

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight Soviet Troops are in Germany,  
along the Oder River. On a thirty seven mile front,  
they are thirty-three miles deep in Silesia, Silesia  
with its coal mines and war plants. In fact, they are

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within ~~thirtyfive~~<sup>sixteen</sup> miles of Breslau, the Silesian capital,  
and ~~within two~~<sup>only about</sup> hundred ~~and ten~~<sup>from</sup> miles of Berlin. If the  
Red Army storms the line of the Oder, it will ~~mean~~ mean  
the conquest of a vital area of German war industry,  
and will threaten to stab right into the heart of  
Naziland <sup>^</sup> south central Germany.

Then ~~that~~<sup>^</sup> other sector of activity and crisis, is  
East Prussia - to the north. There Stalin announces a  
general advance today ~~and~~<sup>with</sup> the capture of a series of  
towns ~~^~~, the most important of which is Bromberg, ~~that~~  
~~city is the~~ key to the Polish Corridor, the ~~Corridor~~<sup>strip</sup>  
dividing East Prussia and the rest of Germany.

Apparently the Soviet strategy is to drive through the  
Corridor to the sea, and thereby ~~isolate the~~<sup>trap</sup> German  
forces in East Prussia - some two hundred thousand  
troops defending the home province of the Prussian  
military caste, the Junkers.

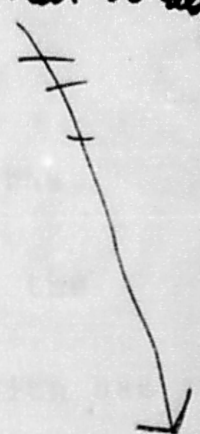
The latest tonight states that the Russians, driving through the <sup>Polish</sup> Corridor, are within thirty-seven miles of the <sup>Baltic -</sup> ~~sea~~, within thirty-seven miles of closing the East Prussian trap. <sup>TP</sup> ~~The situation in East Prussia is a bitter pill for the German Army, the Prussian officer corps. Their homes are there, and their military tradition is centered in East Prussia. All of which is dramatized by word that~~ the Germans, before withdrawing from the city of Tannenberg, blew up the <sup>famous</sup> Hindenberg Monument. ~~there~~ At Tannenberg, Germany's military hero of the last war, the formidable von Hindenberg, won his reputation by inflicting a disastrous defeat upon the Russians of the Czar. This was commemorated by a huge monument, in which Hindenberg was entombed. And now the Germans have had to blow up the monument and move Hindenberg's body - to keep <sup>it</sup> ~~them~~ from falling into the hands of the Russians.

Late news tonight disillusions ~~the~~<sup>^</sup> hope that was expressed earlier in the day - that the Russian surge forward might mean the liberation of a lot of American war prisoners. The Red Army is pushing into sectors where thousands of American prisoners, especially captured flyers, were kept in detention camps. However, the American Red Cross tonight reports that American and other Allied prisoners of war were moved several weeks ago - taken from the areas now threatened by the Russians and sent to central Germany.

The German radio today reflected the panic in Naziland - with an authoritative Berlin radio commentator indicating, with brutal frankness, that the German leaders can't make any rational guess about where the Soviet offensive will stop, ~~if it will stop at all~~. And Hitler has sent to the Eastern Front his most ruthless commanders - headed by the Nazi home dictator, Himmler,

in an effort to organize fanatical resistance to the last ditch.

And here is another of those reports *that border*



Berlin to Hitler's retreat at Berchtesgaden - which would be a telling indication of German belief that Berlin itself is gravely threatened by the Russian advances. But would the archives and documents be safe at Berchtesgaden? The story goes on to repeat that the Hitler mountain retreat has been turned into what the Nazis believe to be an impregnable stronghold, which has been stocked with munitions and supplies intended to last for several years - for a prolonged resistance in the rugged heights of the Bavarian Alps.

