

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:-

Word comes through tonight that the Nazis have set fire to Leningrad. Flames said to be devouring the great city built by Peter the Great on the marshes at the mouth of the Neva!

Though the Bolsheviks moved the seat of government back to the ancient capital of Moscow, Leningrad still is the second city in the Soviet Empire.

The report is not confirmed. It comes by way of a radio broadcast from Rome, which was picked out of the air here at the N.B.C.

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Finland looms large in the news tonight. The position of the Finns has been obscure and puzzling. For months we had been hearing of concentrations of Nazi troops in Finland. All of which was denied; but denied half-heartedly. When Hitler first declared war on Stalin, there were constant reports from Berlin that Finnish

soldiers were fighting side by side with the Nazis who are now invading Russia. It sounded plausible because it's easy to imagine that the Finns would like to get back the territory they recently had to give up to Stalin.

But the Finns denied that they were taking part in the war, declared officially that they were going to keep out of it and stay neutral if it was humanly possible.

All day today news from Finland has had as much prominence as the fighting in Poland, Rumania and Lithuania. Stalin seems to have taken it for granted that the Finns are in it. For Red planes have bombed the airport at Helsinki and several other Finnish towns. Many fires were started and twenty Russian planes were shot down.

There were no fewer than four air raid alarms in Helsinki. And all day reports were rife in the Finnish capital that the government was about to declare a state of war with the Soviets. Berlin sent out a definite report that war had been declared.


This came from what are described as "authorized Nazi sources." But still the news was not officially confirmed from Helsinki.

Late this afternoon there came a story from Washington that the Finnish Legation admitted its government had declared a state of war. But later still, this was denied. Now the latest from that Finnish Legation is that their country has taken all measures necessary for self-defense, that the Parliament is now in executive session at Helsinki, considering whether to declare war.

Apparently the Finnish envoy over here expects a declaration to be issued tonight.

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Let's see what has been happening on that seventeen hundred mile Battlefront. The news is virtually a repetition of last night's With Hitler at the front, and the announcement from his headquarters that the invasion is proceeding according to plan; even exceeding all Nazi expectations. The intimation is that Hitler's panzer divisions are knifing thier way through the Red front lines at bewildering



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speed. <sup>TP</sup> Here's the word from Berlin:- The Nazi high command has a sensational report to make of great successes in Russia. *We heard the same statement last night.* This will probably be made public tomorrow. There's a rumor current in Rome that ~~the~~ Nazi columns are smashing ahead towards Minsk, and ~~adds~~ that's well inside the Russian frontier.

In Lithuania, the German troops advancing from East Prussia found the first line of Soviet bunkers defended by scanty troops, but inferior as they were, the Red soldiers fought fiercely. The concrete pill boxes were battered down by Nazi heavy guns, after which the infantry forged ahead in face of strong fire from Red soldiers which included Kalmuk regiments from the Steppes of Central Asia. They fought to the last, refused to surrender, and many of them died at their machine guns.

According to one German propaganda reporter, the Nazi infantry is advancing at the rate of thirty-five miles a day. The Nazis claim they have already established a definite superiority in the air, although they admit that Soviet bombers have attacked Koenigsberg in East Prussia and Memel in Lithuania.

*TP*  
A communique from the general staff of the Nazi and Rumanian armies in the south reports that four hundred Soviet planes ~~xxx~~ were destroyed during three days on that sector of the front.

In the south, the Russians tried to cut across the Danube, so the Nazis claim, and were hurled back with terrific loss. The Russians, on their side, claim to have turned back a mass attempt by Nazi and Rumanian columns to cross the Pruth River. Moscow ~~claims that~~ <sup>says</sup> the Soviet troops are still holding Cernauti in Bessarabia, which the Nazi official news agency claimed had been surrendered. The Moscow high command ~~reports that~~ <sup>says</sup> it has made most successful use of one of Hitler's favorite weapons, dive bombers.

*also that*  
~~And~~ one Nazi-Rumanian mechanized column was hurled back by thundering cavalry charges. The Moscow high command ~~also reports~~ <sup>tells of</sup> attacks on Danzig, Lublin and Warsaw, also Constansa and Sulina in the south.

