

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1942.


GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Two topics come first tonight:- the President's broadcast; and, price control. Reports from far and wide on the reaction to the fireside chat have been coming in; and judging from those reports, last night's was as successful a speech as the President ever made. You needed only to listen to him to realize that he was at his best, and the stories of heroism he told gave it the final thrilling touch.

As for the price control, it is of course too early yet for us to know just what will happen.

But many have been thinking of that sentence the President used last night, the one where he said:-

"The blunt fact is that



every single person in the United States is going to be affected by this program." <sup>It</sup> The ceiling erected by Leon Henderson over prices, according to one report, will reduce the general cost of living <sup>about</sup> one and one-half per cent. Another report has it that the Price Administration Office hopes it will be cut three per cent. All we have definitely, is what Henderson <sup>says, that</sup> ~~said~~ himself, "After May Eighteenth, for the duration of the war, the ceiling will go no higher."

Henderson's office issued a new order about rents this afternoon. All landlords in the three hundred and twenty-three defense areas must register their houses, apartments and trailers. There will be local rent administrators all over the country, and that is where the landlords must register. There will be additional regulations for hotels and rooming houses, and they will be made public shortly. The regulations

for landlords will cover such matters as leases, evictions, service, new construction, alterations, violations, evasions and penalties. Incidentally, those three hundred and twenty-three defense areas covered by this latest order would affect two-thirds of the population of the entire country.

Henderson also addressed one particular request to the Hotel Association of Louisville, Kentucky.

It ~~is~~ concerns Kentucky Derby Week. Some government workers at Louisville engaged in important war work, have been asked either to vacate their rooms for the rest of the week or pay higher prices. So Henderson has asked the Louisville Hotel Association not to raise their rates to government employees.

## DIM-OUT

Army officers are not too pleased with some of the folks around New York's Gay White Way. It was too gay and too white last night to satisfy the Army Command of the Second Corps Area. Major General Phillipson had ordered a dim-out. The Broadway rialto was by no means dim. Officers reported that the low hanging clouds were brightly lighted by a glow from the illumination below and presumably visible from enemy ships that might have been offshore.

Major General Phillipson, the Commander of the Second Corps Area, says that on the whole the results were commendable in view of the shortness of time allowed. At the same time, he announced today that there were many instances where things were not okay including along the Gay White Way.

The Chief of Staff of the Second Corps Area said sterningly that there would be no temporizing with

conditions which might promote the loss of shipping and lives at sea, and he used these words:- "We are going to begin cracking down when we get reports from the Navy."

WAR FUND

Another nineteen billions for war. President Roosevelt signed the bill today which carries the sixth of the supplemental war appropriations for which he has asked Congress. <sup>It is</sup> ~~xxxx~~ mostly for the Army, more than seventeen billions of it. And of that, the Air Corps gets eight and a half billions to finance thirty-one thousand ~~and seventy~~ more combat planes.

Incidentally, that bill carries a clause which authorized <sup>s</sup> ~~d~~ the officials of the government to renegotiate contracts that are yielding too high profits to the contractors.

## STRIKE

~~There is~~ labor trouble in a steel ~~factory~~ today;  
*at* the great Cambria plant of the Bethlehem Corporation,  
~~owing to a strike. But~~ *It* was not the steel workers  
who walked out, ~~it was~~ *is but* the men in the coke ovens who  
want twelve and a half cents more an hour. Without  
coke and coke oven gas, the blast furnace<sup>s</sup><sub>λ</sub> and the  
open hearth departments were shut down, with five  
thousand men idle. If it gets any worse, the entire  
plant may be shut down, with fifteen thousand, five  
hundred men.



RUSSIA

News from Russia tells us of an offensive about to be delivered by the Red Army in the northern Ukraine. This report doesn't come from Russian sources but from Bucharest, capital of Rumania, <sup>It comes</sup> by way of London. The Rumanians declare that Stalin's generals have been concentrating large forces of reserves for an attack on the northern Ukraine. One large Russian army has reached the Usonna River and another is ready to cross <sup>another river</sup> ~~the River Seim~~, south of Kursk, ~~That's~~ a large city almost due south of Orel, not far from the borders of the Ukraine. <sup>It is as the</sup> ~~and those~~ two rivers join at Kursk, that is the object of the Soviet attack. If they can recapture the place, they will be in a strategic ~~position~~ position threatening the entire Nazi force in the Ukraine. But <sup>we must</sup> ~~we have to~~ remember that <sup>all</sup> this is unofficial and <sup>it</sup> ~~may be~~ <sup>given out</sup> for some mystic reason of Nazi propaganda, since it comes from that Rumanian source.



