

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

All through this war they've been giving battles large and sounding names -- the Battle of France, the Battle of Britain, the Battle of the Full Moon, the Battle of the Atlantic. Tonight we can foresee a new name, as grandiose and resonant as the others -- the Battle of Mt. Olympus. That mountain of such great and fabulous renown, the home of the gods -- Zeus, Apollo, Venus, Athena and the other Olympian divinities. The legended peak overlooks the Aegean Sea, the northern coast of Greece, right around the bend of the Gulf of Salonika. The armored columns of the Nazis having captured Salonika, the new Greek and British defense line begins at Mt. Olympus; is anchored to the peak that was the home of the Grecian gods.

From Olympus the defense line runs in a northwesterly direction, about halfway across the Greek peninsula. Then southwest, to the Greek positions in Albania. Thus, the line takes the form of an angle. At the apex of the angle is the Greek frontier city of Phlorina, and that's where the crisis of war is focused tonight. There the British and Germans are fighting. The Empire forces have entered the fray. They began with skirmishing, as

German advance units appeared from the north. These preliminary skirmishes are developing into what may turn out to be a great and crucial battle. Perhaps it's raging right now - the British and Germans in the full clash of war!

Today's news told of another ~~one~~ of those swift slashing strokes by the armored columns of the blitzkrieg.

German tank units, having cut across southern Serbia, turned fast and went south. They drove at what is called Monastir Pass, which is of vital strategic importance. Monastir Pass is the only good way through the mountains that tower at the border of Yugoslavia and Albania - just north of Greece. And Monastir Pass leads directly to the apex of the angle formed by the Greek and British lines. ^{Phlorina.} Nazi tank units crashed through the gap of ^{Bitoly} Monastir. They captured a town called Bitolj, which is beyond the Pass. They moved on toward the town of Phlorina, ~~which is at that~~ apex of the defensive angle.

It was near Phlorina that they clashed with the British - the first fighting between the Empire forces and the

Panzer units in the Balkan struggle. The Nazis are driving to seize Phlorina, and on this may depend the issue of the campaign.

The town is a vital road center. Behind it good highways fan out to the east and west. If the German motorized forces get onto those roads, they ^{would threaten} ~~might be able~~ to flank the Greeks in Albania on one side, and the British on the other side - the British position along the line that leads to Mt. Olympus.

Simultaneously, the Germans moving from Salonika, are thrusting at the Olympus area. They ^{we captured the} ~~are said to have moved~~ ^{town of Vanitza,} ~~thirty miles beyond Salonika,~~ ^{an important position.} If they should break through

in that end sector of the line and at the same time should crack

the defense at Phlorina, the apex of the line, the British and

Greeks might be compelled to make a general retirement. Behind

them lies fairly level land, the ^{great} ~~Greek~~ plains of Thesaly - ideal

for the swift movements of the Panzer troops. The next good line

of mountains is down in central Greece, and the British and Greeks

^{would} ~~will~~ have to establish a defending front there - if they were

thrust out of their present angle anchored at Mt. Olympus.

To the north in Jugoslavia, there's a report that the Germans today captured Belgrade, the Yugoslav capital. If true, it doesn't mean much. Belgrade is now without much military importance. Probably the blitzkrieg army could have captured it previously - but didn't bother.

It would appear that the isolated armies of the Jugoslavs ~~seem to be~~ disintegrating. Today, the Croat radio reported that General Simovitch, the Yugoslav leader, ^{has} ~~had~~ ordered his divisional commanders to act on their own initiative hereafter. Meaning - each division on its own - without direction from the central command. If that is true, the general organization of the Yugoslav army has broken up. ^H The Croat radio issued one ominous warning, declaring that ^{captured} Serbian officers of the Yugoslav army would be held as hostages. ~~--- those that have been captured.~~ Hostages for the good treatment of the Croat troops in the Yugoslav forces. The new Croat state, which has revolted from Jugoslavia, has demanded the allegiance of all Croat-Jugoslav soldiers. If these, trying to obey the order, should be maltreated, the policy will be ~~---~~ ^{so} "an eye for an eye," - proclaimed the separatist leaders of the Croats

today. They add that an entire Croat division, led by a ^{major,} ~~major,~~
has deserted from the Yugoslavs with all its equipment.

