sup> ~~stayed in the firing line and took~~ that fierce fighting around Sevastopol. ~~their share of the brunt of that ferocious fighting.~~

In Sevastopol itself, the women are now fighting side by side with their menfolk. The Germans, on their side, claim that they have made a deep breach in the defenses of <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ Black Sea fortress.

This is taken to mean the fort named after Stalin

at the northern approaches to the city. The Nazi high command boasts that Sevastopol will fall within a week, although it is possible that some individual forts may hold out longer.

But it is not only on the Black Sea that the Red Army is resisting the big Hitler push. The fighting is reported as ~~being~~ fierce, <sup>all along the Russian</sup> ~~on every part of the~~ front. At Leningrad, German, <sup>some</sup> and Italian troops, with artillery and dive bombers, have been attacking for two days both by land and by sea. <sup>It</sup> <sup>appears to be</sup> Hitler ~~is~~ pouring in shock troops, on every sector.

At Kalinin, the Nazi infantry, with tanks and planes, is trying to push the German salient eastward from Rzhev. Moscow claims that this attack was repulsed.

In the south, the Germans declare that they ~~crossed~~ <sup>crossed</sup> the Donets River east of Kharkov. They also

boast that they have surrounded large units of the Red Army and taken more than twenty-five thousand prisoners and large numbers of tanks and guns. The Russians report that Marshal Timoshenko has counter-attacked on that sector.

To sum up, [it appears that the fighting is

hot all along that eighteen hundred mile <sup>Russian</sup> front, ~~and~~

*with so far*  
~~there appears to be~~ no definite acknowledged result,  
*at any point,*

17 Military observers tell us that the only rational explanation of the enormous expenditure of Nazi material and lives at Sevastopol is that it is part of Hitler's plan to attack the Caucasus both by sea and by land.

LIBYA

In the Libyan campaign, <sup>the</sup> ~~a~~ hot battle is <sup>ragily</sup> ~~being~~  
~~waged around a place called Acroma~~, some fifteen miles  
from Tobruk. Reports from Cairo describe it as a wild  
<sup>melee between tanks,</sup>  
~~slugging match with tanks on both sides hacking at each~~  
~~other from all directions.~~ In military language, this  
<sup>referred to</sup>  
is ~~known~~ as a fluid battle. The Germans are attacking  
northward and the British in turn are attacking the  
Germans in the rear from the south. The explanation is  
that ~~Nazi Colonel General~~ Rommel is trying to isolate  
the Allied troops in the El Gazala salient.

The Rome Radio talks of this battle in  
jubilant language, declares that all British forces  
west of Acroma have been cut off and surrounded by  
Italian forces. <sup>TR</sup> The Nazis claim that their part of  
Rommel's army has reached the Mediterranean coast.

<sup>TR</sup> The British Radio <sup>says</sup> ~~reported that~~ the battle has been  
going on three days and has reached a climax, and then



spoke these words of warning:- "We must be prepared for new developments."

This is taken to indicate that the British line has been broken. The British Radio said further that on Sunday British armored forces had suffered heavier losses than on any previous day. It went on to say that there is no reason to believe that the Germans can take Tobruk, but <sup>that</sup> even if they do, the threat to Egypt might still not be serious. In other words, the

British appear to be already discounting the loss of Tobruk.

## CONVOY

A great naval battle raging in the Mediterranean!

That is the most spectacular news we have today; ~~but~~

*with an*  
~~there is a considerable~~ element of doubt. ~~in it.~~ The

report comes from Rome and strictly falls in the category of enemy propaganda. However, sometimes it is interesting and even necessary to know what the enemy propaganda sources are saying.

According to Rome, a large Allied convoy was on its voyage east through the Mediterranean. It was espied and attacked by powerful Italian air fleets, torpedo planes and dive bombers. There followed a running fight, ~~and~~ ~~the British attacked five times.~~ The convoy, ~~so~~ say the Italians, consisted of twelve to fourteen transports escorted by a battleship, two airplane carriers, four cruisers and ten destroyers. It left Gibraltar Saturday night, and Sunday morning the Italians attacked, southwest of Cape Teulada, the

convoy, being then abreast of the coast of Algeria.

The enemy vessels were based on Sardinia. The first attack damaged the convoy and forced it to scatter. The main attack later was delivered in the waters between Sardinia and Tunisia. The Fascist warplanes -- or maybe they were Goerings -- came on in wave after wave, and, say the Italians, destroyed two British cruisers, one destroyer, and five merchantmen. They also boast of having damaged the battleship, an aircraft carrier, two cruisers, a destroyer and four merchantmen.

They add that it was the largest convoy that the British had ever sent into the Mediterranean. And that something under three hundred Italian planes attacked the convoy.

The Italians admit a loss of twenty of their own planes and say they shot down fifteen of the British. And Rome says the convoy then turned tail and hurried back to Gibraltar. At any rate, so

says the Fascist high command.

