

GOOD EVENING EVERYBOYD:

That was indeed an extraordinary speech broadcast today to the Italian people by Prime Minister Churchill. Churchill started by reminding the Italians that they and the British have always been friends. The British, he reminded them, were champions of the Italian Risorgimento, partisans of Garibaldi, admirers of Mazzini and Cavour, of all the great Italian heroes. Aside from that, he stated no more or less than a fact when he said the British and Italians have always liked each other and have gotten along well together.

"There was amity, there was esteem," said Churchill, "and now we are at war; now we are condemned to work for each other's ruin." And he continued, "Who can say where it will end?" And he added:- "Presently we shall be forced to come to much closer grips."

Then he asked a question:- "How has this come about, and what is it all for?" He answered his own question with the words: "It is all because of one man, one man and one man alone." He meant, of course, the Duce, Mussolini. Churchill then added that he doesn't deny Mussolini is a great man, however, he went on,

nobody can deny that after eighteen years of unbridled power he has led Italy to the verge of ruin. "One man against the crown and the royal family of Italy, against the Pope and all the authority of the Vatican and of the Roman Catholic Church, against the wishes of the Italian people who had no lust for this war, has arrayed the trustees and inheritors of ancient Rome on the side of ferocious pagan barbarians." So spoke Winston Churchill.

He admitted to the Italians that the French Republic for the moment is stunned. And then he added:- "France will rise again." The British nation and, I may say, the entire English-speaking world are now aroused," he went on.

Later came a ringing paragraph in which the brilliant British Prime Minister told the Italians that "The people of Italy were never consulted, the army of Italy was never consulted, no one was consulted."

Churchill then read to the Italians the complete text of the message he had sent to Mussolini while the Battle of France was raging. It was a message in which he implored the Duce to keep the peace, and not let a river of blood flow between the British and Italian peoples.

Next he read the complete text of Mussolini's reply, a reply in which Mussolini scorned Churchill's appeal. Churchill then said: "I make no comment upon the dusty answer. It speaks for itself. But anyone can see who it was who wanted peace and who it was who meant to have war."

He then pointed out to the Italians that the hard choice open from now on was to stand up to the battery of the whole British empire and the vigorous counterattack of the Greek nation. The alternative, Churchill showed was to "call in Attila over the Brenner Pass with his hordes of ravenous soldiers, his gangs of Gestapo policemen, to occupy, hold down and protect the Italian people for whom he and his Nazi followers cherish the most bitter and outspoken contempt that is on record between two races."

Naturally, this remarkable speech has set everyone to guessing. One question is, has the Churchill government correct information that the Italians are so dissatisfied that they are ripe for such an appeal? Of course there is a good deal of common gossip to that effect, and, that's inevitable after the Italian defeats in both Albania and Africa, followed by Mussolini's shake-up of the Fascist high command.

Churchill's remark about coming closer to grips is

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interpreted to signify that maybe the British will attempt an invasion of the Italian mainland.

Naturally, there ^{is also} curiosity ^{as to} how well that speech was

heard in the country at which it was aimed. The report from Rome is that reception was excellent and the speech was heard clearly.

The British Prime ~~Minister~~ Minister broadcast it first in England

over a special hook-up beamed on Italy. It was then rebroadcast

in Italian from the Broadcasting stations at Athens and ~~Exeter~~ Cairo.

H It will probably be a day or so before we get any exact report on the reactions. But we do hear that the official efforts to jam the air and prevent Churchill's words from being heard were unsuccessful.

GREECE

While Churchill was broadcasting to the Italians, another Greek victory was reported. ~~It is~~ an official statement from Athens

says that
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Shock troops of the Helene army swooped down from three sides upon

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Chimara, on the coast of Albania. It had previously been encircled

and the garrison, a battalion of Black Shirt militia, withstood

a bombardment for forty-eight hours. At the end of the two days,

it surrendered. Chimara is another milestone on the Greek march

to Valona, one of the biggest Italian bases in Albania.