## BRITISH RAIDS

After two years, the Germans in Hitler's Reich are beginning to feel what the British went through in NineteenForty. As report follows report of those R.A.F. raids on Nazi bases, the ~~XXXX~~ picture of the devastation ~~they left behind~~ is more and more complete. Not only Rostock, but also Luebeck, that ancient Baltic port of the Hanseatic League, ~~XXX~~ <sup>is</sup> in flaming ruins. And to cap that, comes the tale of ~~conflagrations~~ <sup>of the</sup> burning <sup>of</sup> Kiel, the great <sup>naval base and</sup> harbor and shipbuilding port on the northeast end of the <sup>Kiel</sup> canal. <sup>Kiel</sup> That was the object of the latest of the R.A.F.

excursions which followed closely upon the raid at Trondheim, which the Nazis are believed to have made a hideout for several of their capital ships, including the PRINCE EUGEN~~?~~ and the <sup>TIRPITZ,</sup> ~~TRIPITZ.~~

~~There is one rather puzzling circumstance about these raids. That is, the freedom with which the~~

MALTA

The Axis attack upon Malta appears to be growing more intense every day. The British Ministry describes it as a non-stop aerial war, fiercer ~~than~~ even than the Battle of Britain in Nineteen Forty. Malta is being defended by not only British, but American, pilots and in spite of the help of the Americans, the defenders are vastly outnumbered. Nevertheless, they have shot down innumerable raiders.

One curious feature of the Battle of Malta is that <sup>it ranges</sup> ~~it's ranging~~ over such a small area that the greatest risk the Americans and British are running is not of being shot down by Nazi or Italian planes, but of colliding with each other.

The British Air Ministry acknowledges that the Germans and Italians have damaged the harbor <sup>at Valetta and the main</sup> installations <sup>and</sup> airdrome on Malta; but <sup>they have</sup> ~~they have~~ paid heavily for it. The Allied pilots are outnumbered

six to one, says the report, but they make up for it that by superior aerial skill and tactics. The *story* tells us that the Germans are always kept guessing and <sup>never</sup> ~~don't~~ know what methods of attack or defense the Allies are about to use. It is by varying their tactics that <sup>the British,</sup> ~~our side~~ and their American colleagues, have ~~has~~ been able to put up such a stout resistance and at the same time ~~to~~ protect British convoys <sup>venturing</sup> ~~crossing~~ <sup>across</sup> ~~through~~ that part of the Mediterranean.

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One bit of news we learned from the President last night was that American warships have joined the British in the Mediterranean. We do not know how many <sup>or just where;</sup> ~~there are or any details;~~ but we are told today that they are fighting under the command of British Admiral Sir Andrew Brown Cunningham, ~~the Commander-in-Chief,~~ <sup>who carried out</sup> ~~also the hero of~~ that spectacular raid on Taranto last year.

## MUSSOLINI

A lot of conjecture was provoked when the world learned that King Emanuel of Italy, after hearing Hitler's latest speech, had sent for Premier Mussolini. The gossip mill in Switzerland gave birth to the rumor that Italy's king had been so appalled by Hitler's depressing remarks, that he had braced himself to the point of giving both Mussolini and Son-in-Law Ciano the royal and noble Order of the Boot. The rumor of Mussolini's resignation was helped somewhat by the news that the King had also sent for Marshal Badoglio, the foremost anti-Fascist in Italy.

Probably as a counter-blast to these rumors, the Rome Radio today gave out some official news about the Duce for the first time in a long while. It broadcast the official announcement that Mussolini had sent for all the district prefects in Italy and read them the Riot Act. He told them that ~~the~~ discipline was

disintegrating in Italy, and that the amount of fraud going on had <sup>brought on</sup> ~~reduced the country to~~ an acute internal state of affairs. By fraud, the Duce undoubtedly meant ~~the~~ food profiteering which, according to all accounts, is rampant all over Italy. Mussolini ordered the district prefects to tighten the reins and hand out inexorable punishment to all guilty ones.

*All of which is believed to be*  
~~It is assumed that this is~~ a roundabout way of

contradicting those reports of Mussolini's resignation <sup>even</sup> without acknowledging that <sup>such rumors</sup> ~~they~~ exist.

BURMA

The latest news about Burma comes in a dispatch from Chungking, the capital of Chiang Kai-shek, and is about as bad as it could be. The Japanese panzer troops have smashed their way ~~into the suburbs of~~ Lashio, <sup>at the head of the Burma Road,</sup>

That Nipponese ~~panzer~~ <sup>column</sup> ~~squadron~~ must have advanced with real blitzkrieg speed. The last we heard of them,

early this afternoon, they were fifty miles away from Lashio, and ~~even~~ even that report was discounted.

