

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here I am once again broadcasting from the winter sports capitol -- from Lake Placid. Tomorrow night the annual ceremony will take place, the crowning of the King and Queen of Winter, in the great Olympic Arena. And, once again my Adirondack friends have asked me to do the crowning. The ceremony has a National Defense angle this year. And, a high ranking officer of Uncle Sam's Army is sitting beside me. But, before I tell you something curious about that, let's take a look at the news of the world as it came in to me this afternoon over my special Western Union wire that Sam Packer allowed me to set up in his office at the Lake Placid Club.

The Christmas truce has ended, and tonight bombs are thundering in London. It was the British who terminated the unofficial armistice when last night the Royal Air Force flew to the German invasion ports and blasted them. The Nazi response was prompt. The big guns across the channel at Calais started shelling the Dover area, and bombers dropped high explosives on various English towns. Then at night the air raid sirens shrieked in London and the roar of anti-aircraft fire began. Wave after wave of German bombers came winging; and right now it appears that London is in for one of the worst of bombing nights. Tomorrow will come the stories of havoc and devastation -- just as before the truce.

Way off on the fringes of the British Empire, a bitter protest was made today -- against the shelling of the Island of Nauru, a speck of land, a coral isle, in the remote Pacific. Prime Minister Menzies of Australia spoke of a sea raider, marked with a Japanese name, and flying the Japanese flag -- disguise. He said the island was without defenses and of no military consequence. He characterized the gun play as barbarous.

It sounds as if the raider attack might be a piece of spite work -- the island of Nauru having at one time belonged to the Empire

of the Kaiser. It was taken away from Germany by the Treaty of Versailles.

The fact that the raider was disguised as a Japanese caused queries in Tokyo today. The Japanese navy states that it has no knowledge of any such raiding ship. And Japanese spokesmen added that for a German warship to fly a Japanese flag would be regarded as "a serious matter."

These German troops movements in Rumania are still without any clear explanation. Reports from Budapest state that masses of troops are being concentrated in Western Rumania near the frontiers of Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. This is exactly the area from which the Germans in Rumania would move if they intended to help Italy by attacking the Greeks. On the other hand, there also are reports of large forces of German troops on the border of large forces of German troops on the border of Bessarabia. That is -- facing the Red Army of the Soviets.

All in all, there's not much belief in informed quarters that the Germans are meditating any immediate violent stroke in the Balkans. The opinion is that they are more likely to be organizing in Rumania for a possible drive in the Spring -- when the severity of winter

lets up.

There are still others who surmise that the intentions of Hitler may not lie in that southeasterly direction at all -- maybe Spain and Gibraltar are the real thing. Or maybe it will be -- the invasion attempt that the British are so anxious about. The theory being that it would be Nazi policy to make various movements to keep everybody guessing.

PLANES

Here's a question often asked -- How many warplanes have we delivered to Great Britain during this present war?

Today we have an answer from an authoritative source; Charles Grey's famous magazine published in London, THE AEROPLANE, Britain's official journal of aviation. He gives us the information that in the year ending with September First, seven hundred and forty-three American built planes were sold to the British. So there's the figure -- seven hundred and forty-three. And not all of these were manufactured for Britain -- for the figure included those United States army planes which were traded in as old and obsolete.

British purchases of all kinds in the United States during the one year period amounted to seven hundred million dollars. Of this, seventy-two millions were spent for aviation equipment -- a little over ten per cent.

ROOSEVELT

At the White House consideration is being given to the defense plan propounded by the C.I.O. -- the scheme to utilize the automobile industry for airplane manufacture, and turn out five hundred fighting planes a day. Drafted under the direction of Walter Reuther of the United Automobile Workers of America, the plan was presented to President Roosevelt on Monday by Philip Murray, President of the C.I.O. Today the President stated that the new Supreme Defense Board is looking into the idea with earnest attention. He added that the project to use automobile factories to turn out five hundred warplanes a day involves complicated questions of technical management, and these require some careful study.

The President at his press conference was queried on the subject of peace -- and was exceedingly non-committal. He was asked about the proposals being made in Congress -- that the United States should take the lead in a movement to end the war. The President said he had no news on that subject -- not today.

FORD

Here's a late bulletin stating that the War Department has rejected the labor protest against a two million dollar contract with the Ford Motor Company. The army gave Ford an order for pigmy trucks. This was protested by Sydney Hillman, high official of the C.I.O., and member of the supreme national defense board.

He demanded the order should be cancelled because of charges against the Ford Company under the National Labor Relations Act.

The War Department gave wht it calls "careful consideration" and then decided to turn downthe protest and go ahead with the Ford order for army trucks.

ALIENS

In Washington, officials of the Alien Registration issued a warning today -- don't pay any attention to the fact that an alien may not be able to produce a receipt card to show that he registered.

The warning is especially directed to employers -- telling them not to discriminate against any alien who has no card. The reason, according to registration Director Harrison, is that his bureau has not been able thus far to supply cards to any more than half of the aliens, who actually registered. It may be some time before all the cards are mailed out. So there's every reason why many an alien should not be able to produce the proof that he did register.

Five million aliens have registered -- one out of every twenty-six persons in this nation -- is an alien. New York City heading the list, as might be expected -- with a registration of half a million. One out of every sixteen New Yorkers. The registration bureau is still warning any who have not registered -- urging them to do so at once.