JUGOSLAVIA

~~Today~~ The Premier of the exiled government of  
*today* Jugoslavia came out in open defiance of the Yugoslav  
King. The Premier refused to resign, as young King Peter  
had demanded, and the word from London is that the  
Premier intends to go to Belgrade and there join up with  
Marshal Tito, who has the support of Soviet Russia. All  
of which provides a new complication in the matter of  
exiled governments and political affairs in their own  
countries.

And Poland provides a new complication, with  
the exiled government in London sending a memorandum to  
the United States and Great Britain. This contains a  
demand that Poland, most of which has now been occupied  
by Soviet forces, be administered by an Inter-Allied  
Military Commission. Poland, of course, is actually  
under military control of the Lublin Committee, which the  
Soviets have recognized as the Polish government. The

exiled regime in London further demands that there be, what it calls - "a free election." They want such an election to be held under Allied auspices - and not until Polish prisoners of war have returned home. It is estimated that the Polish prisoners of war number five million - that many of the ~~hosts of prisoners~~ captured by the Nazis and Soviets at the time when Hitler and Stalin partitioned Poland.



On the Western Front today, they were battering-in what remains of the German salient, delivering what apparently is the final <sup>crusher</sup> ~~pressure~~ to the little that is left of the great bulge that von Rundstedt drove forward in his ambitious offensive. Third Army forces <sup>pushed</sup> ~~drove~~ ahead for as much as seven miles today, reaching the Siegfried Line and eliminating the southern sector of the salient.

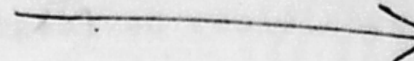
To the north, the <sup>key point</sup> ~~stronghold~~ of St. Vith was captured - and appropriately that dominating road junction was taken by the American Seventh Armored Division, ~~that was~~ the outfit <sup>that</sup> ~~which~~ held St. Vith with stubborn heroism during the dark days of the German break-through. They held off the enemy for a critical time, until the overwhelming force of <sup>the</sup> von Rundstedt offensive compelled them to fall back. Now the Seventh Armored Division has returned to St. Vith, storming into that place today.

At the southern end of the Western Front,  
in Alsace, <sup>U.S.</sup> ~~United States~~ Seventh Army troops have  
withdrawn <sup>from</sup> ~~at~~ a section north of Hagenau. This withdrawal  
was not forced, but was deliberately carried out to  
shorten the line. In fact, the Germans were caught  
unawares - and continued to shell ~~the~~ town <sup>S</sup> for hours  
after the Americans had pulled back.

\_\_\_\_\_ 0 \_\_\_\_\_  
Hugh, before we ~~hear from~~  
~~Stan. of Cal.~~ have the news from  
the ~~the~~ Far East let's hear from  
Stan. of Cal.

SUBSTITUTE PHILIPPINES LEAD

The latest from the Philippines tonight tells of the capture of a place with an exceedingly American name - Irish-American, Camp O'Donnell. This was one of the flying fields we had in the Philippines before the Japs came swarming in - though in fact Camp O'Donnell was a new base that had never been completed. The Japs later used it for a prison camp, where they kept some survivors of the infamous Bataan March of Death. American troops today advanced nine miles to seize Camp O'Donnell.

Earlier news told about another air base in the Philippines - with a name that rings in American ears. *Clark Field!* On the December-Seventh-of- 

## PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, ~~MacArthur's~~ troops today reached the edge of Clark Field, and captured the northernmost air-strip of that base, the name of which rings in American ears. ~~On the December-Seventh of~~ Pearl-Harbor, one of the principal blows of the treacherous Jap assault was at Clark Field - to knock out defending Army planes. Since that time, the Japs have used Clark Field as a major base of their own. Now, the Americans return - capturing the northernmost air-strip today. That puts them within fifty-one air miles of Manila. Also, within twenty-nine miles of Bataan, with its memories, ~~for Americans~~

~~But~~ There is still no organized resistance in the American march on Manila, and we can only repeat former surmises that the Japs have planned to put up their big battle somewhere else - at the northern end of Luzon, perhaps.