But there is no doubting the truth of their being in

Lashio, <sup>now,</sup> since the report comes from <sup>the</sup> ~~our~~ side, <sup>of the</sup> ~~though~~

<sup>United Nations,</sup> ~~it is unofficial,~~ The Chinese under our <sup>Gen. Joseph</sup> ~~own Uncle Joe~~

<sup>said to be</sup> Stilwell, are making a last stand in <sup>Lashio,</sup> ~~the town itself,~~

fighting from behind barricades. ~~that must have been~~

~~thrown up on the spur of the moment.~~

On top of that, we hear of another Japanese panzer column storming the defenses of Hsipaw, a town on the railway forty miles west of Lashio.



The fate of the British and Chinese in Burma now rests upon a single desperate military stroke, an out-and-out gamble. A Chinese column is rushing eastward from the central front for ~~one~~<sup>an</sup> eleventh hour effort to cut the lines between the two spearhead columns of the Japanese. <sup>Observers</sup> ~~The experts~~ give only small hope that ~~this~~<sup>it</sup> can succeed. If it doesn't, ~~we~~<sup>we not only</sup> lose ~~not only~~ the Burma Road, but Mandalay, and, the Allied armies will be cut off, isolated.

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## AUSTRALIA

The Prime Minister of Australia issued a warning today against excessive optimism over the war situation in that part of the world. Premier Curtin said to his Parliament today:- "We have not yet been able substantially to weaken the enemy's position in regions he has occupied in his advance to the south." And he added that Japan still is able, ~~to~~ almost at will, to reinforce the areas around Timor and New Guinea. <sup>TH</sup> At the same time, he announced that the Japanese have lost more than a hundred and thirty airplanes, with a hundred others damaged in the Australian area. ~~and~~ today's news from General MacArthur's headquarters reports one of the biggest and most vigorously sustained series of raids in the war, in which American and Allied planes destroyed a big ammunition dump at Lae, and <sup>was another</sup> ~~fought the enemy~~ <sup>air victory</sup> ~~air~~ squadron over New Guinea.

On a small Texas ranch, a middle-aged couple sat by the radio last night, listening to the President's fireside chat. They listened with absorption, as did the rest of the country. But presently, to their astonishment, they heard something that had a particular meaning for them. For they heard the President of the United States telling about a job that had been done by an officer in the United States Army, an officer who is their own son.

You all heard the President tell it. It was his third and last story last night. And a more thrilling tale never came out of this or any other war. It was that story which the nation had not heard before, of five flying fortresses that started out from somewhere in the South Pacific, on an assignment to bomb the Japanese in the Philippines. One motor stopped on one fortress, and it fell behind. By the time the crew made repairs, the other four had vanished. But, the fifth plane went on alone, reached

its objective and carried out its bombing assignment, although by then the Japs were ~~in~~ not only ready but were waiting for anyone coming over.

The lads in that lone flying fortress, <sup>with their bombs</sup> ~~may~~

<sup>56</sup>  
<sup>may</sup> have destroyed a Japanese transport or two, but then the fun really began. Eighteen Jap fighter planes jumped on them. ~~Wx~~ I'll not attempt to repeat the story. You all heard the President tell it -- of how one of the crew was killed, another had his hand shot away, landing gear partially demolished, nearly all the controls shot out, some of the guns in the flying fortress silenced -- and all the time those ~~japs~~ Jap fighter planes kept coming on, diving in from all sides. And the President told how from the flying fortress seven of those Jap planes were shot down and the rest of the eighteen were fought to a standstill, and finally turned tail. And then how the flying fortress, riddled, almost shot to pieces, managed to get back to its base, and there made an emergency landing by night.

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President Roosevelt gave the name of the Commander of that flying fortress;—U. S. Army Captain Hewitt T. Wheless. And the man and woman sitting out there on the Texas range listening in last night, whom I mentioned a moment ago, <sup>were</sup> ~~xxx~~ the father and mother of the lad who flew the army flying fortress on that epic assignment, thousands of miles away ~~xxx~~ across the Pacific. They were Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Wheless. <sup>And</sup> It was the first time they had learned the full details of that extraordinary ~~fx~~ fight.

This young Captain who now has the ~~Distinguished~~ Distinguished Service Cross, is known among his fellow pilots as "Shorty." Such a name is either given to a fellow who is very tall, or the opposite. Captain Hewitt Wheless, who is twenty-eight years old, is only five feet, six inches. ~~tall~~. In the ranch country around home he used to be called "Nun," because there was hardly none of him at all.

"Nun" Wheless got into the Army by becoming an



Reporters tried to get him to tell some more about that seventy-five mile battle of a crippled flying fortress against a whole flight of Japanese navy zero fighters. But the Captain wouldn't talk. As for himself, he said: "Heck, there's nothing interesting about me."

59 And now something interesting from Hugh.