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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I often get a thrill out of the day's news, and a thrill out of passing it on to you. But, tonight, not only am I getting a thrill but some young people sitting beside me are getting one, and I hope you will share in it.

What's it all about? Well, just this:- I am sitting in a

the Ford Building, at
banquet hall, in the New York World's Fair, and in just a

moment I am going to tell three young people that they are

the winners of some glorious prizes. In fact, one is to be

given a ticket for an airplane flight, by China Clipper, half

way round the world, and back again, or perhaps all the way

round the world if the war should end in time. A flight from

~~AMERICAN AMERICAN~~ America to inner-most China. And, three

other magnificent prizes. The three young people sitting

beside me know that they have been lucky. But, not one of the

three knows who is to get that airplane flight across the world.

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And, I am going to continue the suspense for a few minutes longer, until I have given you the highlights of the world's news. *Then I'll name the winners.*

First in importance comes the news from the war in Europe.

WAR

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The strangest part of the war news today comes from Norway, and it sounds indeed strange. It is vouched for as quite authentic, and here it is: travelers who reached London flying by way of Stockholm, report that Hitler is giving back all the Norwegian ships that he commandeered for the invasion of Britain. The Nazis had seized practically everything that would float and sent it south to Dutch, Belgian and French harbors. That is, they sent all that they ~~did not use~~ ^{were not using} in Norway itself, for training purposes. For months, Hitler's generals ^{have} had their men practicing embarkation and disembarkation, rehearsing their attempted onslaught on Britain. The Norwegians report that they were even practicing the disembarkation of cavalry. Eye-witnesses, for instance, describe landing drills in which cavalry soldiers swam their horses from ship to shore.

But now those people from Norway, who are described in the dispatches as reliable and responsible persons, report that Hitler has returned all those vessels to their Norwegian owners, hundreds of them. The inference is that he has abandoned, or at least postponed, his invasion plans.

This follows on the heels of reports that the gale which

raged through the Channel for thirty-six hours had raised havoc with Hitler's intended armada, and the waves have scattered his huge concentrations of ships in Channel ports. And it was also made known today that the pilots of the Royal Air Force have distributed huge fields of mines in all harbors occupied by the Nazis, all the way ~~clear~~ from Norway down to the Bay of Biscay.

Here is ~~The~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ *No fewer than thirty distinct mine fields. The British* Air Ministry states formally: "It is known that

thousands of tons of enemy shipping have been destroyed by these mine fields, some of which were laid within a stone's throw of the docks ~~xxxxxx~~ in some enemy harbors." And the Air Ministry adds that the enemy were unable to prevent those mines being laid even in strictly preserved and thickly defended waters.

Some observers in Britain are venturing the statement that Hitler's plans for an invasion will have to be ^{put off} ~~postponed~~ until somebody invents a tank capable of swimming the Channel.

Along with this comes ~~All of which is synchronous with~~ a statement issued by Sir Alan Brooke, Commander-in-Chief of the Home Force in Great Britain. He issued an open invitation to Hitler, and said he would actually welcome an invasion, welcome the opportunity to throw the

Nazis back into the sea. Then Sir Alan Brooke remarked wryly:-
"They did it twice to us, in Norway and at Dunkirk, and it is
about time we got some of our own back."

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Of course this is highly optimistic news. But it is
being taken seriously even in Washington, ~~where~~ Official circles
in touch with the latest and most dependable information from
Europe are ~~gossiping~~ ^{saying} that the Fuehrer has run into a stalemate and
that his ambitions for an invasion are hopeless, for ~~the~~ winter
at any rate.

However, the Britishers are still on their guard.
They are saying that this news from Norway may be just another
ruse of the Nazis. So the people of the island are taking no
chances: they are still watching ~~those~~ ^{the} coasts, keeping their eyes
open, ~~and on their toes~~ ^{on their marks, ready} to fight off any invaders.

LONDON

~~Air Marshal~~ Goering sent his raiders over southern England today in one constant stream. The alarm sounded in London with ~~almost~~ the regularity of a clock. ~~It sounded no~~ fewer than eight times. Just an hour and a ~~half~~ ago word came across the sea of the eighth alarm and probably right at this moment the people of ^{London} ~~the great City~~ are undergoing another raid.

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All this followed on a night which was virtually one long ^{assault} ~~raid~~. The most spectacular feature of the night's performance was the bomb dropped on the American embassy, ^{also} ~~and~~ others which wrecked some of the stores in the West End, shops well known to all American tourists, ~~Some of them are~~ old established institutions.

