

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

From Moscow comes the most spectacular war news tonight, and it's at least partially confirmed in Germany.

Let's take the Berlin version first and get the most conservative idea of the latest Russian counter-offensive. The Nazis admit that they are now engaged in the most titanic battle of the war; perhaps of any war in history. For twenty-four hours Hitler's divisions have had to stand off attacks by heavy tanks of the Red Army.

And the Nazi legions have been sorely troubled by heavy rains preventing them from using the full strength of their air fleets in support of the fighting on the ground. It has been raining for three days, and the Germans have been digging into the mud, getting a taste of what their fathers went through in the last Great War. Roads impassable not only in front of them but behind them, with the result that they have been deprived of their

usual hot food. This is the first time we've heard such a fact mentioned in dispatches.

But, the Nazis say they have beaten back the terrific Russian attacks and have destroyed great numbers of the huge Red tanks. Also that in spite of the rains they are getting closer and closer to Leningrad. And, quite near Lake Ladoga, which will give them a ring around the former capital of the Czars. Last week they announced they had Leningrad surrounded. The Germans claim they are within twelve miles of Leningrad in the south now and have cut all the railroads except the one that leads north to Murmansk.

Here is the story from Moscow. The Reds announce that they have pushed the Nazis back thirty-two miles, retaken twenty-two villages, and pinched off the whole of one of Hitler's crack panzer divisions. That happened specifically on the central front, the one to which the Soviet generals attach the most importance, the front protecting Moscow itself. But they declare that they also shoved the invaders back three miles near Leningrad, drove them back with such haste that the Germans had to leave to the Russians large quantities of booty.

To offset the Nazi claim of having destroyed numerous Russian tanks, the Reds declare that they have annihilated twelve entire tank divisions, eight motorized divisions, and several crack divisions of Nazi storm troops. Their ^{great} tank fleets, they say, are driving harder and harder into the heart of Hitler's army.

A radio in Rome was overheard ^{today} broadcasting news of tremendous concentrations of Red forces in the sector between Kiev and Smolensk. And Vichy heard another report, ~~the~~ word that the Soviet high command has thrown fifty fresh divisions into the carnage.

JAPAN

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The Governments of the United States and Japan are agreed on one thing tonight. Premier Prince Konoye did not invite President Roosevelt to meet him aboard a battleship in the Pacific as he met Prime Minister Churchill in the Atlantic. At the White House, Presidential Secretary Steve Early denied the story, said it was made out of whole cloth. At Tokyo, a government spokesman said caustically that it sounds very dramatic and makes a good newspaper headline, but Prince Konoye had not even thought of such an invitation.

The newspapers in Tokyo were demanding tonight that the Government take firm action against the United States. It is evident that the arrival of those two big Russian flying boats in Alaska have made the Mikado's people exceedingly nervous. The pro-war Tohokai Society ^{has} presented a list of warlike demands on Prince Konoye and other ministers in his Cabinet. And the ^{Tokyo} newspaper ^{are saying} ~~said~~ the Japanese ~~could~~ not stand idly by while other powers ~~were~~ ~~concocting~~ concocting a scheme of encirclement in the north.

SINGAPORE

From Singapore, word has come to Washington that the British Governor of the Straits Settlements broadcast a warning that Japan was coming steadily nearer. A Republican Congressman expressed himself as believing that this was at present the most pressing problem of the United States in the Pacific - to keep that great naval base out of the hands of the Axis powers. The Republican Congressman who so thinks is Representative Maas of Minnesota, a ranking G.O.P. member of the Naval Affairs Committee of the House, also a Colonel in the Marine Corps. He has just returned from active duty in the Pacific.

Strong British reinforcements arrived at Singapore today, troops from India, also a division of British artillery with the latest things in tractors and death dealing machines.

