

QUENTIN REYNOLDS - SUNOCO MONDAY MARCH 13, 1944
Standard

Roger Krupp
Thanks ~~Hugh James~~, and Good Evening Everybody:

Tonight I have the good fortune of being able to tell one really great piece of news. The Russian army is at the Black Sea. Stalin announced today that the Soviet forces were once more in possession of the historic old town of Kherson, at the mouth of the Dnieper River, once the site of a famous colony of settlers from Greece, Then it was called the ^{*Ceers*} Tauric Chersonese and we used to hear a lot about it in our school days in connection with Iphigenia, the daughter of Agamemnon, remember? Just as Agamemnon was about to sacrifice the gal, the Goddess Artemis snatched her away, whisked her off to Kherson, where she became a priestess, and the heroine of long and serious dramas in Greek and German verse, *very long and very serious, especially when you had to translate them.*

Today that ^{region} ~~town~~ at the mouth of the Dnieper is bound up with something ^{of greater moment} ~~more important~~ than mythology and dramatic poetry. The recapture of Kherson is a real triumph for the Red armies. In his order of the day announcing the news, Stalin reported that it had been taken by the men of the Third Army of the Ukraine, veterans of the victory at Stalingrad.

The end came with amazing rapidity. ~~In fact,~~ ~~Moscow reports that the retreat by the Nazis has taken on the proportions of a panic.~~ Yesterday the Russians were no further than a place called Tyaginka, twenty-two miles away from Kherson. In other words, they made the last stretch at the rate of almost a mile an hour, ~~an advance of incredible rapidity for a fighting army.~~ By the time they got there, the Germans had evidently evacuated the place and left only a rear guard to put up a delaying action, ~~for~~ The Third Ukraine army had

complete possession of the town ~~from~~ ^{plus 150 other towns & villages} very soon after arriving there. The recapture of Kherson means that they will soon have Nikolaev at the mouth of the Bug River, and from there it is only a hundred miles to Odessa and the Bessarabian frontier.

But this is not all there is to the Russian story today. The Red armies are advancing all along a front of five hundred miles, all the way from Poland to the Black Sea. The First Ukrainian Army, under Marshall ^hZukov, is now only about a hundred miles away from the old Czech border, only fifty-two miles away from Rumania. ^hZukov recaptured the town of Skalat, eighteen miles to the southeast of Tarnopol. Meanwhile, the Second Ukrainian Army, under Marshal Konev, struck in three directions and retook more than a hundred and sixty inhabited places. That ~~army~~ ^{outfit} is now only seventeen miles from Vinnitsa, one of the principal German

LEAD 4

strongholds in those parts. There is no question that the Nazis in southern Russia are now in an exceedingly bad way. Their lifelines and roads of escape are definitely restricted to the railroads of Rumania through the Carpathians. So we can well imagine there is good cheer in Moscow tonight. I imagine the Mokania, Moscow's main street is crowded with people celebrating the great victory.

ITALY

Over in Italy, General Mark Clark is getting ready for a break in the weather. It has been too wet, muddy and cold for any big league fighting at either the Anzio beachhead or Cassino. But the week began with a heavy bombardment by Allied big guns at Anzio. They were firing through the mist at Nazi targets that had been located earlier.

Kesselring's artillery fired back but on a considerably smaller scale. The Allied barrage is believed to be the prelude to another attack by the Fifth Army.

A formation of British Beaufighters was flying over western Mediterranean waters on patrol duty. To their amazement they spotted a couple of fast German transports. The Nazis had had the nerve to try to send their ships northward along the Spanish coast, running the blockade. They did not get by. The Beaufighters drove one of them ashore in flames and left the other settling at the stern.

And ~~tonight~~ tonight we have word that Soviet Russia has recognized the government of Marshall Badoglio and will exchange diplomats. That means that Italy now acquires full status as a belligerent ^{co-} ^{among} of the United Nations.

The German general staff is being forced to conserve its air force.

Our own General Spaatz is determined to challenge the German air arm to a duel in the air.

It is hinted that he may even broadcast in advance the target at which raids will be aimed and thus force the Nazi air generals to leave the ground and fight.

In the air war over Europe, something quite remarkable developed today. General Doolittle sent out his heavy bombers in another attack on northern France the third in three days. They were Flying Forts, escorted by Thunderbolt fighters. The remarkable fact is that they ran into not a single Nazi interceptor plane. The only opposition came from flak, which destroyed only two of our big bombers.

On top of that, we hear that the raids by Liberators against the Atlantic wall fortifications on Saturday and Sunday also ran into no Nazi interception in the air.

These facts led to the inference that the Nazi high command is keeping its fighter force ~~in~~ behind a line extending from Leipzig to Brunswick. In other words, American bombers can go anywhere they want west of that line, without running into air interception.

