

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The air raiders swarmed over London today, taking advantage of cloud and fog. It was no shattering blitz, mostly nuisance in a big way. The bombers came over singly, but there were a lot of them. Several hospitals were hit, and patients were injured. An American Army Officer was a casualty -- Major Robert Williams, observer for the Army Air Corps, sent to Britain to gather information about the war in the sky. Today he was indoors. A bomb hit the balcony of a building across the street. An explosion blast of flying glass, and this injured the United States Air Corps observer, cuts and lacerations.

Same old story from Africa -- the British driving forward on various fronts. In Libya they're pushing toward the ~~ek~~ key city of Benghazi, and in the east African area they're moving on in Eritrea, Ethiopia ~~in~~ and Somaliland. There's a report, picked up from the Berlin radio, that Mussolini has taken Marshall Bagdolio into his cabinet.

BATTLESHIP FOLLOW WAR

A highly sensational story appeared today. It was promptly denied, but ^{it} is so beguiling it's worth repeating. The British Government is going to trade H M S George the fifth to the United States for twenty destroyers. The story is printed in the Detroit Free Press, and that newspaper claims it emanates from what it calls "highly reliable diplomatic circles."

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The argument runs this way; "why did the British government send H M S George the fifth across the ocean - a perilous voyage? Merely to bring the new British Ambassador, Lord Halifax, over here in ceremonial style?" No, the supposition goes deeper than that. Britain really sent it's newest battleship to trade it.

What the British need right now is not battleships, but destroyers.

The all - important menace is the U-boat campaign, and battleships are no good ^{for} ^{ing} to fight submarines. It takes the smaller and speedier craft for that. So why not trade the monster for twenty destroyers?

The **George** the **Fifth** cost about eighty million dollars to build.

Destroyers cost about five million each. ^{So} You could figure that ~~twenty~~ twenty reasonably new destroyers would be just about worth one battleship of the very latest type.

The Detroit Free Press states that it's information has been denied, but makes the comment that the people doing the denying are the same as those who some months ago pooh poohed the story of the fifty destroyer deal.

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Immediately upon the publication of the story of the trading of the George the ~~F~~^Fifth, denials crackled. Secretary of the Navy Knox said; "It's the most cockeyed ~~invention~~ I ever heard ~~of~~. There's not one word of truth in it." ^{to} The British embassy responded with the word "fantastic!"

ROOSEVELT FOLLOW BATTLESHIP

Today we hear of a statement made way back in nineteen thirty-four - that Nazi domination of Europe was inevitable. Senator Wheeler said that more than six years ago.

President Roosevelt today revealed some things he heard from the late William E. Dodd, then United States Ambassador to Berlin. Dodd told of a dinner in nineteen thirty four at the home of Rex Tugwell, then assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Both Dodd and Wheeler were guests, and in the table conversation Senator Wheeler stated his opinion that the Nazis would surely dominate Europe - inevitably. Dodd also quoted Wheeler as saying that when this happened, the United States should make a counter-move by taking over Canada, Mexico and The Central American Republics. The story is to appear in a forthcoming magazine article. The president was asked about it, and he confirmed it from his own memory.

KNOX

Today in Washington, some striking statements were made on the subject that is beginning to hold the world spellbound - the all out attack ^{on} ~~of~~ Britain, which seems to be brewing; the attempt to invade, which is definitely expected. Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox told the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate that the blow may fall at any moment. His information, he said, came from "Inside Germany." Hitler's military leaders he declared, are watching for the weather, waiting for the right condition of sea and sky. The moment they get the kind of weather favorable for invasion - - they'll strike.

Secretary Knox made some ominous statements about the war in the air and the U Boat campaign. He stated that in their bombing raids, the Germans have obtained what he called - "effective results."

This, at the most vital point, the British War Industry ^{is.} ~~X~~ These "effective results" have been achieved in the Nazi bombing of British factories making armament. ^{Also} ~~X~~ The submarine war, said the Secretary, ^{has been} ~~was~~ doing a perilous amount of damage, threatening to cut Britain's life line on the sea. ~~The Bombs~~ and ~~the~~ submarines

are causing what Frank Knox characterized with these words, "Grave Concern."

