

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

A welcome note in the war news comes from all quarters of the globe. Apparently Uncle Sam's weight is being felt. Nothing spectacular. And Washington warns us that although the fighting in the Solomons has gone in our favor, and MacArthur's men have trapped a few hundred Japs in New Guinea, these are only minor engagements, preliminaries to the big show still to come.

Also, Admiral King, Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet, told the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce today that we do not yet have a two-ocean navy. We still lack the smaller warships, and, we even lack the guns and ammunition needed to equip them.

But, American fighters are in action now,

48

in every theatre of this global war. From Cairo we hear that our four-motored bombers raided Tobruk three nights in a row and started flames that could be seen across the sands of Lybia for a hundred miles. One pilot, after dropping a salvo of bombs on a building occupied by Rommel's men said it was followed by an explosion that seemed to lift the whole building into the air.

On the other side of the globe, American bombers from China and India made devastating attacks on Japanese bases in Burma. Lieutenant-General Stilwell, Commander of the forces of the United Nations in that part of Asia, reported that his planes have scored thirty-two direct hits at Lashio, terminus of the Burma Road. They also raided the railroad through French Indo-China which is now in the hands of the Japanese. Evidently, Stilwell and the British are expecting the Japanese offensive to begin with the end of the monsoon out here.

49
With the help of American bombers and American supplies, the armies of Chiang Kai-shek have driven still further forward in the Kiangsi and Chekiang provinces of China. The Chinese claim now to be only nine miles from Nanchang. For two years that has been a strong base in the hands of the Japanese, their principal depot in Kiangsi. Further south, a Chinese army has even penetrated to within twenty-five miles of the great city of Canton. The hopeful part of these victories is that they should make it possible for the United Nations to raid Formosa, Japanese shipping in the China Sea, and, Japan itself.

We are also told today that the Flying Fortresses - which have been criticised of late - have done extraordinary work. That is, in the last two weeks they made seven raids on territory occupied by the Nazis, during which they scored seventy per cent hits, and not a

Flying Fortress has been lost. This in spite of the fact that some of them staggered back with every instrument smashed, and with two out of four motors dead, with windshields shattered, and minus parts of their wings and tails. One Flying Fortress had two thousand holes in it but still got back safely to its base in England.

On one flight, the Flying Fortresses were met by an attacking force of more than twenty of the latest German Focke-Wulff pursuit planes. The Americans had no fighter support of their own. But they fought off the Focke-Wulffs, shot down three, damaged six more, and returned to base without casualty.

Also, from all sectors of the Russian front, ~~we~~ we have reports that American engines of war have been invaluable to the Red army, particularly our tanks.

The only criticism was that for marshy ground the caterpillar treads are too narrow.

--o--

Japanese propaganda sang a new tune today. After the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Tokyo radio had Uncle Sam's Pacific fleet more or less wiped out. Today the same Tokyo radio brought the fleet to life again. The spokesman for the Japanese Navy used these words:- "the enemy could not be completely annihilated, and," he added, "it would be common sense for us to think that the Americans ~~ix~~ will come forward again with a superior force." That sounds more sensible.

--o--

Now about the fighting in New Guinea; at Milne Bay; at the extreme eastern end of the great island. General MacArthur's intelligence had informed him that the Japs were becoming more active around their bases at Buna and Salamaua, west of Milne Bay. So American Headquarters was led to expect a Japanese

landing at Milne Bay, with the object of establishing a new Japanese base there. Whereupon MacArthur beat the Japs to it. He sent a force of Australians, picked shock troops. These, adopting Japanese tactics, were concentrated in hidden positions. In short, the Japs didn't know the Aussies were there.


When the Japs landed, they were caught in a trap, and the Australians, ~~and~~ according to the report, ripped them to pieces. Under cover of bad weather eight Japanese destroyers and a cruiser steamed into Milne Bay and evacuated a few of the invaders on Saturday night. But most of them were driven back to a narrow thirty-five mile peninsula on the north side of the bay, and there they are being mopped up. The Japs lost every pound of material they put ashore, including tanks.