ITALY

The Fascist Government certainly makes no bones about that report from Marshall Graziani, the report of his defeat by the British in Egypt. Every Italian newspaper published it in full, and it was also broadcast not once, but many times. And here's what one Fascist newspaper says about Graziani's account of himself. "The report," says the paper, "makes the Italian people proud." That sounds a trifle puzzling. But the explanation which the Italian editor adds is that the reports shows ~~that~~ Italy is facing the greatest military push that the British every made on land.

Another newspaper declares that sooner or later Italy will defeat Britain. And it intimates that the Italian forces in Libya are going to be reinforced by heavy detachments of mechanized units.

BRITAIN

The latest from Britain tells of a raid on Manchester; a savage all-night attack. The great capital of England's industrial north country raided by hundreds of Goering's planes. It all followed the usual routine:- first incendiary bombs which set up beacons, targets for the high explosives; then the heavy bombers.

Also ~~the~~ British House of Parliament suffered today. A German bomb crashed into the famous Cloisters of St. Stephen's, the cloister court built six hundred years ago and a beautiful specimen of architecture. It was wrecked by one lone missile which crashed within a few yards of the Chamber where the House of Commons meets.

An American correspondent's description of Manchester today reports that a pall of smoke hung over the city, scores of buildings showing the effects of the blitz-raid. It began while thousands of people were in the streets. From early evening throughout the night wave after wave of bombers attacked Manchester.

HALIFAX

Concerning the Viscount Halifax, new British Ambassador designate, the tone of comment in our own capital today was favorable. President Roosevelt seems pleased, and Secretary Hull told ~~me~~ his press conference that the appointment was welcome to this government, and he was sure the American people would echo the sentiment. Lord Halifax's record, said Secretary Hull, should recommend him most highly for services as British Ambassador to the United States.

Washington observers had expected some unfavorable remarks because not so long ago Halifax was one of the original appeasers. But evidently his record since the war started has more or less wiped out that memory.

LEAHY

Our Ambassador to Vichy, Admiral Leahy, today went aboard Uncle Sam's cruiser TUSCALOOSA and sailed for Lisbon, with Mrs. Leahy. From Lisbon he will travel to Vichy by train. And there he ~~will~~ will present that personal letter President Roosevelt has written to Marshal Henri Petain. We wonder what Petain's reply will be, and whether it will be dictated by Hitler or von Ribbentrop. At any rate, Admiral Leahy has one of the most interesting ambassadorial jobs that has ever been assigned to an American.

MOSCOW

3
It's rather interesting to hear some of the observations made by the Russians from their front seat on the sidelines, ~~of the big war~~. It's well to recall that the Soviet editors and experts have been pretty conservative and almost impartial.

Today the Bolshevik observers are prophesying that it's going to be a long war. They intimate one substantial German failure, the inability of Goering to destroy the British air force or to break British communications.

Then there's the matter of ships about which so much has been spoken lately. The ship losses of the British are heavy, as everybody knows. But the Moscow experts point out that they still keep their ~~indispensible~~ indispensable minimum of tonnage afloat, nine million tons. As for the airplane losses, they are being restored by British victories and by imports from the United States^{S.}

Moscow doesn't seem to take very seriously the threat of a Nazi invasion of the British Isles. Churchill now has forty to fifty trained divisions including five tank divisions. In order to win, the Russians think, Hitler must land at least an

equal number. And that's an ~~XXXX~~ operation which would be extremely difficult so long as the British fleet commands the sea and her air force is undefeated.

FLORY

An American newspaperman gives a picture of Britain, a ^{picture}
~~xxxxxxx~~ that's a bit different from those that have been cabled
over recently. Harry Flory, European news manager of the United
Press, arrived at New York on the DIXIE CLIPPER from Lisbon.
He said conditions in Britain are not so bad as ^{Americans} ~~America~~ might think.
While damage to homes in England is considerable, the damage to
industrial plants is comparatively slight.

Arthur Purvis, Director General of the British Purchasing
Commission in this country, made the same report. He said he was
surprised when he went to Britain five weeks ago to find the
damage to industrial and military objectives was not so great as
he had feared. However, both Purvis and Flory add that the British
need help from us.

PRINCE

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And here's word ~~from~~ a Norwegian refugee, a royal refugee.

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R Crown Prince Olaf of Norway also arrived in this country today.