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~~"Grave concern"~~

He spoke of what he called ^a "lull" in the Nazi production of war planes. He regarded that lull as a sinister quiet. He said the Germans had curtailed their production of air craft, because they were busy seeking to produce something new and more terrible. Trying to create an air weapon more effective than anything in use at present - "trying desperately, " said the Secretary. This - in preparation for the forthcoming all out assault. And, the Germans are prepared to employ gas. Secretary Knox used these words - "the use of gas on a large scale."

This was the most striking part of his testimony, and all the rest ^{today} was rather subordinate to it. Defending the president's lend - lease bill for aid to Britain, Secretary ^{of the Navy} Knox repeated his previous contentions that if Britain were knocked out, America would face invasion - direct or indirect, possibly by way of South America.

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There were some lively exchanges between the Secretary and Senators ^{on} ^{of} the Committee. ^{for instance,} Senator Nye ^{asked} whether the British aid bill would permit the President to order American warships to convoy British merchant vessels.

"No more", replied Knox, "than if we didn't pass the bill."

"Does the president have the power to order convoys now?" demanded the Senator.

"Any time he wants to," replied the Secretary.

He added that he personally was opposed to the idea of American convoys for British ships. Thisk he said, would be an act of war.

But he added that if the President wanted convoys -- Why okay. "I'm only the Secretary of the Navy," said Colonel Knox. And he added, "He's my commander-in-chief; I do what he tells me."

The Secretary of the Navy took a fling at Colonel Lindbergh's notion that peace could be negotiated now. He described the peace suggestion as -- "wild fancy." Said he didn't think Lindbergh was any expert on the subject of peade, or of war -- for that matter.

Such is the gist of today's testimony from the Secretary of the Navy, with all emphasis on the prediction that a supreme Nazi attack against Britain will soon be made; at any moment now.

FOLLOW KNOX

The Knox opinion was echoed today by Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador. He said he thought that Hitler, ^{put it, Hitler} as he [^]said, "Would have a go at it soon". He didn't think the Nazi High Command would concentrate on Dover, the nearest point across the channel. He thought they'd make invasion thrusts at six or seven British Ports .

Similar word ^{comes} [^]from France, with some military reasons to back it up. French military observers believe that the all-out blow will occur in February - probably toward the end of the month. They point out that the last seven to twelve days of February should provide first class invasion weather. Then the tides along the coasts of England are ^{at in} [^]the lowest, and they reckon that the Nazis will want low tides for a landing attempt. Also - Calm seas to transport huge masses of men and equipment. ^{also, a} [^]misty condition of the atmosphere to screen military movements. ^{and} [^]Long nights favorable for cross - channel transportation under ~~the~~ cover of darkness. They say crossing and landing would take about ten hours. As spring comes on, the nights of course grow shorter - with fewer of the needful hours of darkness.

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The French Report that in the occupied ^{portions} [^]territories of France,

the Germans have made their preparations with the gréatest of secrecy. But, enough word has leaked out to indicate that they are now ready to launch their attempt to end the war. Britain today makes what may be a foreboding revelation. Heavy German guns near Calais, the point of France nearest the British Coast, have been hurling shells into Britain ~~hurling~~ them further than ever before -- much further. This has been going on for four days, but is made public only now. Hitherto the big Berthas firing across the channel have shot at convoys passing through or at the shore near Dover. Now, however, they are hurling huge shells from ten to twelve miles beyond the coast, and that means a range of from thirty two to thirty-four miles. It's long distance shooting, and leads to the belief that the Germans have installed batteries of new and heavier guns; possibly for the invasion attempt. Some surmise that the super big Berthas are getting in range in preparation for a barrage that might isolate the Dover area with a curtain of fire. It would take a lot of artillery to do that. We remember how the Big Bertha that shelled Paris from such a long range was a nine-day wonder, but those of us who were in Paris then know that it had nothing more than nuisance value -- and hardly any of that.