AIR RAIDS

After all these months, the Royal Air Force has finally been able to give Berlin the works. Flight after flight of heavy bombers roared over the ugly great capital on the Spree and treated Berliners to a night long bombardment from aloft. So today Berliners have a new experience to their credit - they know what it means to have a sleepless night, just as the Londoners learned so grimly from the Nazis.

The R.A.F. left many sections of Hitler's capital in flames. At least that's today's report from the British Air Ministry. Concentrated fires were raging and there is no doubt the Nazi city had been hard hit. Although the German High Command makes light of the raid. Poo poos it. Only a few planes reached the inner city, say the Nazi spokesmen -- causing only a small loss in dead and injured among the civilian population. But reporters listening in to the German radio heard one broadcaster admitting that the British had accomplished a most severe raid on Berlin, the liveliest since the beginning of the year. And many radio stations, both in Germany and the occupied countries, went off the air; meaning heavy air raiding far and wide over Europe. Stations in Budapest, Bucharest, Prague and Slovakia were among those silenced.

British bombs crashed heavily on Frankfort, am Main, in the heart of the richest industrial region of Germany, and all night through R.A.F. squadrons shuttled back and forth across the channel.

MEXICO

Mexico to have open credit for buying airplanes, guns, tanks and all sorts of military supplies from us. Two days ago we heard President Camacho telling his people that he was about to conclude a satisfactory agreement with Uncle Sam, make an end to all the disputes. Today's news about Mexico comes from Washington and tells us that part of that agreement will be to let the Mexican republic buy whatever munitions it needs; on the cuff. We don't yet know how much it will be, because nobody in Washington knows what will be left after we've taken care of the British, the Russians, the Chinese, and our own needy army. But just as a beginning, a hundred and sixty planes, and men to fly them - instructors - ~~we~~ will be sent south of the Rio Grande to lend a hand to the Mexican Air Force.

GASOLINE

J. J. Pelley, the President of the Association of American Railroads, says that there are twenty thousand oil tank cars in the United States not being used. That's what he told the Senate Committee investigating the shortage in the east. Pelly said these figures have been confirmed by the American Petroleum Institute, and he added that if they were put into use, they could move six or eight million barrels of oil a month from Texas to the Atlantic coast states. Pelley also said that there were plenty of locomotives to move the cars.

But his report to the Committee said nothing about siding facilities. If they tried to bring the oil to the eastern refineries by rail, the word is that the result would be a terrific congestion as there at present isn't near enough sliding space to take care of the enormous special trains that would be necessary to carry the oil.

BRIEFS

There's news in such abundance today that we'll have to *skip quickly through* take just a cursory, though not cursing, glance at some of it.

In Grand Rapids, Michigan, there's Ex-Governor Dickinson, who so severely disapproved of vice and sin. He thinks the solution and emergency *national* for the perils that beset us is to have prayer meetings in the White House.

At Los Angeles, California, there was a case in the lower courts involving a gentleman with three wives. Not that he was careless, he had them one at a time, but wife number two wants alimony, wants her Mexican divorce decree set aside. The gentleman in question is Marion Sayle Taylor, who for seven years has been giving advice over the radio on marital troubles. He is the gentleman you *nearly all know* ~~may know better~~ as the Voice of Experience.

From Washington ~~there's~~ a ~~more~~ serious item. Read Admiral Robinson, Chief of the Bureau of Ships, reports to ~~Sec~~ Secretary Knox that two hundred and thirteen warships were completed in the first eight months of Nineteen Forty-One and keels were laid for ~~fortythree~~ four hundred and thirty-six more for Uncle Sam's Navy.

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The Priorities Division of the O.P.M. is going to approve the setting aside of materials to build a formidable number of new strategical highways. Among them, the Inter-American Highway, and a road in Panama.

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Chicago; a railroad strike, perhaps. The brotherhoods have been taking ballots by mail -- to strike or not to strike. One of their leaders declares that after counting the early returns, he prophesies that the trainmen will vote ninety-nine percent in favor of a strike.