LAKE PLACID CORONATION

Now to get back for a moment to this region of winter sports. As I mentioned I came up to Lake Placid to play the role of Archbishop of Canterbury in the coronation ceremony. Tomorrow night in the Olympic Arena I am supposed to crown a new King and Queen. Two N.B.C. stars are to be proclaimed the reigning monarchs for this winter, Marion Francis, Queen, and Frankie Masters, King. The coronation will be accompanied by the usual skating pageant, followed by a championship college hockey game. There are ski and hockey teams here this week from more than twenty colleges and prep schools.

Well, when the King and Queen make their way across the ice, and go slipping and sliding toward their throne -- and by the way, last year the Queen, in her ermine and all her lovely robes slipped on the ice and fell on her -- in fact she hit quite hard. Kay Kyser was the King last year and I think the vast crowd watching the ceremony hoped that Kay would take a spill. I know I did! But, what I started out to say was that this year the coronation will have a national defense angle. The United States Army is here in force. Rolf Munsen, three time captain of Olympic Ski Teams, is busy teaching our soldiers how to ski. He takes them in relays, a company at a time. At present,

he is training themen of the Twenty-Sixth Division. Lake Placid people are calling Rolf, "The General," and the General is sitting beside me, Oddly enough a lot of these soldiers who are being taught to ski are from the balmy south, and never saw anything more than a flurry of snow.

Tomorrow night when the King and Queen are crowned, these troops, led by Colonel James I. Muri, will be the guard of honor to the new King and Queen of Winter. And Jack Garren, impresario of the Olympic Arena, the man who puts on this winter spectacle has just told me something that struck me as ratherfunny. When the soldiers go out on the ice to do their maneuvering out there before the audience and before the King and Queen it would be highy embarrassing if a Top Sergeant gave a command and then suddenly if his own feet flew out from under him. And it would be funny if his troops all got to slipping and knocked each other down on the ice, and Funnier still if the Colonel fell. So, to avoid what happened to last year's Queen the soldiers are going to put strips of adhesive tape on the bottoms of their boots just before they go on the ice -- not national defense. Just self defense.

COLONEL MUIR

L.T.:- Colonel Muir, what's the purpose of all this Army skiing, this training that your soldiers are getting from Rolf Monsen?

COL. MUIR.:- Washington has ordered us to develop a Ski Patrol. If we are going to be ready for all emergencies we must have an Army that is capable of maneuvering no matter what the weather. So we are sending many of our men here to learn how to ski, to learn to travel through deep snow in the dead of winter. Later, they are supposed to help train the rest of the troops.

L.T.:- How do all your boys from Georgia, Alabama and Louisiana like this North Country, Colonel?

COL. MUIR:- Oh, they seem to be just as much at home up here in the snow as you would expect them to be in the sunny South. And, by the way, Lowell, I wonder if you heard the speech our Chief of Staff made last week, the one in which he referred to the way some communities are not helping Uncle Sam, communities where he said prices were being raised? Well it certainly has not been that way up here in this north country. In fact, here at Lake Placid it has been absolutely the reverse. The attitude of the people in this community is, let us pay. Meaning that they are doing everything

possible for the boys in the service. And, I would like to see them get full credit.

(APPLAUSE)

L.T.:- That applause you heard came from nearly a thousand people who are sitting in front of me. Some in the crowd are the soldiers of the Twenty-Sixth Division who are here learning to ski. And, they seem to agree heartily with Colonel Muir. The others applauding are the Lake Placid people headed by Supervisor Willis Wells, who naturally appreciate the tribute that Colonel Muir has just paid to the way the people up here in these mountains are doing everything they can to help along the National Defense movement.

RESCUE

There are two exploits of seamanship in today's rescue story -- which is a continuation of the one we had last night.

The coast guardsmen, who in two small boats, put out in a raging were found today -- all ten of them. They braved the anger of the sea to go to the aid of a disabled lumber schooner, but were caught in the clutch of the wildest storm the Pacific Coast has known for years. The search for them, about which we heard last night, has been successful. And that brings us to Exploit Number Number One.

The coast guard cutter Ariadne took them from their two small boats -- boats that were tossed like corks in boiling water. It was a difficult and perilous maneuver, a rare stunt of seamanship.

Two of the rescued men were injured -- badly enough to require quick medical care ashore. But the Coast Guard Cutter ~~she~~ could not get to shore -- not in the teeth of that lashing tempest. The cutter had to stay outside the crashing foam of the breakers.

Now comes Exploit Number Two. A Coast Guardsman, with plenty of nerve, made his way from the shore to the cutter. He did it in a surf boat, battling his way through the roaring combers. Reaching the cutter, he took the two injured men aboard his surf

boat, and then beat his way back to shore.

From the beginning to the end ~~of~~ this story brings new honor to the Coast Guard.

FLY

Can a fly pull an airplane? Just imagine -- a common buzzing housefly hauling a plane along through the air.

That's scheduled to happen, however, according to word from Kalamazoo, Michigan. The explanation of the prodigy is found in the fact that there is to be a model airplane contest at Kalamazoo - miniature planes, tiny ones. One model is to be so small that they're going to hitch a fly to it with a thread. And when Mr. Fly buzzes off, he will haul a model airplane along behind him. And won't that be a surprise to the house fly.

Here's one of those cases of complicated family relationship -- intricate degrees of kinship. Tonight at Aberdeen, South Dakota, Virgil Schense is his father's brother-in-law,,and the uncle of his three brothers and sisters. His three sisters are neices of his wife, and also her sisters-in-law. His wife is her sister's daughter-in-law, and her father-in-law's sister-in-law.

She is also her husband's aunt.

Now hod did things get that way? In case you can't figure it out, here's what happened. Today Virgil Schense, son of his father's first wife, married the sister of his father's second wife.

That's what caused all the tangles of kinship.

And now Hugh tell us something less complicated -- something to cheer us up.