In reply to questions in London, the British say they have no comment to make.

The Nazis, for their part, claim a similar success on a smaller scale at the eastern end of the Mediterranean. They say the British were rushing huge reinforcements to Libya when Nazi planes caught a convoy off Tobruk. But they claim only to have sunk one British merchant ship and damaged a destroyer and two other warships.

All this is unconfirmed, mere claims from enemy broadcasts; but concerning operations too large to be entirely ignored.

HAMBURG

Thirty-two Germans have been killed in Hamburg, killed not by Allied bombs but by other Germans.

Twenty-five of them were civilians executed in the streets of the city by Himmler's Gestapo. <sup>and</sup> Seven of <sup>Hitler's</sup> ~~that~~ ~~deadly~~ secret service fell dead. All this, in food-riots, the most spectacular in Germany since Nineteen Eighteen.

Even the smallest riot is <sup>somewhat surprising</sup> ~~astounding in~~ Germany. <sup>so a</sup> <sup>this</sup> disturbance of ~~such~~ size ~~is~~ <sup>this</sup> is amazing.

But, ~~it is~~ not so amazing in Hamburg as it would be in some other German cities. For we have to recall that it was in Hamburg that the Nineteen Eighteen Revolution against the Hohenzollerns began, the revolution which ended with the ignominious flight of the Kaiser and the end of the last World War.

Hamburg has always been a tough nut for the Nazis to crack. It was the last stronghold of opposition to Hitler. Being the greatest seaport in Germany,

it has <sup>the</sup> population least susceptible to Fascist ideas. Hitler's <sup>hazi</sup> Storm Troopers were able to slug the people of other cities into <sup>line</sup> ~~compliance~~ with comparatively little resistance. But the Hamburgers, maritime folk, were not so easy. The Storm Trooper toughs of Hitler and Goering had to win more than one pitched battle in the streets of the old seaport. But none of those pitched battles were as tough as the one reported today from that one-time chief city of the Hanseatic League.

Being such a rich <sup>city</sup> ~~seaport~~ to start with, Hamburg suffered more than any other from the breakdown of Germany's overseas trade. When we hear of food riots there, the first idea that comes to us is ~~that~~ of people starving and waiting in bread-lines. But it was not over bread that the fighting began. It was coffee. And the start of it all was a trifle

that sounds almost ludicrous. Stevedores were loading bags of coffee that had been stored in a Hamburg warehouse, loading them into trucks to be sent to the front in Russia. Evidently a bag burst, and the stevedores threw it over an iron barrier into the street. It fell at the feet of people passing by, citizens who had not had a taste of anything but ersatz — even coffee for years before the war ~~even~~ began. They scrambled to grab as many of the precious beans <sup>as</sup> ~~that~~ they could ~~and~~ cram them into their pockets. Somebody started shoving; <sup>then</sup> ~~and~~ fists flew. <sup>Then</sup> The fighting grew so ~~acute~~ <sup>hat</sup> that the <sup>regular gendarmes</sup> ~~ordinary police patrolmen~~ could not cope with it. They had to send <sup>for</sup> ~~XXXX~~ armed Gestapo coppers. And so the fracas grew. Somebody fired a pistol. ~~The Gestapo retaliated.~~ Then followed volley upon volley until seven <sup>of the Gestapo</sup> ~~policemen~~ lay dead, and twenty-five civilians were executed in retaliation.

*all of which of course,*

~~The news, as you might expect,~~ was not

broadcast by the Nazi government. But, it reached Stockholm and other neutral capitals, whence it leaked ~~easily~~ to London. According to the story from the British capital, the Gestapo, in addition to executing twenty-five <sup>*burgers*</sup> ~~people~~ in Hamburg, arrested hundreds of others. <sup>R</sup>The Allied refugee governments in London seized the occasion, to add to this news, ~~xxx~~ underground reports of sabotage throughout Europe on a huge scale. The refugees declare that <sup>*sabotage*</sup> ~~it~~ has cut down Hitler's output of war machinery by at least eighteen per cent, that is in the occupied countries. And this has forced the Nazis to use more than two million men and women as an offset to that sabotage, two millions who could have been used in other war jobs.

Organized sabotage is going on in occupied



France on a <sup>growing</sup> ~~large~~ scale. And <sup>that</sup> in Norway the <sup>Quisling</sup> Government of ~~Vidkun Quisling~~ is in difficulties; <sup>with</sup> ~~There has been~~ street fighting between Quislingites and loyal Norwegians in two towns near Trondheim, <sup>with</sup> numerous casualties on both sides. Stockholm reports that Quisling has had to beg the Nazis for troops to help him keep up his traitor rule over his countrymen.

~~There is~~ <sup>o</sup> also news from Rome; ~~which is~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~interpreted as meaning~~ unrest in Italy. According to this, Mussolini has declared military control of the entire civil service. Civil service in Italy includes all the railroad workers. The official order announces that they will be regarded as mobilized soldiers and when exercising their duties they are subject to military discipline. That means that if an Italian civil servant does not cooperate with one of the Nazi German officials in Italy, he can be shot on the spot.

