

MR. HUGH GIBSON - SUNOCO. MONDAY, April 12, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The latest from Africa is a rumor that the Nazi generals have already begun evacuating by air. That report comes from Dakar ^{but} ~~and~~ is not official, and more than a trifle dubious. There are too many conflicting reports and probabilities, which we may consider later.

For the moment, the important thing is that

46 The British Eighth Army is in Sousse and roaring on up the east Tunisian coast in hot pursuit of Rommel. Sir Bernard Montgomery will certainly go down in ^{military} history as one of the most illustrious ^{of} British generals. His advance from El Alamein all the way across the desert and past several fortified strongholds into the heart of

It is an epic. It
Tunisia ranks as one of the greatest marches of all
time from Xenophon's ^{anabasis} ~~march~~ to the Bosphorus ^{down} through
the ages. ~~With~~ ^{with} no matter whom you compare him, this ~~is~~
has been not only a heroic but a brilliant achievement.

When they took Sousse, the British were advancing
at the incredible speed of forty-eight miles in one day.
There is no not a single ^{city, port} ~~sixxxxxxxx~~ or fortified place
between Tunis and the Anglo-American armies. Sousse,
of course, had become quite untenable after the capture
of Kairouan, the Holy City of the Moslems only thirty-one
miles to the southwest. The American army had been
hammering at Kairouan for days. Finally, the armored
advance guard of the British First Army blasted its way
through some forty or fifty Axis tanks and cleared the
way for the American infantry. Thus that Holy City,
founded in Six hundred and Ninety by the Arab Conqueror
Okba, fell into our hands with ^{its} a ring of airdromes around

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Thereupon the Allies fanned out north and northeast, ~~then~~ pursuing Rommel's rapidly retreating rear guard. They went ahead fifteen miles before they came upon a strong detachment of Axis anti-tank guns which held them up.

If Sir Bernard Montgomery holds the record,— equal to our old friend Xenophon's, of having advanced fifteen hundred miles, which he did in five months,

Rommel also has a record. It is a record ~~retreat~~ of the same distance in the same time, a record without equal or parallel. And as a retreat it ^{has been} unquestionably a masterly piece of ^{manoeuvring} ~~business~~. In spite of the rapid advance of the British, he has been able to take the cream of his troops out of our reach and into the protection of a bristling loop of defenses.

48
So begins the last phase of the great battle

for Tunisia. United States and British armies are now set to enter the heart of the region that used to be Carthage, the scene of the last stronghold of the power and wealth and genius of the ancient Phoenicians.

As I said earlier, there are conflicting reports of Rommel's intentions. Now that he is joining forces with Colonel General von Arnim, Hitler's Field Marshal will be in supreme command, as he outranks von Arnim. The earlier supposition was that the Nazis would fight it out to the bitter end ~~in that narrow corner of Tunisia centering on Tunis itself and Bizerte,~~ ^{at} and then try to evacuate across the Straits of Sicily. But there was another report today that Hitler had given Rommel orders to duplicate, if he could, what the Russians did for so many months at Sebastopol. The Red Army held out there long after the Nazis had completely occupied the rest of the Crimea. It was one of the longest and most

49 desperately drawn out defenses in history. If Rommel can do anything like as well at Tunis and Bizerte, he will set the Allied program back more than we care to think. Military experts in London believe that is what he plans to do at Bizerte. It is now a terrifically strong fortress, both natural and artificial. The British believe it could be held for quite a time by a force of no more than thirty thousand. Rommel has at least two hundred thousand and more. Bizerte is much stronger than Tunis, and ~~ixixixf~~ its fixed defenses have been enormously strengthened in the last few months.