~~But during the day the British aerial defense was too strong for the attackers. The Nazi raiders failed to get through and no bombs dropped on London during the day. That's the British claim, but Berlin declares that Tilbury Docks were heavily bombed and there were huge outbreaks of fire. Railroad junctions were also destroyed according to the Nazi accounts.~~

~~There were some spectacular maneuverings in the air~~

EGYPT

Mussolini's bombers made a successful attack on British warships in the eastern Mediterranean; so says Rome.

And the Italians also claim to have bombed British land forces in Egypt, particularly at Marsa Matruh, railhead of the line running along the African coast to Alexandria. The Italians declare their raids were successful in spite of anti-aircraft fire.

Here's the other side of that Egyptian story. The Royal Air Force heavily bombed Graziani's forces.

ADD EGYPT

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Later news from Cairo brings word that two of Graziani's motorized columns are pushing ahead over the sands. But the progress of the ~~xxxx~~ Italian Expeditionary Force doesn't seem to have the Egyptians worried. Newspapers in Cairo are prophesying that the desert of Western Egypt will be the burying ground of Fascism. Another Cairo newspaper says the Italian advance can't seriously be described as an attack as it hasn't yet encountered any opposition. The Italians contradict this and say they met determined opposition, but broke it up.


RIBBENTROP FOLLOW WAR

The ~~next most important bit of war news concerns the~~
~~diplomats.~~ Hitler's Foreign Minister, von Ribbentrop, ^{today} made a sudden,
~~quite unexpected~~ journey to Rome, ^{to} where he had made an ~~expected date~~
with ~~Mussolini's Count Ciano.~~ There ^{is} ~~was~~ no official explanation of
~~the visit,~~ ^{this,} except one ^{that} ~~which~~ played it down as ~~being~~ merely a part
of ~~the~~ routine ~~in the~~ relations between the ~~two~~ Axis powers. However,
~~the~~ Nazi press played it up as ~~a most vital visit,~~ a conference
of the utmost importance, from which most vital results are expected.

What makes it all the more significant is that General
Franco's Foreign Minister, ~~Suner,~~ was in Berlin conferring with
Ribbentrop. ~~So~~ Ribbentrop cut short his consultation with the
Spaniard for this hurried and most mysterious visit to Ciano.
The deduction, therefore, is that the principal topic which
Ribbentrop and Ciano will discuss is the destiny of Spain.

It's no secret that ~~General~~ Franco's ^{Iberian Peninsula} country is in a bad way.
He needs money badly and has ^{in vain} tried to get it in the U.S.A. ~~But~~ ^{Franco,}
~~there it was a case of no dice.~~ Franco and ~~Suner,~~ therefore,
^{we are told has now put himself at}
~~have to throw themselves on~~ the mercy of the Axis. So, it may be

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that the Nazis, baffled in their plans for ^{an invasion of} ~~a landing on~~ Britain,
will try to strike at the British Lion through Spain.



ADD RIBBENTROP

Later reports from Rome tend to confirm the idea that the dictators are planning ~~an~~ an attack on Gibraltar^a in concert with Franco. Franco's Foreign Minister today was loud in announcing that Spain demands the restitution of Spanish territory, including Gibraltar^a.

Rumors in Rome tonight are that Franco is all set to join in a general attack on Great Britain.

MEXICO

Trouble in Mexico, and it sounds like serious trouble.

There was a report in El Paso, Texas, today of an uprising in the southwestern part of the State of Chihuahua. The rebels are the partisans of General Almazan, the unsuccessful candidate for the job of President of Mexico. The story is that a band of armed men are approaching a city ninety miles southwest of Chihuahua City, the capital of the state. Whether the rumor is true or not, has not been sufficiently established. But General Guerrero, Commander of the Fifth Military Zone of Mexico, confirms the story that he has sent troops to southwestern Chihuahua, ^{both} ~~two hundred~~ cavalymen and **fifty** infantry. ~~The general says the rumor of that rebellion is not confirmed, but he's taking no chances.~~

FLAG

There was trouble at St. Paul, Minnesota, where the State Federation of Labor is holding a Convention. One of the delegates on the floor saw something red in the visitors' gallery.

So the delegate got up on his ^{feet} ~~feet~~ and shouted to the Chairman, demanding that the person waving a red flag in the galleries should be kicked out of the hall. The Chairman granted the request, and

the Sergeant-at-Arms was on his way to the gallery to throw out *that red flag and the person waving it.*
~~the person with the red flag.~~ But before he got there an indignant

woman stood up in the gallery, waving her hand. And she cried:-

"What do you mean, red flag?" Then she explained:- "This ain't a flag, it's a sock I'm knitting for my husband."