LEND-LEASE

The United States, up to the end of May, <sup>has given</sup> ~~gave~~ help to our Allies in goods and services amounting to four billion, four hundred and ninety-seven million dollars. That is one item in a report that President Roosevelt made to Congress today about his quarterly report on Lend-Lease. And he used these words:- "We are now making aid available at a monthly rate equivalent to eight billion dollars a year." ~~And he~~ continued:- "The assistance we have rendered to date represents twelve per cent of our entire war effort." <sup>And that</sup> ~~There~~ is a rather staggering bit of news to digest!

Mr. Roosevelt added:- "The battle of production is on the way to being won." ~~And he~~ said further that ~~AMERICAN~~ America's reservoir is now approaching a flood stage, <sup>but that</sup> ~~and he added:-~~ "But, the battle of distribution is in its critical phase." <sup>Meaning</sup> ~~which means~~ that, although we are turning <sup>it</sup> ~~the stuff~~ out all right, we are <sup>having</sup> ~~going to~~

*trouble*  
~~have a tough time~~ getting it to where it ~~is needed~~ *should go.*  
*^* *^*  
~~most.~~

The President further told ~~the~~ Congress that  
Lend-Lease is no longer a one way affair. *That the* Allies  
who have been receiving help from us *are* ~~have~~ reciprocated *ing*  
*and* on their own initiative. For instance, our troops on  
*^* British and Australian ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ soil are being fed,  
housed and equipped partly on British and Australian  
resources.

Mr. Roosevelt then announced that we are  
going to avoid the international unpleasantness over  
war debts that occurred after the last war. As he put  
it, "We must escape the political and economic mistakes  
of international debt experience during the 'Twenties.  
No nation," he said, "will grow rich from the war  
efforts of its allies. The money costs of the war will  
fall according to the rule of equity in sacrifice,  
as in effort."

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## KINGS

There were two Kings in Washington today. King George the Second of Greece was the guest of Congress, and made speeches to both the House and the Senate. He told them that the United States is a living example of the best in contemporary civilization.

The King of the Hellenes had another interesting encounter today. He gave an audience to a peanut vendor, Steve Vasilakos, who described the interview afterwards in these words:-

"The King, he say, 'You speak Greek!'"

"I say, 'Sure, Sure.' So we speak in Greek."

"The King say, 'How is business?' I tell him I'm making a living.

"He says, 'That's a good boy," so I say to the King, 'You're a good boy too."

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Lunching at the White House today was H.R.H. the Duke of Windsor, Ex-King of Great Britain. The Duke came back to Washington, having settled the difficulties in his domain, the Bahamas. After a three-hour talk with the President, the Duke told reporters that our neighbors at Nassau had gone off the deep end because they were paid eighty-one cents a day while Americans on the same job were getting a dollar an hour.

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ELMER DAVIS

There's a ~~feeling of~~ high approval in  
the world of press and radio <sup>today</sup> -- because of the  
appointment of <sup>my colleague,</sup> Elmer Davis, as Director of <sup>wartime</sup> Information,  
~~during wartime.~~ Anyone who knows Elmer Davis  
can appreciate the wisdom of the choice the  
President has made. ~~And tens of thousands know it.~~  
Few men have a wider acquaintance <sup>both</sup> in newspaper and  
radio circles, ~~and then there's his huge radio~~  
~~audience that has listened to him year after year.~~

There are two points <sup>which</sup> ~~that~~ especially  
qualify the nation's new Director of War Time  
Information. <sup>ly</sup> Firstly, he has the widest practical  
experience in two of the great media of news --  
the pages that roll off the printing press and the  
microphone and loud speaker. Elmer Davis knows  
newspapers from the composing room to the editorial  
desk. He is aware of the problems of printing the  
news. He has worked as a number one expert in  
solving those problems. And similarly in radio <sup>for years he</sup> ~~he~~

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has had intimate practical experiences with the art of putting the news on the air. What is needed for the post that he now occupies is not only intellect, ~~and~~ learning and attainment in the world of ideas. Practical experience with the work-a-day problems of news is just as essential.

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The second point about Elmer Davis is this:-Everyone who knows him is aware of his downright force and his sound balance, <sup>^</sup> good sense; a level head. These qualifications the radio audience knows too, those who have heard his presentation of the news -- lucid, forceful, sound. Those are qualifications that are needed in handling the difficult questions of war time information.

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So, that is why there is real jubilation because of the appointment of Elmer Davis. Everybody who has listened to him on the radio is approving, his old newspaper colleagues are applauding, and perhaps most enthusiastic of all is the feeling of those of us who have been <sup>his</sup> co-workers in the field of radio news. <sup>and ^ new Husk</sup>