DOOLITTLE

Incidentally, Jimmy Doolittle is promoted. The nomination
~~A promotion for Jimmy Doolittle! His name was~~

sent to Congress today by President Roosevelt. The leader
of the historic raid on Tokyo, now in command of Uncle
Sam's Eighth Army Air Force, with headquarters in

Britain, is to become a lieutenant-general, ~~of course,~~
as soon as the lawmakers approve,
~~his promotion has to be approved by the lawmakers, but~~
~~it is hardly within the bounds of probability that they~~
~~will refuse~~

IRELAND---

Fires burned hotly today in the controversy over Eire. The men of Ulster went on the rampage, demanded that the frontier between northern and southern Ireland be closed ^{tight} and cried for economic penalties.

A member of Parliament from ~~Belfast~~ a Belfast district made a formal demand upon Prime Minister Churchill for drastic measures against ^{the} ~~that~~ most distressful country. He wants the Churchill government to refuse to send any more coal, oil, gasoline, tin or anything else to Ireland. The member who made this request is a professor at Queens University in Belfast.

It turns out tonight that Eamon deValera asked the governments of Canada and Australia to intercede for him at Washington. He wanted Prime Ministers McKenzie-King and John Curtin to ask Secretary Hull to withdraw his note demanding the expulsion of the Jap and Nazi agents from Dublin. McKenzie King and Curtin both promptly refused.

ADD IRELAND

The action of the British government forbidding travel between Ireland and Great Britain was a great shock to the Irish people at large. At the same time, they were astonished that the frontier between Eire and Northern Ireland had not been closed. As a matter of fact, it would be impossible to do that effectively. As the crow flies the line between the two divisions of the Emerald Isle is only ninety-five miles long. But the border wanders across the map so much that actually the frontier is three hundred miles. Therefore the British government would need an enormous force of men, probably as many as five hundred thousand

to close it effectually. men to stop traffic across that line which at some points runs through the middle of border villages and towns.

STRIKE

The coal strike in Great Britain is breaking up and that ends a serious threat to the Allied cause. The war effort of not only Great Britain but of the United Nations depended considerably upon a large and constant supply of that good British ^{steam} coal. About one third of the hundred and four thousand strikers ~~miners~~ went back to the pits in Wales and by tomorrow most of the Scottish miners will be back on the job. The men are not ~~xxxif~~ satisfied with the government terms, but they decided to return to work and leave the differences in arbitration.

The strikers in Australia also finished their walk-out. They decided this only by a narrow majority, after being idle a whole month.

At last there is some real news from the campaign in Burma, worth talking about. British Imperial forces have captured a place called Buthidaung^{pro}. This, we learn, is the eastern hinge of the main defense line of the Japs in western Burma. ^{It} ~~This~~ means, for one thing, that the Fourteenth Army now has both ends of a railroad which the Shambos had built up into an intricate system of forts. And it begins to look as though the British will soon have that entire line.

The tone of the dispatches indicates that this was an operation of major importance. The British inflicted heavy casualties on the ~~shambos~~^{Nips} and grabbed large quantities of booty.

Meanwhile, the Chinese and American fighters under the command of our own Vinegar Joe Stilwell, did well for themselves in northern Burma. They pushed ahead until they are now within striking distance of an important pass, a strategic road through the mountains.

PACIFIC

And here is tonight's news from the Pacific.

Liberators of both the Army and Navy air forces attacked the Japs on Wake Island. They dropped fifty tons of bombs, but ~~xxxx~~ we are not told how much damage they accomplished. Meanwhile, other B-twenty-fours of the Army air force pounded Nauru, a phosphate island on the southern flank of the Marshalls.

On the same day, other Army and Navy air formations attacked three Jap bases in the eastern Marshalls. None of these formations ran into any fighter interception.

Of themselves, these raids do not sound awfully important. But they really have one meaning worth noting. They indicate how quickly our fighting forces are able to convert the places they capture from the Japs into bases for offensive operations.

According to an interpretation from Washington,

the attack on Wake Island was part of a general plan to harrass the Japs there as much as possible and force them to abandon the island. After the capture of Eniwetok, the Jap garrison at Wake is in an exceedingly *exposed* ~~dangerous~~ position.

... the eastern Ocean for nine months. For crew is proud of having one of the great losses in the history of carrier aviation. They have a record of forty Jap ships either sunk or damaged, one hundred and twenty-nine enemy planes shot down, while only six nine of their own aircraft were lost in combat.

The planes from that ship took part in the raid on Marcus Island in August, Nineteen Forty-three. Wake in October Nineteen Forty-three, or Rabaul in December Nineteen forty-three, on by the Gilberts and other islands. They helped to seal the occupation of the Marshalls, and they helped to the raid on Truk and another raid on Japan.