CHINA ESSAY CONTEST

When I went on the air a few moments ago I mentioned
that I was speaking from a banquet table ^{here at the Ford Building} at the World's Fair,
and that there were ~~some~~ some young people with me who were about
to get a thrill. Briefly, the story is this:- Some time ago
an ~~essay~~ essay contest was announced, open to all the college
students in America. Students from ~~every~~ coast to coast have
been taking part, writing essays on the subject ^{"our stake in} "America's
^{the Future of China!"} ~~Stake in The Far East, and the importance to us of a strong~~
~~China".~~

The judges announced were a most distinguished group:-
Secretary of the Navy Colonel Frank Knox, famous author Pearl
Buck, Dr. Angell, former President of Yale and now one ~~of~~ of the
moguls of the N.B.C.; Editor William Allen White, Explorer
Dr. Roy Chapman Andrews, Colonel ^{Theodore} ~~Ted~~ Roosevelt, Mrs. William
Brown Meloney, ~~Editor~~ Editor of This Week Magazine; Colonel
Gil Hodges of the New York Sun, Alexander Woolcott, ^{United States} Senator
Elbert Thomas of Utah, Admiral Yarnell, ^{Educator} Dr. James T. Shotwell,
and Publisher Henry Luce; ~~and myself~~ And, myself. ^{TR} For
months essays poured in. And then, for weeks they were read
and the Judges did their work. Tonight, the three ~~first~~

winners have been brought from different parts of the United States to attend a dinner, ^{given by Henry Ford.} to be given their prizes and to be told which of the three is to get the trip by plane, around the globe, to China. By plane far up the Yangtze, beyond the ~~gorges~~ gorges to Chung King, the capital of Chang ~~Khai~~ Kai-Shek.

in a moment

All along there has been a mystery about this tremendous essay contest:- Who could the sponsor be? It sounded like the sort of thing the Government of China might do. The Japanese, hardly!

Well, the sponsor, the man who is giving the prizes also sits beside me. And he is an American. Albeit ~~the~~ a most unusual one. He is one of the world's ^{leading} aviation ~~pk~~ pioneers. He has built airlines in North America, ^{and} South America, and is responsible for most of the airlines in the Far East. His name is William D. Pawley, known on five continents as "Bill" Pawley.

applause

The applause you have just heard came from a most distinguished gathering of people. ^{over there sits} Secretary of the Navy, ^{T.V.} Soong, ^{one of the heads of the government of China.} Colonel Knox is sitting here near me. ^{Over} there in gorgeous

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Chinese costume is Anna Mae Wong. ^{Down the table} ~~Here also is T. V. Soong,~~
~~a short distance is~~
~~one of the heads of the present Government of China,~~ Explorer

Roy Chapman Andrews, ~~Colonel Roosevelt,~~ Pearl Buck, Admiral

Yarnell, ~~Senator Thomas from Utah,~~ George ~~Rix~~ Fitch another

extraordinary American who has been building roads all over

China. Bill Pawley has mapped out the Asiatic roads of the sky.

^{Fred Black & Geo. Pierratt representing}
And, the room is full of other notables. ^{Oh yes,} my sister

^{But} Pherbia Thornburg who conducted the essay contest. ^{Who are}

the winners? To continue the suspense a little longer I'll

give the names alphabetically:- Helen Averitt, who has been

flown here from California, by Bill Pawley, just to ^{attend} ~~be at~~

this dinner. She says the prize money, no matter whether

she gets first, second or third will enable her to go on

with her college work which she feared she would have to

give up, for lack of funds. Richard Curl from Ohio State.

^{now} ~~Dick~~ Dick is going on to Princeton Graduate College to get his

Doctor's degree in Political Science. So far he has earned

his way both through college and graduate ~~work~~ school. And,

Minerva Desing, from the University of Pennsylvania, who

in June ^{of} this year got her doctor's degree and was praised

Henry Ford; many editors, educators and others - including

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highly by President Gates of Penn., for her research work
concerning the Far East.

And now, they, and you, and everybody will hear
for the first time who gets first prize, who gets that
flight by Clipper, to China and back, or to China and
beyond. I'm getting a thrill out of this; ~~and~~ now the

greatest thrill of all goes to: *Minerwa Desing,*
from the Univ. of Pennsylvania,
~~down~~ in Sunoco town)

~~What do you say to that?~~

What do you say to that? *Minerwa?*

WINNER: I'm so thrilled I'm speechless. A check for One
Thousand Two Hundred Dollars and also a trip to China and back
by Clipper, and all expenses! Pinch me, Mr. Thomas, pinch me.
Surely there never was anything in the Arabian Knights
more wonderful than this! I think I'll faint in Mr. Pawley's
arms.

L.T.: If there is anything to be done, I hope you'll faint
in mine. At any rate, don't faint in the arms of Hugh James

CHINA ESSAY CONTEST - 4

because right at this moment Hugh has something to do,

haven't you Hugh?

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