## SUPERFORTRESSES

Another B-29 raid against Jap aircraft factories at Nagoya, and this time we hear that the Superfortresses encountered the heaviest fighter plane resistance that the Japs have put up thus far. Enemy planes rose in swarms against the aerial giants, ~~and tonight one American flyer says: "The Japs pressed in their attack harder than ever before. They seemed determined to get in close."~~

~~Another airman says: "There must have been a hundred fighters at least on our necks, and most of our group of planes came back full of holes."~~

~~Still another tells of seeing a B-29 shot down.~~

We are not told what losses the Superfortresses may have incurred in the air battle over Japan - an air battle in which numbers of the swarming Jap fighters-planes were shot down.

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~~In the Pacific, off the coast of Japan, the Ryukyu Islands have been hit again - Admiral Nimitz~~

BURMA

In Burma tonight, the British are on the road to Mandalay. The recent swift advances, with indications of a Jap evacuation of northern and central Burma, are now climaxed with word that three British columns are converging on that city of romance - Mandalay. Three columns - on three roads to Mandalay.

RADIO DAILY

L.T.:- And now I want to turn the microphone over for a moment to one of America's <sup>most</sup> distinguished newspapermen -

Hugh Baillie, President of the United Press. <sup>He has</sup> ~~He has~~ offices here in N.Y. <sup>But his real home</sup> ~~is in~~ Cal. <sup>So -</sup> ~~And so on~~ He has something to relate concerning this program.

<sup>It's all yours</sup> ~~Will you tell us about it,~~ Mr. Hugh Baillie?

H.B.:- I have an assignment tonight from- Radio Daily. John Alicoate, publisher of that magazine, has asked me to tell about a poll that Radio Daily has just completed, a poll to select an All-American radio program for Nineteen Forty-Four. More than a thousand newspapermen and women all over the country were queried, each giving his or her choice in the various fields of radio entertainment - musical show<sup>s</sup>, comedy, symphony, sports, news. And I have been asked to make the award for news - naming the All-American news commentator for Nineteen Forty-Four. Lowell, you have been selected. The ~~make~~ great cross-section of newspaper opinion ~~than a thousand newspapermen and women~~ polled by

Radio Daily has voted you the All-American News  
Commentator for the year just passed.

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*Baillie,*

L.T.:- Thanks, Hugh. I am exceedingly proud of this

~~Radio~~ Daily award, and I'll do my best to live up to it

during the coming year. I only hope I can live up to it

during the coming five minutes right now. It would be

an anti-climax to bobble this next one ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

from Washington.



The Wallace-Jones affair saw action today in the  
Commerce <sup>Committee of the Senate,</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ The Committee had before it two  
proposals - one to vote on the presidential appointment  
of Ex-Vice President Wallace as Secretary of Commerce,  
in place of the ousted Jesse Jones. The other - a bill  
sponsored by Senator George of Georgia, to take away from  
the Department of Commerce the management of the  
Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

Much of the importance of the Department of  
Commerce lies in its control of that vast financial  
agency, the R.F.C., which deals in billions of dollars--  
~~of loans to business. This had been managed by an expert,~~  
~~the Texas Financier Jesse Jones. And now there is much~~  
~~protest that Henry Wallace, the former Secretary of~~  
~~Agriculture and Ex-Vice President, has had no business~~  
~~experience to qualify him in the handling of the R.F.C.~~  
~~billions.~~ <sup>And</sup> Some critics claim that the

White House appointment of Wallace represents a push by Left Wing New Dealers to get control of those billions. Hence the move to divorce the R.F.C. from the Department of Commerce.

Today's question was - which should the Senate Commerce Committee take up first, the appointment of Wallace, or the divorce of the R.F.C. from the Department of Commerce? The Administration wanted the Wallace appointment to be considered first - but lost out. The Committee voted to deal with the R.F.C. matter first - the majority was ten to two, Southern Democrats uniting with Republicans to produce a setback for the Administration.

One of the two Senators who supported the Administration is Pepper of Florida, and he stated later that a vote to take the R.F.C. away from the Commerce Department would be, in his words - "a vote aimed at the

heart of Henry Wallace." (Well, Henry has a big heart,  
 as everybody knows, a heart that beats for the common man,  
 and quarts of milk for everybody in the world.)