~~And~~ And said he: "We Norwegians feel very strongly that we will in the end succeed in driving the Germans out of our country." And he added, also out of the other countries they've seized.

There are units of the Norwegian navy operating with the British and other Norwegian forces are training either in England or Canada.

EDITORS

The whole country is watching the scrap between two mid-western editors. It's an interesting sight, two typical successful newspapermen, using all their talents and power of words to swing their countrymen to their ideas. William Allen White, the sage of Kansas, the man who made Emporia famous, wants us to do all we can to help Britain. Meanwhile, Verne Marshall of the Cedar Rapids Gazette, declares that White and his group are the tools of the interventionists and want to drag us into the wreckage of Europe.

Verne Marshall today sent out a blast which was also an appeal for funds. And what does Willam Allen White say? His retort is that the only motive of his committee is to keep this country out of war. His belief is that the salvation of the United Sates is to keep Britain fighting while arming itself and becoming strong enough to defy any aggressors.

DEFENSE

~~A shot in the arm for~~ Our defense program. ~~In fact, a new~~ *included*
a new ~~program to the tune of~~ seven hundred Million *dollar plan* which the experts
hope will double our production of munitions. ~~It was~~ drawn up by
specialists at the War Department to meet ~~in~~ not only our own needs
but those of Great Britain.

Thirty-five new munitions plans are included in this
program, huge ones. Most of them will be somewhere between the
Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains. The idea is that they
will be able to make enough munitions for an army of four million
men.

This program means that Congress will be asked for another
half a billion dollars, five hundred millions, to finance the
building of fifteen ~~the~~ of those new plants.

KILLER

One lone fugitive in Tennessee is evading ^{the} search of nearly two hundred men. Charles Coates, accused of being a killer, is dodging the law in the wooded country ^{of} ~~among~~ the ^{valley,} Tennessee River ^{west} of Decatur. He's wounded and he's hungry, and the chief of the highway patrolmen who are looking for him says it's a marvel how he has been able to cover so much territory and stand so much exposure in his ^{injured} ~~wounded~~ and starved condition. He's an escaped convict from Missouri, and the law says that he shot ^t a corporal of the Georgia patrol. Sheriffs, deputies, constables and volunteers of two states are looking for Killer Charles Coates, and this morning bloodhounds were put on the job.

WEATHER

Storms on the Pacific coast, storms of a severity to damage property all the way from San Francisco to the Canadian border. Rivers rising in several places. The worst sufferers are the people of Portland, Seattle, Aberdeen, Tacoma and Olympia. In several parts of the Pacific Coast, power and telephone lines are down, buildings destroyed and debris littering the highways.

And here's the weather man's prophecy for Yuletide. A green Christmas, he says. The thermometer is already higher than normal on this day of the year, and it'll probably go higher yet on Wednesday.

Now for a Christmas story of a miscarriage of justice, a Jean Valjean tale, but with a happy ending. The victim is a man named Lonnie Jenkins, who used to be a Destroit street car operator. Nine years ago his wife ended it all; but the police and the prosecūtor arrested Jenkins. Mrs. Jenkins had left notes explaining that she was taking her own life. But the police and the prosecutor didn't believe the notes, and brought the charge that they had been forged, written by a man who was a lodger in the Jenkins' house. The prosecutor achieved the goal so dear to a prosecutor's heart, a conviction. Lonnie Jenkins went to prison for life.

One person believed in Lonnie Jenkins -- his daughter. For all those nine years she has been fighting single-handed to prove that the notes were genuine, that her father was innocent. Finally, she enlisted the cooperation ~~of~~ of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The F.I.B.I. put its handwriting experts on the job. And they established clearly that the suicide notes had actually been written by Mrs. Jenkins, that they could not have been written by the man whom the state selected as their author.

This new proof was laid befor Judge Christopher Stein

of the Detroit Court, who acted quickly. He granted a motion for a new trial, had Jenkins arraigned once more, then promptly dismissed

the case. ^{When} Lonnie Jenkins, after nine year of prison, walked free

out of that court room [^] ~~and went to~~ ^{he headed for} a toy shop to buy a Christmas

present for his three year old grandson, whom he had never seen!

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And now, Hugh!