52
—

This news was particularly cheerful for the Australians, who have been anxious of late about the

whole New Guinea situation.

The Milne Bay episode came as the culmination to several attempts by the Japanese 'to move on Port Moresby, main Allied base in New Guinea. First the Japs tackled the American and Australian left flank, advancing from Salamaua and Lae. Then they attempted a direct landing from the sea with several crowded transports heavily convoyed. The consequence of that was the Battle of the Coral Sea, which the Japanese claimed as a victory in the face of their failure to



53
effect a landing. Then they started from Buna on the north coast and tried to push across the eight thousand foot Owen Stanley range of mountains, mountains buried under dense jungle. At the top of the pass they found Australians lying in wait for them. And that was that. ~~The~~ Now the Milne Bay adventure is the latest. The Japs had landed only six miles from where the General in command of the Australian troops was waiting for them. And that, says the report, shows how the enemy was outsmarted by MacArthur.

As to the situation in the Solomons, a story from New Zealand brings information which seems to be largely grapevine. The back parlor strategists at Auckland believe that the Japanese have no major fleet in the neighborhood of those islands. Instead, that they are sending light warships to evacuate small groups of

Jap soldiers, fighting with their backs to the wall.

These, it is believed, are being convoyed north to

Bougainville, the largest of the Solomon Islands,

where the Japs are expected to make their final stand.

Bougainville is a sizeable island -- almost four

thousand square miles.

RUSSIA

A bit of news concerning Russia that comes out of Germany by way of Stockholm is brief but sounds most important. The Nazi Government has warned correspondents not to prophesy that Stalingrad may fall at any moment. This comes on top of a communique from the Nazi high command that German forces, approaching from the south, had reached the outer defenses of Stalingrad. The German War Office points out that the defense lines around Stalingrad are more than thirteen miles from the heart of the city. And the Germans realize that the Red fighters are going to put up the most desperate kind of house-to-house defense.

That goes a little way toward corroborating the strangely optimistic tone of reports from Moscow. Of course it is no wonder ~~that~~ there is pride as well as surprise over the slowing up of the Nazi war machine. But the Soviet spokesmen claim to have done more than

that. They report a counter-offensive seventy-five miles northwest of Stalingrad, which made some advance at Kletskaya. That sounds as though the Red generals may have found a weak spot in the German left flank and taken advantage of it. If they can really make a hole in the German line there, they can threaten the entire German position in the southeast.

The Russians claim that they have either stopped the Germans or actually forced them to retreat for the last forty-eight hours over a front ^{one} ~~three~~ thousand miles long. ~~That runs~~ From Rzhev, a hundred and fifteen miles northwest of Moscow, ^{south through} ~~all the way to~~ the Caucasus.

A party of correspondents was ^{even} allowed to visit the front line in the Rzhev sector. It is from one of them that we hear that American tanks and trucks have played a leading role in the Red Army's advance there.

^{U. S.} ~~United States~~ tanks helped in the break-through which

carried the Red army into the northern suburbs of Rzhev. ~~The~~ Soviet troops have ~~actually~~ cleared the Germans from the north bank of the Volga and are sitting astride the railroad from Rzhev to Moscow. The correspondents not only saw American tanks and trucks but also jeeps carrying Red Army officers.

The ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ newspaper^{men} report that the road to Rzhev is ~~literally~~ littered with wreckage of ~~broken segments of~~ the Nazi military machine.

IRELAND

An order was issued to the American troops in Northern Ireland today to stay away from Belfast.

A member of the Irish Republican Army has been condemned to ^{die} ~~death~~ on Wednesday night and there ^{is} ~~was~~ ^{much} ~~a good deal of~~ feeling ^{throughout} ~~through~~ the entire island about it. This is the outcome of the killing of ^a ~~the~~ constable at Belfast. Six I.R.A. men were convicted but five were reprieved. And there is powerful

agitation to procure the reprieve of the ^{remaining one} ~~other one~~

also. (The Lord Mayor of Dublin came north for a long conference with the Lord Mayor of Belfast. ^{and} It is on account of the ^{agitation} ~~feeling~~ over this business that American soldiers have been ordered to stay out of Belfast.)