The Committee today took further action - action  
 that will bring the Wallace-Jones embroglio to a dramatic  
 climax. The decision was - to call both the former  
 Vice President and the ousted Secretary of Commerce to  
 give testimony at a Committee hearing - ~~to~~ <sup>and</sup> be there at  
 the same time. This will bring face to face - the two  
 who, as prominent government figures, have been at bitter  
 feud with each other in the past couple of years.

They have burst into publicity with their antagonism <sup>which</sup>  
~~that~~ has ranked <sup>as</sup> ~~in~~ a sort of Washington Hatfield-<sup>Feud.</sup> ~~and~~ McCoy

Committee Chairman Senator Bailey of North

Carolina states that, because of the public interest (in  
 the Wallace-Jones <sup>Hatfield-McCoy</sup> feud, the hearing at which the two  
 will meet will be held in the largest committee room in  
 the Capitol.

"Why not hold it in a ball park?" suggested  
~~suggested~~ a newspaperman.

The Senator replied that a ball park would be  
okay with him, except it ~~could~~<sup>might</sup> be too cold out there  
in the open.

~~Well, I don't know - the amount of heat that is  
supposed to exist between Henry Wallace and Jesse Jones  
might be enough ~~even~~<sup>even</sup> to heat a ball park on a winter day.~~

PRIORITY

It seems that there is to be a general investigation of - priorities, so far as these concern riding on planes. The Senate Military Affairs Committee today voted an inquiry into what it called - "the whole priority practice."

This follows the uproar over the fact that servicemen were taken off an Army plane - "bumped" - because they had only "C" priorities, while a ~~dog sent~~ <sup>dog</sup> ~~from Colonel Elliott Roosevelt to his movie actress wife~~ had an "A" priority. <sup>Today's news story on this is that</sup> The Senate inquiry will ~~give some~~ particular attention to that episode, and will go on to ~~what Senator Bridges of New Hampshire today called -~~ "other strange facts and incidents."

The ~~Senate Committee will~~ consider stories that are circulating about the <sup>general</sup> abuse of priorities on planes. For example, there is a report that cases of whiskey and rum have been shipped with high priorities for what

the Committee calls - "the benefit of a select few."

Also - it is said that refrigerators for the quarters of high ranking officers have, as the Committee puts it,

"taken priority over men ~~wh~~ home from battle lines or on their way to battlefronts." ~~And Congressmen have been~~

~~hearing that such officers have had a "to tip or bribe air officials."~~

## WAGER

Today a messenger from the White House delivered a package to an office in Washington. In it was a hat, a gray fedora - sent by President Roosevelt. The President was paying off a bet - twenty-six years late.

Back in Nineteen Nineteen, when Franklin D. Roosevelt was Assistant Secretary of the Navy, a Washington friend of his, a real estate man named J. Creswell Young, ventured a prediction. He said he'd bet that ~~thirty-six~~ ~~years~~ Franklin Roosevelt would one day be President of the United States. "I'll take that bet," responded the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and they wagered a hat.

Of course, Real Estate Broker Young won the bet way back in Nineteen Thirty-Two. He made no effort to collect, however, <sup>as</sup> ~~and~~ he said today he didn't want to bother the President, who apparently had forgotten the wager of years before. The real estate man won the bet

again in Nineteen Thirty-Six, and once more in  
Nineteen Forty - and still he didn't get the hat.

But this last Inauguration Day, his patience became  
exhausted - and he wrote to the White House reminding  
the President of the wager back in Nineteen Nineteen.

Today the hat was delivered - the President  
paying off after having lost the bet <sup>four</sup> ~~three~~ times. But  
he didn't send four hats. ~~and so on and so on.~~

And now Hugh, I doff  
my hat to you, and I hope that  
you too feel that you share in  
this honor ~~passed~~ Hugh Baillie  
has been telling us about,  
because we couldn't get along  
without you.