

Lowell Thomas Broadcast Feb 11 1943. *Thursday.*

CHURCHILL-

Today as has been the case more than once in the past, the news can be patterned on an address by Prime Minister Winston Churchill in the London House of Commons. Today Churchill disclosed to the Commons some of the decisions made at the Casablanca Conference. And, at the same time, we have announcements of some of those decisions being put into effect.

The Prime Minister gave to Parliament one large generality. He stated that he and President Roosevelt had agreed on a blue print for victory. He put that in the following words: "We now have a complete plan of action which comprises the apportionment of forces as well as their direction and weight."

He added that the Casablanca schedule is to be put into effect during the next nine months. Meaning, ~~that it is~~ grand strategy for Nineteen Forty Three. Churchill emphasized ~~that~~ the precision of the planning by saying: "For good or ill, we know exactly what it is we wish to do."

One of the Casablanca decisions was -- unified command in North Africa. This was revealed by Churchill today, when he made the announcement that all the allied forces in north africa

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are to be commanded by our own American General Eisenhower. This is a number one development. Churchill added that the British Eighth Army which drove Rommel's North Afrika Corps out of Egypt and all the way across Libya, will pass under General Eisenhower's command as soon as it passes into Tunisia. News from North Africa indicates that this is happening right now -- with a large part of the British Eighth Army ^{already} inside the Tunisian Border.

Under General Eisenhower's command will be British General Sir Harold R.L.G. Alexander Commander for the British in the Middle east. He will be Eisenhower's deputy. Allied air operations in North Africa will be under the command of British Air Marshall Sir Arthur Tedder, while the Anglo-American fleet in the Mediterranean will be ~~be~~ directed by ^{the veteran} Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham.

There is no indication of the place ^{that will be} taken by British General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, the guiding genius of the British Eighth Army - which defeated Rommel. Churchill made no reference to him, but London believes that Montgomery will return the command of his Eighth Army.

The Churchill announcement about Eisenhower was followed by

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quick action in North Africa. Today, the American general formally assumed the command, and allied headquarters in North Africa tell us that his military authority extends from the Atlantic to Egypt.

General Eisenhower's first public statement in his new post concerned the three British High Officers placed under his command - his deputy Alexander, Allied Air Chief Tedder, and Naval Commander Cunningham. He described them in these words : " The stars I wanted for the job."

And Churchill's announcement was followed by quick action in Washington where President Roosevelt promoted Lieutenant-General Dwight Eisenhower to the rank of full General. This country has always been rather chary, in granting the title of full General. Until today, only two officers in the service had it -- General Marshall, Chief of Staff, and General MacArthur, Allied Commander in Australia. Now we have a third full General -- Eisenhower.

~~General Pershing, our first World War Commander, retired with the rank of full General, Congress having conferred on him the title of "General of the Armies of the United States."~~

Churchill in London indicated that the next war like thing on the military program would be an overwhelming drive to smash the

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Axis in Tunisia. He stated that the United States and Great Britain have landed five hundred thousand men in North Africa. These are opposed by a force which he estimated at two hundred and fifty thousand.

Churchill indication was promptly reflected in Washington by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson. He stated that the contending forces in Tunisia are moving into a position for a decisive clash. *The* American people can expect soon to receive news of a big battle and of heavy casualties, stated the Secretary of War. "We must" said he, "expect very heavy fighting and heavy casualties in the future -- perhaps in the near future." And to this he added: "Our major participation in active warfare is only beginning."

From London we have a prognostication of what will follow after Tunisia is taken. They say the Roosevelt-Churchill plans agreed on at Casablanca call for an invasion of Europe during Nineteen Forty-Three. A British spokesman stated: "We're going to land on the ~~Continent~~ Continent this year, but where we'll land will be a surprise. Churchill told the ^oCommanders today that the greatest menace for the allied cause ^{at} ~~for~~ the moment was that familiar old villain - the

U-boat. He revealed that during the past three months the rate of submarine sinkings had gone up - had gone up by a large percentage. The rate for the past three months is fifty percent above the rate for the previous ten months - and the sinkings during those previous ten months were the highest of the war. However, there have been almost no losses of ships in heavily escorted convoys.

And, we are building ships faster than they are being sunk. During the past six months, the United Nations constructed a million and a quarter tons more than were lost.

Churchill stated that we are sinking more enemy submarines than ever. Also, ^{that} the effectiveness of the U-boat is decreasing. He gave figures - saying that in the first year of the war, each submarine in the Nazi undersea fleet, sank an average of nineteen ships. In the second year, the figure was cut to twelve. In the third year, the U-boat averaged seven-and-a-half sinkings each.

Some submarines are being sunk and those left are less effective - but this is counter-balanced by the fact that Hitler is building many more U-boats. Nazi submarine production has been greatly increased.