If it comes to an evacuation, Rommel and von Arnim will have a most formidable job. American Flying Fortresses and British Royal Air Force bombers have caused havoc among the shipping of the Axis of late. And the ~~British~~ Admiralty today reports that the submarines of ~~His Majesty's~~ ^{the British} fleet have been giving Nazi

5 - and Italian ships no end of trouble. ~~Two medium sized~~
supply ships, one medium sized tanker, and five small
supply ships have been destroyed in the last couple of
days. The British have landed torpedo hits on seven
other vessels including three large supply ships and
one large tanker. Allied planes and war vessels are also
raiding all the shipping in sight in the Aegean Sea to
forestall any Nazi evacuation to Greece. >

SOLOMONS

50

An Australian Cabinet Minister made an encouraging and optimistic prophecy today. It was Dr. Herbert Evatt, Foreign Minister of the Commonwealth. He is in Washington and had conferences at the White House with President Roosevelt and Harry Hopkins. As he left, he told newspapermen that before his mission is over, there will be good news for the American and Australian forces in the southwest Pacific and bad news for Japan.

Meanwhile, our Navy released information that American bombers have been subjecting the Jap air forces in the Solomons to constant bombardment over the weekend. They are gradually pounding the enemy bases in the Solomons into a condition where they will soon be quite useless. Also, they are keeping Jap air power pinned to the ground.

RUSSIA

Not much of importance ^{le} from Russia today. That front ^{appears} ~~continues~~ to be stabilized, each side waiting for the other to start a Spring offensive. Moscow

51 ^{reports} ~~points out~~ that though the Germans have been attacking for three weeks, they have not gained a foot of ground. And they report that the Nazis have eased up their pressure on the Donets river line. 7

CHINA

In China, the Japanese are attacking on several widespread sectors. The Chinese armies are in a bad way from lack of supplies. The economic condition of the country is bad because the enemies have ~~all~~ all the best industrial and agricultural regions under control. There is fighting on four different fronts, widely separated from each other. The Chinese are holding their own, but under great difficulties.

So great are those difficulties that Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek ^{has} published another warning. The difficulties confront ~~ing~~ us, he said, now surpass all of those of the past six years. In fact, he continued, "this is our darkest hour." 13

TAXES

52 The fight over the next tax bill came to life again today in earnest. This afternoon, Speaker Sam Rayburn took a hand in it. Apparently he is now in complete accord with Congressman Doughton of North Carolina, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee. They both want a straight twenty per cent withheld from all salaries and no forgiveness of Nineteen Forty-Two taxes. Up to now the Speaker seemed to have an open mind on that forgiveness idea. But evidently he has been won over by Chairman Doughton who has all along ^{voiced} ~~spoken~~ the will of the Treasury.

There will be hot opposition from most of the Republicans and some Democrats. The opposition is led by Congressman Joe Martin of Massachusetts, the Minority Leader. He protested quickly and loudly. He maintains that the House has a right to vote on all phases of this pay-as-you-go tax. He wants to revive

53 discussion of the Ruml Plan - twenty per cent withholding but forgive all Nineteen Forty-Two taxes. Joe Martin sticks to it that there will be no Easter recess unless the pay-as-you-go bill is introduced under an open rule, meaning full discussion.

Chairman Doughton of the Ways and Means Committee announced that he is going to bring in a suitable bill providing for the twenty per cent ~~deduction~~ ^{withholding}. And he believes that he can put it over with the votes of the administration Congressmen and with the help of several Republicans.

Doughton and Rayburn insist that the straight twenty per cent withholding and no forgiveness of past taxes are necessary as a measure to stop inflation. Joe Martin, on the other hand, says it will put the people in the position of having to pay doubled-up taxes.

MANPOWER

54 By December Thirty-First every able-bodied man between the ages of eighteen and thirty-eight will be in the armed forces. So said Paul McNutt, head of the War Manpower Commission. The exceptions will be three million, two hundred thousand engaged in agriculture, in the churches and ⁱⁿ vital war industries. There are twenty million men in the United States between those ages. But only fourteen million of them are physically fit. That will leave ten million, eight hundred thousand for the fighting services.

