

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

About the most exciting thing in the news tonight is an American air<sup>man</sup>'s description of the part that Uncle Sam's warplanes took in the Battle of the Mediterranean. The story comes in the words of Army Air Corps Major Alfred Kalberer, leader of the American flight. Before the war, Kalberer was <sup>one of our airline</sup> a transport pilot<sup>s</sup>. ~~He tells us how, in the Mediterranean for one of the big airliners. His men, he said, were~~ <sup>battle his men were</sup> fighting their first war action. Some of them, he added, had had only four hundred hours flying, <sup>and</sup> ~~but they~~ performed like veterans.

To hear Kalberer's account, you would think it was a sporting contest. After flying about five hundred and eighty miles, ~~he~~ <sup>he,</sup> said <sup>^</sup> "we sighted the smoke of the Italian craft about thirty miles away."

They were steaming along entirely unaware of our presence, on a course that would have eventually intercepted the British convoy." Each American plane

had a specific target. Flight A which I was leading,"

*said he,*

<sup>^</sup>"was over a big battleship. Each of my three planes

dropped a load of British-made semi-armored piercing bombs on the battleship. About twenty hits were scored

on one battleship and fifteen on another, in addition

to near misses." <sup>TP</sup> They also hit an Italian cruiser. *and,*

*the cruiser*  
Kalberer learned later that ~~it was sunk by a~~  
*finally went down as the result of a*  
torpedo from a British plane. And he added the typical

American phrase:- "It was like shooting fish in a rain barrel."

Later he related that the Italians were much friendlier than the British fleet."The Italians did not shoot at us at all, but the British did," *said he,*

*all of course,*  
~~It was, of course,~~ a mistake, ~~and did not~~ <sup>^</sup>no harm, *and*  
*no hard feelings.*

Every American plane returned to base without a scratch, after making more than two score hits on the enemy <sup>war</sup> ships.

The British acknowledged today that the four-day battle was only a limited success. <sup>That</sup> there <sup>had</sup> ~~were~~ <sup>been</sup> considerable losses to the Allied convoys, between Malta and Tobruk. And several big ships were damaged.

In fact, a report from a Spanish <sup>source</sup> ~~xxxx~~ near Gibraltar brings word that two British aircraft carriers and the thirty-one thousand ton battleship MALAYA arrived at Gibraltar today to remove dead and wounded. They were all damaged according to the Spanish report. But the damage to the MALAYA was not serious and all the ships entered under their own power. Only one British cruiser was listing heavily, when she appeared at Gibraltar. According to that Spanish source, friendly to the Axis of course, two British cruisers, three

destroyers and four corvettes have not returned to their ~~their~~ base at Gibraltar. <sup>Which</sup> ~~Of course that~~ does <sup>nt</sup> ~~not~~ mean that they are necessarily sunk or even damaged. They <sup>still be out,</sup> ~~be out cruising,~~ in search of more Italian warships.

<sup>at any rate</sup> as the battle recedes into the past, the part played by those American <sup>planes</sup> ~~airships~~ looms up as more and more important. Psychologically, the effect has quite obviously been even bigger than the material damage done by the two score hits that Major Kalberer reported. In London, the achievements of the American plane crews were hailed with particular cheers. The object of the Axis <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ not merely to hit a couple of convoys. Our enemies hoped for something bigger, nothing less than the crippling of the British fleet. In this they failed, for the action of the American planes forced the intercepting Italian fleet to turn tail and <sup>run</sup> ~~head~~

back to Taranto.

But almost as important is the interpretation that military observers in Britain are now expressing.

They believe that the arrival of American air reinforcements in the Mediterranean and the Middle East will prove to have turned the tide against the Axis.

9 They point out that now Hitler has to fight on three

aerial fronts. The Eastern front <sup>of the three</sup> now runs from

Kharkov all the way down to Tobruk. <sup>#</sup> The <sup>entrance</sup> ~~arrival~~ of

that striking force from our Army Air Corps thus may

change the whole aspect of the war in the Mediterranean.

*And they seem to have gone*

~~They got~~ into action at a critical time, after months

of careful preparation in the Near East. ~~and~~ *They have*

made it possible to expand the fighting areas over a

large <sup>part</sup> ~~extent~~ not only of the Mediterranean but also

of the ~~the~~ Black Sea.

It is also significant that right after this

battle we have news that Marshal Rommel's victorious advance in the Libyan desert has been stopped. Cairo says Rommel got as far as he did because he had just received great help in the form of a new type of anti-tank cannon.