Churchill, on the whole, took a moderate attitude toward the U-boat menace, saying the nazi campaign could not prevent a hitler

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defeat, but it might delay it and prolong the war.

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In his address to the House, the Prime Minister touched briefly
on the fact that Stalin was not present at the Churchill conference.
He said that he had offered to go all the way to Moscow,
capital of the Union, but that Stalin would not leave his post for even a single day.
Stalin was that busy with the Red Army in its defeat of
the Axis.

At this point let's glance at the Russian war news -- that
continues to show the defeat of the Axis.

Recent reports the capture of an important railroad line south
of Moscow, the great industrial centre of the Ukraine, a Russian
army pushed out the Axis from the first time and the railroad leading
from Moscow south to Odessa.

and Moscow reports a new advance toward Leningrad, the key to the
country. However, Leningrad is still held by the Soviet army.
The capture of the railroad line south of Moscow is a
great victory for the Soviet Union. It is the first time that the
Soviet army has pushed out the Axis from the first time and the
railroad leading from Moscow south to Odessa.

Russia
~~Russians~~ follow the piece marked north africa.

In his address to the Commons, the Prime Minister touched briefly on the fact that Stalin was not present at the Casablanca conference. He said that he and President Roosevelt had offered to go all the way to khartoun, capital of the Sudan, ^{way up the Nile from} ~~South of~~ Egypt, if the Soviet War leader would agree to meet them. "But," said Churchill today, "Stalin could not leave his post for even a single day." In other words, Stalin was that busy ^{directing} the Red Army in its defeat of the Nazi^s.

At this point let's glance at the Russian war news -- That continuing defeat of the Nazis.

Moscow reports the capture ^{ture} of an important railroad town south of Kharkov, the great industrial centre of the Ukraine. A Russian unit lunged forward and for the first time cut the railroad leading from Kharkov south to Crimea.

And Moscow reports a new advance toward Rostov, the key to the Caucasus. ~~Russians troops have crossed the river Don about twenty miles up stream from Rostov. In that area one chief line of German defenses~~ ^{is} ~~along a great railway embankment which extends for quite a distance. If the Soviets could smash through that railroad embankment fortification, they'd be thrusting in.~~

FAR EAST- Follow Russia-

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The Question of the war in the Pacific was discussed by British Prime Minister Churchill today. He disclosed that at Casablanca he, Churchill, had renewed Great Britain's pledge to the United States - the pledge to stand with America to the end against the far eastern enemy. Churchill ~~said~~ told the President that the London Government was willing to put their solemn promise in the form of a special treaty -- a pact committing Britain to a far eastern fight to the finish beside the United States. President Roosevelt replied that no such special treaty was necessary.

That Churchill statement, too, is followed by ² Relevant news things that have happened. The British Minister of Information announced today that two of the highest ranking British and American officers have been in Chungking, conferring with China's Generalissimo Chiang kai-Shek. The two officers are Field Marshall Sir John Dill and our own Lieutenant General ^{Henry} Arnold, Commander of the United States Air Forces. They have been in China to work out plans on increasing aid to the Chinese, and one report is that the Dill and Arnold trip to China had to do with plans for bombing Japan. China has the bases for launching major air raids against the Japs. We have the air

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equipment. So if we can put together the Chinese bombing fields and
the American flying machines, it will mean thundering destruction
for the Japs. It is easy to think of our own Lieutenant General
Arnold being in China with that in mind.

The British and American commanders followed their Chinese
visit with a flight to India where they conferred with British
General Wavell, who is commanding an offensive against the Japs in
Burma, and we hear that Wavell will soon have a meeting with General
Mac Arthur, our commander in Australia.

All these angles are in accord with Churchill's declaration today
that at Casablanca he and President Roosevelt made plans for
attacking the Japs in the far east as well as defeating the nazis
in Europe.

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~~ADD THOMAS~~

Guadalcanal follow Far East-

The Battle for Guadalcanal ended officially -- yesterday. Actually, we knew it was all over last Tuesday, but the navy reckoned that the fighting was not formally over until one last jap force in the north of the island had been eliminated.

and
^ This was accomplished yesterday -- when two American forces joined each other near Cape Esperance. The strategy of the final engagement was featured with a surprise naval landing on the coast. The American fleet forced a troop landing, and that cut the Japs off from all hope of escape.

Then, nothing remained but a race between two american columns, one commanded by Colonel George Ferry of Chicago, the other by Colonel C.E. Journey of Waco Texas. The two officers challenged each other to see who would get to Japanese headquarters first. *or Chicago won,*
Colonel Ferry *won*, and seized enemy headquarters for the final blow that put the quietus on the last organized resistance by the Japs. Only a few enemy soldiers remain fugitives in the jungle.