All of which leaves us ~~most~~ anxious to hear that sensational report which the German high command promises for tomorrow.



MISSION

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The latest ~~news~~ <sup>tells us more</sup> from London ~~is~~ about that British mission that is about to leave for Moscow. It will be one of the largest ever sent to a foreign country. As a matter of fact, the Churchill government has been organizing this mission for two months. ~~It was not long ago that~~ <sup>Winston</sup> Churchill foresaw this latest phase of the war -- ~~in fact he~~ <sup>and</sup> said so publicly <sup>some time ago. So it was not</sup> ~~it was not~~ by any coincidence that those big daylight air raids over northern France began fourteen days ago, while Hitler was preparing his invasion of Russia.

That British mission will, of course, include military, naval and air experts. Presumably they won't try to tell the Russians <sup>what</sup> ~~to~~ do, but will tell them what the British have learned about German military methods. They will also report to London what the Soviets need. <sup>FFurther,</sup> ~~But~~ the mission will ~~also~~ include specialists on economics, transport, and industrial methods.

AID FOR RUSSIA

After the declaration of war between Hitler and Stalin, the normal course would have been for President Roosevelt to invoke the Neutrality Act and declare all Russian waters forbidden to American ships. But for once, the first time since these wars began, the Neutrality Act will not be applied. Meaning that American vessels can now ply to Vladivostok, Russia's port on the Sea of Japan.

However, that depends on the degree to which Japan will remain neutral. The normal course for ships bound for Vladivostok would be through the Straits of Hakodate, right between the two main islands of the Japanese archipelago. Japan could easily close that passage. In fact she is really in a geographical position to close all traffic to and from Vladivostok.

WICKARD

Claude A. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, believes that if Stalin is beaten by Hitler, <sup>then we will see</sup> ~~we're going to have~~ a real peace drive. Hitler, he explained, <sup>s,</sup> ~~will be looking~~ <sup>will be anxious</sup> for a breathing spell, ~~and will want~~ time to consolidate his gains, and get ready for new victims.

Since he was talking at Waco, Texas, the Secretary <sup>of</sup> ~~Agriculture~~ <sup>Agriculture</sup> used a figure of speech calculated to appeal to cattlemen.

53 "Listening to Hitler," he said, "would be like letting a cattle rustler carry a stolen herd home on the theory that he would <sup>then</sup> get religion and let the stock of other people alone."

In line with Wickard's remarks is a dispatch from Ankara, the capital of Turkey. The neutral diplomats are rumoring that Hitler's Ambassador Franz von Papen, has made a peace offer to Great Britain. Von Papen is the man who last week concluded the non-aggression agreement between Turkey and Nazi Germany.

That report <sup>from Turkey is</sup> ~~is quite~~ <sup>with</sup> circumstantial: von Papen ~~is~~

alleged to have transmitted his offer through the Turkish Government to the British Ambassador <sup>there</sup> at Ankara. ~~It was~~ <sup>all this is</sup> based on the belief that the British would do anything for the defeat



*yes, even join*  
of Belshivism, ~~even to joining~~ a German coalition against Russia.

The report goes further that the British Ambassador replied to von Papen by quoting British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the Sunday speech in which Churchill repeated his refusal to make any compromise with Hitlerism and went so far as to offer help to Russia.

## SHIPS

One result of the war is that a new era is dawning in the history of America as a sea-faring nation. So writes Shelby Cullom Davis in the current issue of the ATLANTIC MONTHLY. He declares that already our sea power is comparatively far ahead of what it was during the first World War. Our merchant marine at this writing is four times what it was in Nineteen Fourteen.

This author goes on to declare that a great advance has taken place in shipbuilding in the past decade, because of the increased use of welding. According to some engineers, this use of welding, instead of riveting is a revolutionary development. Today some ships are all welded. He cites for example the great oil tankers constructed by the Sun Shipbuilding and Drydock Company which is a part of the Sun Oil organization, which Company, says Shelby Collum Davis, has pioneered in welding. These tankers have only two hundred rivets compared with the one million three hundred and eight thousand they used to have. Sun Shipbuilding, he adds, has developed a particularly efficient welding machine. The result is that a nineteen thousand ton tanker, which used to take six or seven months to build, can now be launched within four months. And that's going to help the oil situation in the eastern states.