GENERALS

The story of the capture of the three British generals was told by Cairo today. Last night the news made one wonder -- how did it come about that Britain's three top-ranking commanders in Libya were seized by the Germans and Italians in a clash in the desert?

Cairo today states that in the British retirement before the sudden Nazi- Fascist thrust, the three generals were on their way to their new headquarters. They were in automobiles, and came upon a large British convoy of trucks carrying supplies. The country was not the flat sand of the desert, but a rugged area of hills. Something had happened to block the road, the line of trucks was halted. And -- so were the automobiles in which the generals were riding. It was bright moonlight, the brilliant moonlight illumination of the desert -- when suddenly a small German-Italians patrol appeared, moving swiftly on motorcycles. They approached the rear of the convoy, which was guarded by a car armed with a machine gun. The motorcycle detachment shot the gunner and with sub-machine guns held up the cars with the generals. And so were captured

the three ranking commanders of the Empire forces in Libya!

One of them, Lieutenant-General Sir Richard O'Connor, Commander-in-Chief of the British in the desert.

Here's the latest —
the battle has just
begun — in Libya — a
clash near Tobruk, says
London.

RED SEA

The President has opened the Red Sea to American ships,
thus enabled ^{ing} them to make the voyage ^{to} through the Suez Canal.

Technically, the presidential proclamation opened only a small area of water.

Last June, when Italy entered the war, the White House applied the Neutrality Law to a narrow belt of water along a short distance of the African coast - the shore of the Italian possessions in East Africa. ^{American ships} ~~As Fascist possessions they were in the war, forbidden to go there,~~ and were pronounced to be combat zones under the Neutrality Act. ~~This Act, of course, forbids American vessels to enter any such combat zone.~~ The geography of that African area is such that the forbidden strip of water blocked the entrance to the Red Sea, leading to the Suez Canal. Now, however, the British have seized control of the shores of the Italian colonies in East Africa, and President Roosevelt responds by removing the neutrality restrictions from the adjacent waters.

Actually, today's presidential declaration goes far beyond the mere technicalities of what is or what is not a combat zone. It permits American vessels to transport cargoes right up

the Red Sea to the Suez Canal - that focal point in the Near Eastern ^{war} area. American vessels, however, ^{will not be} ~~are not~~ permitted to pass through the Suez Canal. For that would take them into the Mediterranean, which remains very much a combat zone - legally and otherwise. At the south entrance of the canal their cargoes would be transferred to British vessels, and taken on ~~to~~ to other destinations.

What kind of cargoes? The President said the ships could transport materials to non-belligerents - like Egypt, which ^{is} not formally in the war. But what about war cargoes, which might be brought by American freighters and then ^{be} ~~be~~ trans-shipped to the areas of battle? How would our Neutrality Law apply to that? The President said there was some question about it, and the latest is that Attorney General Jackson is making a study of the legal aspects of sending to the Suez Canal American vessels loaded with war materials for Britain.

It is obvious that today's action by the President may have important results for the British shipping situation in the

Near Eastern war. American vessels are enabled to do a transportation job, which the British ^{had} ~~now~~ have to do themselves - faced as they are with a shortage of shipping. ^{now} ~~^~~ [^] In Washington today it was stated that the United States could send more than twenty cargo vessels a week to the Suez area, without taking any ships from their present trade routes. However, it ^{is} a long haul, involving a voyage around the Cape of Good Hope and then up the African coast. The trip from New York to Suez is fourteen thousand miles, and for the general run of freighters the time required is seven or eight weeks.

AIR RAID

London believes that the R.A.F. gave a thorough blasting to the German battleships -- Scharnhorst and Gneisnau. The air raid took place last night. The two Nazi battleships were in harbor at Brest where the R.A.F. has bombed ^{them} time's before. This latest attack was made with what London describes as armor-piercing air bombs -- which sounds like something new. It was bright moonlight and the British war planes were able to take a good aim -- ^{with} ~~as~~ ^{what are described as} ~~describing what was called a~~ stick^s of bombs, a string of them. The R.A. F. fliers report that repeatedly they straddled the Scharnhorst and Gneisnau with sticks of bombs and believe that they scored disabling hits with armor-piercing high explosive.