General Hershey's office announced today that there will be no more deferment for men in Three-B. In fact, there is no such thing any longer as Three-B. Men who support only their wives or brothers, sisters and parents, will not be deferred unless they are in exempt occupations. And children born after September Fifteenth don't count.

WAR BONDS

54:30
MR. GIBSON: I'm sure most of you know, today is the first day of the new thirteen billion dollar Second War Loan Drive. The slogan of this drive is -- THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES -- YOU LEND YOUR MONEY. At this moment, there is a young man waiting to talk to you at the Halloran General Hospital, the Army's new hospital near New York City. He's been out where the fighting was tough, and he has a story to tell you -- his own story!

Go ahead, Private First Class, Anibal Irizarry!

IRIZARRY: I was in the infantry, in the fighting near Oran, when the business started in North Africa. I was born in Oregon -- but I lived most of my life in New York, in the Bronx.

In the fight, there were two Nazi machine gun nests that gave us a lot of trouble. So I went up and crawled around behind them, where I was higher up than they were. I was about seventeen yards from the first one, so I threw in a couple of hand grenades. That

cleaned out some of them, and the others quit. I got five prisoners.

6 Then I crawled over again, with my B.A.R. -- that's a Browning Automatic Rifle. I got about thirty yards from that one -- like from home plate to first base -- as far as you got to run when you hit a single. But this was easier than getting a single. I cleaned out some of the Nazis with the rifle, and then the others quit like the first ones. This time I got six prisoners. I got eleven prisoners all together. But then they got me -- with another machine gun. They hit me in the left leg and the right knee. The left one is pretty good now, and the doctors will straighten out the other one after a while. When the bullets hit you, the first thing you think is that is just couldn't happen to you. It's like getting a big kick -- and there you are. Then you see a lot of blood coming out of you.

7 The fighting was pretty hot, but I got first aid in about a half an hour. They took me to a ditch with

three or four other boys and a medical officer. The Nazis started shelling all around us then, and nobody could get to us. I stayed there for twenty-eight hours. The medical officer had a little food, but when you get it, you don't feel like eating.

Anyhow, I came back here. And when I saw New York Harbor -- gosh -- you don't know how it looked. Maybe if you ever been hungry for a long time, and all of a sudden you see everything you want -- that's how it looked to me.

MR. GIBSON: That's Private Irizarry's story. He didn't dress it up. He told you the truth, straight from the shoulder. These boys don't ask for very much. Just the tools to fight with -- the tools to fight OUR fight. And the least we can do for them, is see to it that they have all the tools they need, and then some more. That's what War Bonds are for, -- to help buy those guns and tanks, so that we can finish this war as quickly as possible. So that we can bring the boys

back home that much faster. Bring them back safely, too. So, in the end, it's up to you. YOU have to buy those bonds, billions of dollars worth -- with every dollar you can find. (Then the factories will pour out a flood of weapons, and the boys will use ^{8 1/2} those weapons to clean up every machine gun nest from here to Berlin and Tokyo.) You buy those bonds NOW, and then -- buy them again. (Every bond means that other boys like Private Irizarry are that much closer to knowing that wonderful feeling that comes when you see your home town on the horizon, coming closer all the time.) Let me say it once again -- Buy War Bonds -- and buy ⁹ them NOW! And now Hugh, what say you?

H. JAMES: Tonight, as part of their contribution to the United States Treasury's Second War Loan Drive, the Sun Oil Company has relinquished its usual closing commercial message so that you might hear this special broadcast direct from the new Halloran General Hospital. Let me add my word to Mr. Gibson's. It's just this --

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to remind you of the slogan for this new bond drive --

THEY GIVE THEIR LIVES -- YOU LEND YOUR MONEY! Now,

here's Hugh Gibson to say --

MR. GIBSON: Speaking for Lowell Thomas - so long
until tomorrow -