As surmised, the continuous bombardment of Malta was a mask for the trans-shipment of reinforcements to Rommel. And with the new three-and-a-half-inch guns, he came ~~to~~ into possession of mobile artillery of greater range and power than anything the British have.

## RUSSIA

50  
The Russians also set the Nazis back on their heels. At Sevastopol, Hitler's generals had thrown all they had into one storm attack after another. Seven altogether, hurled at the southern approaches to the great fortress. But the Reds mobilized every able bodied soul in the city, even women. Those who couldn't fight huddled in caves, dug-outs and cellars, all night long, under constant bombardment from the air and heavy artillery. During the day, they scorned the bombs and stuck to their work making munitions for the fighters. At the end of twenty-two hours, they had the Germans exhausted. They were not driven off, but they had not gained ~~xxxxx~~ a foot. And the defenders of Sevastopol had a respite.

Further north at Kharkov, Timoshenko threw in a counter-attack which caught the Nazis off guard.

He chased them out of an important village, destroyed a motorized column, and relieved the pressure on the Russian line.

## TURKEY

Hitler is trying to make trouble between Uncle Sam and the Republic of Turkey. His Foreign Office and propaganda men have seized upon that forced landing of four United States bombers on Turkish <sup>soil!</sup> ~~land.~~

TP For years the Nazi Fuehrer has been doing his utmost to turn the Turks against the Allies. ~~and give up their neutrality.~~ But although Nazi agents have an enormous influence in the Turkish part of Asia Minor, Ankara has resisted all intrigues.

The way we know about the latest fenagling of the Wilhelmstrasse is through Radio Berlin, <sup>which</sup> ~~it~~ has been broadcasting spurious grapevine reports from Turkey, reports that there was anxiety in Turkish official circles about the forcing down of those four American bombers. The Nazi Radio pretends that the Turks are afraid that <sup>the</sup> ~~that~~ forced landing will become a precedent for violations of Turkish neutrality.



But the actual news from Ankara is that the trick has not worked, As a matter of fact, when the four U.S. bombers landed, crowds of Turks came to see them, and to welcome them with interest and cheers. Also the Turks were enthusiastic when they learned that the American planes had been bombing the Rumanian oil fields.

CHINA

In China, the Japanese have <sup>still</sup> another important town in their hands. <sup>But it</sup> ~~It~~ cost them more than eight thousand casualties. <sup>So</sup> ~~to take it,~~ says the communique from Chungking. ~~But~~ they have it, after the most savage kind of fighting; <sup>^</sup> the Chinese abandoned the ~~city~~ town. <sup>And it's</sup> ~~it is~~ important, because <sup>of</sup> <sup>^</sup> the eastern anchor of ~~that~~ eighty mile railway line, a part of the road from Hangchow to Nanchang, ~~which~~ <sup>which</sup> is still in Chinese hands. ~~E~~

On the other hand, the Chinese have recaptured a couple of towns in the central portion of Kiangsi Province, ~~as well as Changshan on the border of Kiangsi and Chekiang.~~

Although the Chinese gain advantages here and there and occasionally recapture towns, the ~~undeniable~~ truth is that the Japanese are advancing steadily. ~~all~~ ~~the time.~~ The ~~most~~ important aspect of this is, that they are shifting their military strength northwards.

TT The Chinese intelligence claims to have information that the Japs are sending a constant stream of warplanes north, taking them from Burma, from their captured islands of the Netherlands East Indies, and from the Philippines. The obvious answer is an attack from Manchuria on the maritime provinces of Siberia.

3 { The Japs already have thirty-three divisions in Manchuria. To add to them, large contingents are being transferred from Formosa and also from northern China.

This move has an international aspect and follows upon the agreement of the Allies to open up a second front in Europe. If Hitler has to fight on two fronts in Europe, they say, the Japs will force Russia also to fight on two fronts.

JAVA

Three months ago we heard the <sup>melancholy</sup> ~~bad~~ news that the Japanese had conquered Java. Today we learn that the conquest has not been complete. Moreover, we learn it from the Japanese-controlled radio at Batavia. The Japs broadcast a report that they had <sup>just</sup> just captured Major General Pesman, commanding officer of Dutch guerrilla groups in Dutch Java. Thus for the first time we learn that resistance to the Japs has been going on in the Javanese interior all these months. Dutch officials who escaped from Java point out that the specific mention of Pesman's name <sup>alone</sup> ~~and none other~~, means that other generals of the Netherlands army are still uncaptured.