FORD

Today the Governor of Michigan made the following statement to the newspapermen: "Gentlemen," he announced, "the Ford strike has been settled." Then he added that the hundred and twenty-five thousand Ford workers will start going back to work in the production plants on Monday. *Late this afternoon the agreement was signed,*
The end of the strike was clearly forecast last night, when both the Company ~~xxxx~~ and the Union accepted the three-point program suggested by Governor Van Wagener. The Ford Company made some reservations, and all that remained was to straighten these out. That occurred today. The principal point in the settlement is that there will be an election among the Ford employees - to decide who shall be the agent for the workers in collective bargaining.

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The eight-day walkout is estimated to have cost the strikers nearly eight million dollars in wages. The Company is said to have lost a great deal more by the complete shutdown of production. That production normally turns out twenty-five thousand automobiles and trucks a week. *IP* The Ford plants will be put into operation gradually, with immediate attention concentrated on

repairing machinery damaged during the labor dispute.

The Ford strike now goes on record as something of an historical marker in American labor relations. For years Henry Ford presented a determined front to union demands, never conceding. Of recent times the unionization of ^{his} ~~the~~ vast plants has been the Number One objective of organized labor. This the C.I.O. announced repeatedly. The crisis came with the national defense situation; ^{with} ~~union~~ demands as the nation embarked on its vast armament building program. And Henry Ford had his first strike - the one that ended today, with an agreement to hold an election for collective bargaining.

LABOR

In the coal strike, the Southern operators today called upon President Roosevelt and Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins to submit the dispute to the Labor Mediation Board. Negotiations to ^{end} settle the walkout have reached a stalemate, and today the Southern operators ~~walked out~~, withdrew from the discussion - sending to Washington a demand that the whole thing be placed before the Mediation Board.

General Motors reports that the C.I.O. ^{is} ~~has~~ threatened ^{ing} what is called - a general strike. That is - a walkout involving all ~~the~~ General Motors plants. This word was sent by the Company to the Secretary of Labor today. She promptly assigned a conciliator to begin an effort to avert the strike, ~~which would be a mighty big one and would involve huge orders for national defense.~~ The conciliator to whom the job is given is James F. Dewey - who played an important part in today's end of the Ford strike.

^{also} We hear of a possible ^{trouble} strike in the aluminum industry - and the word comes ~~ix~~ with an alarming angle - Communist. Chairman Dies of the Dies Committee stated today that the Reds were about to make a concerted attempt to tie up aluminum. ~~It~~ He put it in these

words:- "Evidence has just been placed in my possession showing that the Communist Party during the next few days will bend every effort towards bringing about a general strike in the aluminum industry." So says Congressman Dies.

BOXING

Here's a news bulletin which tells us that the Army and Navy are going to do a lot of fighting. No, I don't mean to imply that we are about to enter the war, with the Army and Navy campaigning against the enemy. They're going to fight each other. Well, you know -- that old feeling of love and affection ^{between} ~~for~~ the services? The soldiers and sailors are going to shellac each other, not with bullets and bayonets -- but with boxing gloves.

Today in New York a conference was held between Mike Jacobs, the ace fight promoter, and, former heavyweight champion Gene Tunney -- who is Director of Sports for the Navy. They made plans for a series of boxing shows, with the two services competing against each other. The bouts will be between professional boxers who are now in military camps ~~services~~ and serving with the fleet. Gene Tunney tells ~~me~~ me that quite a few of the top-ranking pugilists are in the service. He mentioned such headliners as Steve Beloise, Patsy Parone, Al Davis, ^{Melio} ~~Melio~~ Bettina.

The first clash will occur at Jacksonville, Florida on May Seventeenth. To add to the pugilistic glamour they'll have champions as referees -- Joe Louis, Billy Conn, Fritzie Zivik, Lew Jenkins. The gate receipts will be donated to the Infantile Paralysis Fund.

And as for the glory -- well, you know how the soldiers and gobs
will root for their respective sides, the army and navy .

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