Secretary of War Stimson stated today that word from our guadalcanal commander, General Patch indicates that the Japs succeeded in getting some of their forces off the island.

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They sent in destroyers which removed what troops they could. ^{Which} ~~This~~
confirms to some extent the Tokyo ^{claim} that the Japanese evacuated
Guadalcanal. They did evacuate some of their soldiers -- but ^{only a} ~~mighty~~
few.

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The fighting lasted for six months and two days. And we have some
figures showing that the Japs lost four thousand killed and a hundred
and five prisoners, a mighty small proportion of prisoners. American
losses were only a minor fraction, a hundred and eighty-nine killed,
three-hundred-and-ninety-eight wounded, and five missing. These
~~figures are not quite complete. They cover a period that ended in~~
~~the latter half of January, two or three weeks ago. They show our~~
forces inflicting losses on the enemy at a rate of twelve of theirs
to one of ours.

Repatriation-

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We were told today why the Nazis refused to release ninety five american officials whom they seized when they took over previously unoccupied France. These ninety five consist of representatives in the State Department, Army and Navy. The Nazis demand the release of German officials that we have taken. And that would be okay, save for the fact that Berlin includes among such officials the Axis military missions that were captured in North Africa.

Under Secretary of State Sumner Welles stated today that we would agree in the case of german civilian officials captured in North Africa, but the military officers come under the heading of prisoners of war.

So that's what's holding up the repatriation of american representatives -- the Nazi demand that german military authorities be considered as mere officials, and be exchanged. This is definitely against the rules, and Under Secretary Welles today characterized the demand as -- blackmail.

DRAFT-

In Washington to ^{day} ~~say~~, there was an expression of official opposition to the proposed bill which would compel the draft to take married men without children before calling married men with children. Major General Hershey, director of selective service, stated that this would be unwise. He gave figures to show that the number of men needed by the armed services would make it necessary to draft married men with children. He said it would have to come during the next two or three months because, in his words -- there will be no one else left to induct. Meaning -- the draft will run out of married men without children, and will have to take those with children.

General Hershey stated :- " I sympathize with the family view, but we are at the frontier -- marching against the enemy".

TR Plans for conscription ~~against the~~ after the war were put forward in Congress today. In both the Senate and the House identical bills were entered -- bills providing for one year of compulsory military training, for all youths of eighteen.

Victory Magazine-

Here is a Washington defense of the magazine called "VICTORY" this is a publication got out by the office of War Information, a picture magazine sent abroad, [^]not for circulation in the United States. It has been attacked in Congress on various counts.

One legislator charged that shipment of victory magazine abroad would take four hundred and two tons of shipping space, which might better be filled with bombs and bullets.

^{one} Another accusation is that the purpose of the O.W.I. publication is ~~to~~ to boom President Roosevelt for a fourth term.

For the defense, up spoke O.W.I. Director Elmer Davis today. He denied that the magazine got out by his agency is protagonizing ~~for~~ a fourth term, (and pointed to the fact that victory magazine does not go to anybody in the United States -- where the votes are.)

"I don't know," said Elmer Davi^s_^, "whether the President is going to seek a fourth term. "But," he added, " I do know that he cant be elected on votes cast in ~~South~~ Africa."

And that, Elmer, would seem to be logical.

MT. TREMBLANT

Part of today - this morning - I spent on Mt. Tremblant, up here in Quebec, with my host, Joe Ryan of Philadelphia, and a crowd of officers of the Royal Canadian Air Force. One of the group, a Canadian flyer, from Quebec, has a rather unusual name - Jeemie Champool. I mention this for no good reason except this:- once more I am broadcasting from the ladies room of a C.P.R. railway station in the little Quebec town of St. Jovite, near the base of Mt. Tremblant; and the station agent, Monsieur Landry, just a few moments ago handed me a batch of mail forwarded from my office in New York. And one letter was from a woman who signed herself, "Mrs. Memphis Tennessee." Here is what she says:- "Dear Mr. Thomas:- I often hear you mention humorous incidents and odd names. What do you think of the following names recently listed in our local paper, names of draftees?"

And then she gives some names of southern lads now in Uncle Sam's army. Here they are: "Sears Roebuck Robinson," and "Montgomery Ward Jones." Also wanted for not returning his questionnaire was, "Shadrach Meshack Abednego Bullard." And then she gives the names of two new arrivals who have just been christened:- "McArthur Bataan Simmons" and "Pearl Harbor Smith."

We think the names of a lot of those Russian towns, and Russian generals, are something. But I wonder what they think of some of ours? Two of our Quaker Hill neighbors, in New York, Dr. and Mrs. William Holden, recently hired a cook from the South. When they asked for her name, she replied: "Jes call me Glorious Illumination." And So Long Until Tomorrow.