## YINDRICH

Among the interesting features of the recent news were certain reports coming from Tobruk in North Africa. There was only one newspaperman in that beleaguered place, Jan Yindrich of the United Press. He got into Tobruk on any army truck riding on top of a load of provisions, - got there just three days before the Nazis cut off the coastal road between Tobruk and Bardia.

Then for weeks, Yindrich had a monopoly of the violent news from Tobruk. His dispatches were filed by wireless from a ship in the harbor, picked up in Alexandria, and then relayed by the United Press to London and New York.

The latest on this is that the U.P. correspondent from Tobruk arrived in New York by air today, from Lisbon. He rushed home partly because the National Headliners Club has awarded him a prize for his work in Tobruk.

Jan Yindrich ~~is~~ says the first onrush of German panzer divisions was blocked by a tiny garrison of Australian infantry. Most of them, he added, had only had four months to learn how to use a rifle or machine gun. He adds that they have held out for seventy-five days, so far, outnumbered not only in men, tanks, guns, and planes, but also having to cope with heat, storms of dust,

monotonous food and chlorinated water. But, he says the chief difficulty of the officers is to hold the men back because they are itching to mix it with the Germans all the time instead of just wait for an attack, just hold Tobruk.

TOBRUK FOLLOW YINDRICH

As <sup>e</sup>that U.P. correspondent landed from the Clipper,  
the Germans and Italians ~~were~~ <sup>today</sup> putting out claims that they have  
that <sup>e</sup>gallant <sup>Australian</sup> ~~little~~ garrison in a ring that <sup>is</sup> growing tighter <sup>and</sup>  
<sup>tighter</sup> ~~all the time~~. The Axis forces have the defenders under an  
increasingly heavy cannon fire, and German bombers have created  
havoc in and around Tobruk.



SUBWAYS

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The talk here around New York today indicates that ~~old~~ Father Knickerbocker is girding ~~his loins~~ for a battle. ~~That's~~ what you'd infer from the predictions of the subway strike that is due next week. The Transport Workers Union wants to be recognized, ~~by the city,~~ wants a closed shop in subways and elevateds, all of which are now owned by ~~old Father Nick.~~ <sup>the city</sup> A strike that really tied up the New York subways would be paralyzing. Most work in the great city would be at a standstill.

Fiery Mayor LaGuardia says, nothing doing; <sup>that</sup> subway employees are now under the Civil Service and the City can't tolerate a strike by Civil Service employees. <sup>He adds that</sup> Anyone in the Civil Service who strikes, loses his job. That has been the Mayor's position all along and the New York City Board of Transportation stands pat. <sup>So it appears that the</sup> ~~The~~ City of New York will not bargain with the Union.

The Transport Workers Union ~~in New York~~ is led by one Michael Quill, who has been openly accused of being a Communist and of promoting this agitation for Communist purposes. Quill denies it.

If you can believe the threats that have been issued, this subway strike may turn out to be a violent affair. Mayor LaGuardia says he intends to protect all workers who want to hold onto their jobs.

Verbal fireworks instead of the usual Fourth of July pyrotechnics -- such as firecrackers, bombs and sky rockets.

For in all probability, the highlight of our Fourth of July this year will be a speech by the President. From the White House we hear that Mr. Roosevelt has made tentative plans for addressing the nation. It is further announced that the Office of Civilian Defense, which is headed by Mayor LaGuardia of New York, will ask the citizens in every hamlet, town and city of the country to listen to that message.

The President issued one statement today in which he said that the approach of Independence Day this year will kindle in our American hearts an appreciation of the dark days that preceded and followed July the Fourth in Seventeen Seventy-Six. Those, he said, were the times that tried the souls of men even as these times. It is fitting, he added, that we should rededicate ourselves to defend and perpetuate those inalienable rights which found true expression in the immortal Declaration of Independence. And he concluded with these words:- "I am glad to learn that the Office of Civilian Defense is to lead the nation this year in a rededication to liberty on the Fourth of July." *P* Now some fireworks from Hugh.