PRECEDE STRIKES

It was announced late today that if any plant doing national defense work refuses to abide by official labor regulations, the government is ready to take over that plant. This was stated by President Roosevelt.

Factories to be commandeered for refusal to meet government requirements - and that includes the labor laws.

WELFARE.

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In New York, there's a court case concerning the Charge that the municipal welfare department has been under the influence of the Reds. A woman social investigator ^{is} ~~is~~ suing on the ground that she was dismissed from the department because of anti - communist activities. Today, another woman social investigator testified that welfare employees were promised preferred treatment, a better break - - if they joined the Communist Party. (When she got her job, other employees gave her bolshevik literature. She was asked to contribute funds to the Red newspaper, the Daily Worker. She says she refused to become a Red, and thereupon the social workers union refused to accept her dues. She resigned, and later tried to rejoin the union. But they told her she had been found guilty of - - red baiting.

CUBA

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A story of tragic irony comes from Havana. In the same house lived two men who looked very much alike. You could hardly tell them apart. Their professions, on the other hand, were strikingly different. One was Bernardo Garcia Menendez, an employee of a radio station. The other was Captain Abelardo Caro, a police official - - who took an important part in the suppression of revolutionary movements. The elements of discontent bitterly hated this police Captain Caro.

Today, the radio employee was walking along the street, when an automobile drove up. In it were several men - - and they had a machine gun. There was a deadly rattle of rapid fire, and bullets cut down and killed the radio man. Before speeding away, the killers tossed a card, which fell near the body - - a card on which were written the following words, "this is the will of the revolutionary dead."

The Havana authorities say it was a case of mistaken identity.

The assassins were gunning for the Captain of Police - - who lived in the same house as, and looked so much like, the victim.

SKI STORY

Again tonight several hundred skiers are sitting around me. So many in fact that the Eastern Slopes Inn has been unable to accommodate them all with chairs and many are sitting on the floor, within arm's reach of the microphone.

Frequently I receive letters from people in South America who tell us they listen regularly to this Blue Sunoco ~~XXXX~~ broadcast. And, I hope they are listening tonight, listening at Farayones, in the Andes near ~~Santa~~^{tiago}, and at the foot of those spectacular, constantly erupting snow-clad ~~XXXX~~ volcanos of Chile, *a skier's paradise. I hope* because, here with me are Arturo Podesta, President of the National Ski Association of Chile, Captain Eugenio Errazuriz, and the other members of the ~~ski~~ Chilean Ski Team.

SHOUT:- Hooray for the Chileanos!

John Jay, an American ski expert ^{sitting here} is in charge of the party. *It's the first So. Am. ski team ever* They are going to visit nearly all the principle ski spots in North America during the coming weeks, taking part in races down our North American mountains, both here in the East and in the West, taking on all-comers. And, we wish them luck, don't we?

many in Chile are listening to come north.

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SHOUT:- Yea, we sure do!

This week they are limbering up at North Conway, on Cranmore mountain, having their first try-out on our North American brand of snow, which they say is altogether different from their snow in the high Andes of Chile. Up here it is hard packed at present, and very fast. And the weather is plenty cold. In Chile, how is it Captain Errazuriz?

CAPTAIN E:- In the first place, Lowell, in our Chilean ~~and~~ Andes the temperature seldom drops lower than what you call twenty-five degrees above zero Farenheit. And, our snow is deep and fluffy, not hard packed. And, we don't have so many trees to dodge!

L.T. Well, I've been skiing with you Chileans today and I can say that you are going to give a good account of yourselves no matter what kind of snow you run into ~~up~~ up here.

Sitting near the microphone tonight also are a group of the famous ski pros of the Eastern Slopes: Benno Rybiska and Toni Matt, and the Maestro himself, Hannes

Schneider. SHOUT:- Hooray for Hannes

And if Hugh James in N. Y. will take over now I'll say hooray for him.

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