54

Not so long ago, Tokyo Radio announced the capture of some Americans in Java, Americans who were known to have been serving in the United States Hundred and Thirty-First Artillery; ~~that is~~ a regiment composed

of former members of the Texas National Guard. The way these Japanese broadcasts have been couched, now leads to the inference that a sizeable slice of the Hundred and Thirty-First, under the command of Colonel Albert Searle of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, is still resisting the Japs in the hills and forests of west Java. Searle, a bald, chunky man of fifty, is known in the army as a stout fellow, a two-fisted guy. In the last war he received the Order of the Purple Heart and the Silver Star, and just before the collapse of Java he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

PETAÏN

Just two years ago today, we heard one of the most tragic broadcasts <sup>any</sup> ~~that~~ radio has ever ~~carried over~~ <sup>put on</sup> the air. It was the voice of Marshal Petain announcing that he had taken over the government of France and <sup>that he had</sup> ~~asked~~ <sup>Adolph</sup> Hitler for an armistice. After that, we heard the strains of a band playing the "Marseillaise", which at that moment became the funeral dirge of the Third Republic.

Today, the eighty-six year old Marshal P- delivered another radio address to his people, and it was no oration of cheer <sup>either,</sup> Rather, he admitted, that his government had been in many respects powerless; <sup>and</sup> his program of appeasement and collaboration with Hitler a failure. He admitted that he had been unable to win the French people over to playing vassal to the age-old enemy.

He described that day in Bordeaux two years

ago as one of the cruellest dates in French history.

He made no attempt to deny the sufferings and the low

estate of <sup>his</sup> ~~the~~ country. <sup>nor</sup> ~~he~~ did <sup>he</sup> ~~not~~ try to excuse the

weakness of his own government. He used these words:-

"I know that the government of this country has made

mistakes." And he added:- "Amid an absence of

sufficient victuals to keep body and soul together,

<sup>a</sup> ~~and~~ slack and sometimes incapable administration has

allowed inequalities and abuses to be added." <sup>TP</sup> He said

further:- "The workman is suffering, the farmer is

impatient, mayors are overworked, and the punishment of

speculators remains inadequate." <sup>He also declared</sup> ~~Then he went on to say~~

that the inertia, greed and egoism of many Frenchmen

have rendered many of the government's efforts

ineffective. ~~And he added:-~~ <sup>TP</sup> "The response to my appeals

has been weak. Nevertheless," the aged Marshal said,

"I have not lost confidence. <sup>France will</sup> ~~France," he declared.~~

~~will~~ find herself again!"

*The aged*

^ Petain then used a sterner tone. After the long tale of woe, he announced that his government, finding appeals of no avail, would use force. It will try to stamp out discontent and public anger by punishments.

*all of which*

^ ~~That~~ corroborates with an official seal the many tales of unrest that we have heard out of Europe. On top of that admission by Petain, we learn that the Yugoslav guerrilla army of General Mihailovitch is becoming more active than ever. The Yugoslavs claim that they have compelled the Axis to use no fewer than seventeen Italian divisions in Yugoslav territory *as well as* ~~besides a number of~~ Bulgarian and Hungarian troops.

27  
In Norway there is a new cause of discontent.

Whole families of Germans, refugees from the bombed cities of Cologne, Rostock and Luebeck are flocking



into Norway. To give them living quarters,

Norwegians are being turned out of their apartments

and houses.

## PAY

Here is news that ought to raise some lusty cheers in Iceland, in Australia, in Ireland - wherever American soldiers and sailors are. Alaska, Africa, India, and so on. President Roosevelt today signed his name to the bill that makes our boys far the highest paid fighting force in the world. They always were, even at thirty dollars a month. But the new figure, fifty dollars a month for the lowest grades and ratings, that nearly doubles it! In the days a soldier received mighty little compensation for risking his life. And if he came home with money in his pockets, it represented just one thing -- loot. With the Nazis and Japs, looting is still the order of the day.

The bill which the President has just signed gives our men their increase as of June First. And it goes all the way up the line from the lowest grade private and seaman-apprentice to second lieutenants and ensigns. A first class private and seaman second class will be paid fifty-four dollars a month; a

sergeant and third class petty officer, seventy-eight dollars a month; master sergeant and chief petty officer, a hundred and thirty-eight dollars a month. Second lieutenants and ensigns will receive eighteen hundred a year, a hundred and fifty dollars a month.

But the bill is good news also to officers of higher rank. For it removes the limits which the law applies at present to the allowances that an officer may ask for subsistence and rental. Which is an important item in the life of an officer.

And now Hugh something important from you.