Somewhere else in Northern Ireland an American doughboy is facing a general court-martial charged with the murder of a British soldier. One night last month there was a party, a dance given by one of the British units. A few American doughboys showed up

and took part in the festivities. A British Tommy
over-full of good cheer or something went up to an
American soldier and said something for which he
was knocked down a couple of times. That developed
into a fist-fight and a free for all. It ended with
the a British ^{Tommy}~~private~~ dead, stabbed, and an American
also stabbed in the back, but not seriously wounded,
and ~~and~~ now on trial charged with murder. This ^{is}~~was~~ the
first American court martial to sit in the British
Isles on such a charge.

BRAZIL

Brazil tonight is in a state of total war.

President Vargas published a decree ordering immediate general mobilization throughout the entire country.

At the moment when Vargas declared war on Germany and Italy, the Brazilian standing army rated about a hundred thousand men and three hundred thousand more trained reserves.

The decree issued by Vargas today suspended some constitutional rights. It also provided for ~~the~~ trial by court martial of anybody who does anything threatening the national security.

The Vargas Government also closed more than twenty German and Italian insurance companies. It decreed a ten^{hour} ~~day~~ working day for all people employed in war industries and public utilities. They will be paid twenty per cent extra wages for the extra hours.

ROOSEVELT

Three years ago, said President Roosevelt, Hitler's legions launched their first blitzkrieg against the people of Poland. In these two years men have died, nations have been tortured and enslaved to satisfy the brutal lust for power of a few tyrants -- German, ^{Italian} ~~Italian~~ and Japanese. Then Mr. Roosevelt used these words:- "to the defeat of such tyrants, to the removal from this earth of the unjustices and inequalities which create such tyrants and breed new wars, this nation is wholly dedicated."

The President uttered those phrases at the dedication of the United States Navy's new medical center at Bethesda, Maryland.

The President went on to speak of how our medical men must develop new methods for preparing men for combat in submarines, planes and tanks. And he finished with the words: "Let this hospital stand for all men to see throughout the years as a monument to our determination to work and to fight

until the human race shall have that true health
in body and mind and spirit which can be realized
only in a climate of equity and faith."

TAXES

The Finance Committee of the Senate today decided not to put too heavy a tax burden on corporations. By a vote of eleven to eight, the Senators declined to assess ~~the~~ corporations for more than eighty per cent of their taxable income. On excess profits, they would pay ninety per cent provided all taxes put together do not exceed eighty per cent.

PETRILLO

A broadcasting station on the Pacific coast has decided to defy James Petrillo, boss of the Musician's Union. KGEI is a non-commercial station and ~~for the last couple of months it~~ has been doing virtually nothing but public service programs, propaganda for the United Nations cause and broadcasts to entertain American soldiers and sailors in Australia and all over the Pacific. Petrillo forbade KGEI to transcribe any more network programs to *amuse* ~~entertain~~ the soldiers and sailors and fliers. The management of the station declared today that it would ignore Petrillo's order.

The National Alcohol Beverage Control

58
Association heard some news today from an official of the War Production Board. The official in question is Matthew McNamara, in charge of whiskey conversion.

He announced that by the end of October, every one of the hundred and twenty-eight distilleries in the

United States ^{will} ~~would~~ be making nothing but alcohol for (no more whiskey, no more gin, no more rum.) war purposes. Our war machine will need four hundred

and seventy-six million gallons of alcohol next year.

More than half of that will be used for the manufacture of butadiene for synthetic rubber. The rest will be

58 1/2
needed for smokeless powder and other things necessary in ~~the~~ military warfare.

However, this does not mean that the drinking of whiskey and gin will stop. We hear, alas, there ~~There is~~ enough supply ~~moisten~~ American whistles on hand to ~~last for~~ four or five years. ~~Incidentally,~~

~~the order will apply to rum as well as whiskey and gin.~~

The order, we are told,

it, will not prevent the manufacture of beer or the

fermenting of ^{the grape.} ~~grapes for wine.~~

And now Hugh, you
looks as though you are in
a ferment. What's it all
about?

59
-