CARRIER

A thrilling story comes from the log of one of Uncle Sam's aircraft carriers which has ~~been~~ just finished a tour of duty in the Central Pacific. We have only fragments of the ^{full tale} ~~story~~ tonight, but they are enough to make every American proud of his Navy. The ship is an Essex type carrier which has been roaming the western Ocean for nine months. Her crew is proud of having one of the great teams in the history of carrier aviation. They have a record of forty Jap ships either sunk or damaged, one hundred and twenty-nine enemy planes shot down, while only ~~nine~~ nine of their own aircraft were lost in combat.

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And here is one part of the record of which they are ^{particularly} proud. Only one bomber from that carrier was shot down by Jap interceptors. The other eight were all bagged by enemy flak. They are proud of that fact because it illustrates the skill of the operations. Ensign Clyde Lee of Sandy, Oregon, said that in all the months he had been flying out there he had never so much as seen a Zero. That was because the Hellcats from the carrier took care of the ~~the~~ Zeros before the bombers even caught sight of them.

9 The greatest day that outfit had was in the attack on Rabaul in November and the subsequent counter attack of ~~the~~ the Japs on the U. S. carrier force. On those two days the fighter squadron from that carrier destroyed no ~~was~~ fewer than fifty-five enemy planes in the air. One Hundred Jap bombers took part in the counter attack and only a few of them were able to limp back to their base when it was all over. In the raid on Rabaul they sank a Jap destroyer and damaged eight cruisers. ~~The~~

At Truk they sank one ammunition ship and four cargo ships, damaged three light cruisers, fifteen cargo ships and an oiler.

And there you have just a bare ~~■~~~~■~~~~■~~ outline of what the team of one American aircraft carrier accomplished in nine months.

BOMBER

The town of Caldwell, New Jersey, entertained a distinguished visitor today. That distinguished visitor goes by the picturesque name of "Hell's Angels." Yes, you've ^{guessed} ~~guess~~ it, a Flying Fortress with a whale of a record. Between November, Nineteen Forty-two and December, Nineteen Forty-three, Hell's Angels served on forty bombing missions, without developing a single mechanical trouble. But when the big bomber did find a run-in to punishment, it was plenty. After one of the biggest raids on Germany, she returned to her base in England, with two engines shot away and a third badly damaged. In fact, she achieved, the impossible, coming home on ~~little or~~ ^{literally} nothing but one engine and a prayer.

Hell's Angels is to make a tour of war plants on the home front. At the controls are two pilots, Captain John W. Johnston of Orlando, Florida, and Captain Irl Baldwin of Yakima, Washington. The ground crew that kept her in such fine order are also on the tour.

R.E.A. follow F.S.A.

The cold March winds blew ~~bleaking~~^{bleakly} around the Rural Electrification Administration today. You may remember that last week we heard why Jonathan Daniels, assistant to the President, wanted to fire Harry Slattery, the head of the R.E.A. Today Claude Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, added his bit to the tempest. Previously, Wickard had refused to testify before a Senate sub-committee on Agriculture, But today he talked, and minced no words. He told the Senators that he considered Slattery untruthful, undependable, untrustworthy and incompetent. Senator Gillette of Iowa interrupted and asked why he had not preferred charges if he found all those defects in Slattery. Wickard replied that Oh, he didn't like to do that. *But he tried to fire Slattery and, so far, has a score of no hits and no runs.*

F.S.A.

One celebrated New Deal agency appears to be slated for the discard. That is, the Farm Security Administration. A sub-committee of the House has been investigating it for ten months and today publishes a report recommending that the F.S.A. be abolished. However, the Committee wants to keep some of its functions alive to turn over to another agency, the Farmers' Home Corporation, which Congress created in Nineteen thirty-seven but which never was set up.

Am Drop

Pity the poor cops of Paris. In addition to having the problems of keeping order in a city occupied by the hated Germans, they now have a first class Number One who-done-it murder mystery on their hands. After a fashion that has become classic in France, the criminal they are seeking committed not one murder, but ~~about~~ twenty-~~of them~~ *five.*

(Crime story fans will remember the Bluebeard case of Nineteen Twenty-One, the case of Landru, a squat, bewhiskered little knave who had a fatal fascination for the ladies. The Paris police have a similar case on their hands.] They are looking for a fellow they describe as the mysterious Dr. ~~Patetie~~ *Petiot*.

playful
This ~~amiable~~ fellow won his way to the hearts of at least twenty-five women. He lured them to a villa that

he had rented near the Arc de Triomphe, killed them, chopped them up, and burned the remains. *Life in Brooklyn* ~~The police~~ never was like that - not even the part of Brooklyn where I was reared.