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In South Carolina, the folks have been voting for a United States Senator. A Democratic primary, and that in the deep south means the election as well. With most of the returns in, Governor Maybank ~~is~~ has a handsome lead over former Governor Olin Johnson. But to get the nomination in South Carolina, you have to have a majority, not merely a plurality. So there'll be a run-off election next week.

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Chicago again, Uncle Sam is suing Scarface Al Capone. The old gentleman with the whiskers claims that the one-time bootleg

chief and fourteen of his pals owe something like a quarter of a million in taxes and penalties on beer that was confiscated.

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In Miami, the F.B.I. arrested a gentleman born in Switzerland but naturalized here, and charged him with being part of a nationwide Nazi spy ring.

A jury has been picked in the N.Y. Federal Court to try sixteen men accused of being members of the ring. While in another room of the Federal Building, a Grand Jury indicted three men and an eighteen year old girl on similar charges.

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Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt has another public suggestion. She thinks ~~of~~ the Office of Civilian Defense should take charge of the nation's health. Not only school children, says the First Lady, but the entire population should come under the dietetic aegis of the O.C.D., with a nationwide nutrition program.

SWORDS

Bad news for Navy brides, or should I say would-be brides?

In fact, bad news. Where is the girl who wouldn't like to marry a naval officer, preferably young ? I don't mean because she is left alone so much -- maybe that would be an attraction to some women. But a Navy bride goes through just about the most stunning wedding ceremony there is. Theat march down the aisle, while the organ plays, under an arch of crossed swords held by handsome young officers in glittering white uniforms -- what girl does not respond to the thrill of such an idea! So I am sorry, ladies, that arch of crossed sabres is to be no more. The chiefs of the Navy have abolished it. In fact they've abolished swords. Why? Oh, all because of the shortage of steel.

BASEBALL

The burning question of the hour on this side of the ocean is:- where will the World Series be played? Of course some of the games will be at the Yankee Stadium.

Anyhow today Commissioner Landis got together with the club magnates and they decided the Series will open at the Yankee stadium, the first two games to be played there.

Then what? Ah, that's what we're all wanting to know, and the more sinful among us are betting about it. Will the other big games be played at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn or Sportman's Park in St. Louis? This morning "Our Bums", as we say in Brooklyn, were only two small infinitesimal points behind the rip-roaring gas-house gang of St. Louis. It had been suggested that, in case the Dodgers won, they'd make more money if all the games could be played at the great big Yankee Stadium. Not so, says President Leland Stanford MacPhail of the Dodgers. He would never think of doing that to his faithful Brooklyn fans who are the prize bottle throwers of the major circuits. If "Our Bums" win that pennant, the third, fourth and fifth games will be played at Ebbets Field and no other idea will even be considered. Of course, if tragedy befalls the city of churches, and the winning burgee goes to St. Louis, the third, fourth

and fifth games will be played on the banks of the Mississippi, much to the chagrin of the New York baseball reporters.

And now let's see how the chances look tonight -- here are tonight's results: At Philadelphia, the Dodgers broke even, winning one and losing one to those last-position-Phillies. At Chicago, where the Cards were to have met the Cubs, rain - no game - double header tomorrow and what a lot depends on that double header.

FRANKLIN

The fashionable shopping district of Cleveland had an unexpected show today. Among the crowds was an elderly gentleman elegantly dressed in a suit of pajamas. The sight was too much of a shock for Clevelanders; they called the police. Soon appeared not only a patrol car and several harness coppers, and Black Maria. They started to take in the pajama-clad gentleman whose name was George Franklin, and Mr. Franklin declined to be taken in. He said he had a perfect right to wear his pajamas if he wanted to, that he was wearing more than a good many of the women on the streets of Cleveland at that moment. And he defied any copper to pinch him. Furthermore, he said, "I'm a G-man, a Spanish War veteran, and a professional baseball umpire, so what are you going to do about it?"

The Cleveland Police are reported still to be thinking that one over. As Hugh gives us something still more important to think over.