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GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

The Soviet High Command announces tonight that the Germans have raised the siege of Leningrad. Yes, they say that Hitler's hordes have given up, at least for the time being, given up their sixteen months' assault on the great city that once was the capital of Peter the Great.

This Moscow announcement, however, is not ~~nn~~ confirmed, that is, it's not admitted by the Germans. But, there are other reports that do tend to confirm it. For example, a story leaked out of Stockholm this morning that the Red Army had surrounded Schluesselburg. And that word Schluesselburg means key fortress. Schluesselburg originated in the days of Peter the Great, who started it as a part of his system of fortifications around Saint Petersburg. He erected it on the marshes at the mouth of the River Neva. And military engineers at the time thought that whoever held the Schluesselburg

would soon have the city itself. Well, Hitler captured the Schluesselburg. But he couldn't quite take Leningrad.

This morning's news from Stockholm telling about the surrounding of Schluesselburg was followed quickly by the announcement of its capture by the Red Army. And, says Moscow, after a fierce battle of seven days, troops from Leningrad joined hands with those from the Volkhov front on January eighteenth, which is today.

The Moscow announcement says further that more than thirteen thousand Axis troops, meaning probably Germans and Finns, were killed in the relief of Leningrad. And, that two Russian commanders were responsible: Marshal Voroshilov and Marshal Zhukov. One pushing outward along the western shore of the River Neva. The other advancing from south of Lake Ladoga.

This news, naturally, ~~aroused~~ aroused considerable excitement in Washington. Some military authorities

say this may mean that the Russians were helped by the arrival of American tanks -- our mechanized equipment arriving by the northern route, via Murmansk.

The Leningrad bulletin further recalls previous communications of some months ago. It is now being remembered that the Nazis, on a hurry-up order, moved a lot of their heavy artillery from the outskirts of Leningrad all the way south to Stalingrad. That coincided with the date when Hitler issued the order to his army in the south to take Stalingrad at all costs. But after the big guns were brought to a point near Stalingrad, they were too late because the positions that were suitable for their emplacement had been recaptured by the Red Army. Thereupon the heavy artillery was shunted north again.

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The fighting that preceded the raising of the siege of Leningrad must have been fierce indeed. In one week the Russians tell of taking only twelve hundred and sixty-one prisoners, while they were ~~making~~

mowing down the Nazis at the rate of two thousand a day. And the Moscow High Command announces that four complete German infantry divisions were routed, plus two other regiments and a motorized unit.

There is also favorable news from the south which ordinarily would have been of first importance. The Red army announces the recapture of Kamensk. And, at the same time, they took Kanenka, a city a hundred miles to the northwest along the railroad from Rostov to Voronezh. Which puts Hitler's army at Rostov in more danger than ever.

The relief of Leningrad -- and we assume the news is authentic, although we have no observers there -- that relief of Leningrad will, undoubtedly, be recorded as one of the great achievements of the Red Army.

The conditions of the siege made it quite new, at least in the history of the last hundred years or so. For towards the end the besiegers themselves became the ~~be~~ besieged. Not that there is anything specifically

new in that, for it happened in many sieges during the last twenty-five hundred years. But, never before were besiegers quite so massively entrenched as the Nazis ^{around} were ~~XXXXXX~~ Leningrad.

Hitler's generals had transformed the siege ~~ix~~ lines there into one huge fortified zone of concrete and steel. In addition to that formidable wall, there were other fortifications, literally bristling with ~~XXXXXXXX~~ obstacles -- a system of defense eight miles deep.

To capture that mighty volume of fortifications numerous other surrounding strongholds had to be taken by the Russians.

The Red Army ^{announces} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ that its artillery silenced a hundred and seventy German heavy cannon and trench mortar batteries. And, the Reds count among their booty two hundred and twenty guns, a hundred and seventy-eight trench mortars, and innumerable machine guns and rifles. Also many tanks and armored cars.

RAIDS

Aside from Russian news the chief topic tonight is the work of the R.A.F. -- those raids on Berlin. The Nazis are making light of the damage done by the invaders, and are claiming to have bagged twenty-five British planes. The British Air Ministry admits that twenty-two bombers failed to return. But the American correspondents who went along as guests and observers came back reporting what they had seen with their own eyes -- telling of the terrific damage done by the ~~nix~~ giant Lancasters, Sterlings and Halifax bombers.

The British Air Ministry declines to specify just how many planes took part. But the reports from London indicate that at least several hundred dropped those block-busting bombs on the Nazi capital, in the heaviest yet on Berlin, and the first in two and a half months.

London newspapers today are demanding that the Air ministry stage a similar raid on Rome. This as a result of an announcement that Italian planes took part in raids on London.

Hitherto Rome, partly owing to a request by the Pope, has been held immune from aerial bombardment. But the dwellers on the Thames are getting a little fed up with the notion that Mussolini and his immediate neighbors shall be immune from raids all because of the historic monuments in the Eternal City. Mussolini's allies, they point out, have deliberately made targets of historic monuments all over England, particularly at Canterbury, where there could not have been the slightest pretense of military objectives.

In the latest raids the Nazis have made on London, in retaliation, the Luftwaffe lost ten planes. But there were only twenty-five or thirty German bombers in the attack on London, and most of them failed even to reach the outskirts of the city. While a vast R.A.F. armada was ~~ex~~ dropping a rain of those four-ton bombs on Berlin.

LIBYA

In Libya, British General Montgomery's Eighth Army is by this time no farther from Tripoli than South Bend, is from Chicago. Tripoli now is menaced by the advancing British by land ~~xx~~ and at the same time is subjected to a merciless bombardment from the sky. American heavy bombers drove over the Libyan capital, damaging the mole which ^{protects} ~~protects~~ the harbor, as well as other targets.

As for the U.S. Air Force, the spokesman for Major General Doolittle's command announces that we have been bagging two for every one, with a hundred and ninety-four Axis planes shot down to ninety-seven lost by the Allies.

The advance on Tripoli has been easier than expected, we are told. That is, the British had anticipated that Rommel might try to make a stand thirty-five miles west of

Misurata. But Montgomery forged ahead too fast for him, and Hitler's Field Marshal had either to run or lose his entire rear guard, which consisted of the crack troops of his once formidable Afrika Korps.

In London, British military ^{experts} ~~sharks~~ were speculating whether Rommel would try to put up a ^{stiff} ~~big~~ stand at Tripoli. ~~The betting is against it,~~ ^{However} according to expert military opinion, his cagiest move would be to retreat on Tunisia and consolidate with the Axis ~~defending~~ forces there. ^{Which} ~~Incidentally, that~~ would also make it unnecessary for the Germans and Italians to carry out a Dunkirk evacuation from Tripoli, which would ^{be} ~~have been~~ a much more ^{desperate} ~~serious~~ operation than the original Dunkirk.

RESCUE

Here is the story of what happened to a group of American and British pilots that were taken prisoner in Africa. The Americans were captured at Tripoli when their plane made a forced landing. Along with the Britishers, who were also captured, they were stuffed into an Italian submarine, to be taken to Italy.

The prisoners were loaded in the forward torpedo compartment with Italian soldiers as guards. One of the American pilots described it in these words:- "I was lying in my bunk when suddenly there was an ear-splitting crash. The light went out and I found myself on the floor. The next minute," he continues, "there were two enormous bangs." After that, the submarine's engines were stopped, and the boat was rolling heavily. The prisoners could hear the water trickling into their compartment. Then they heard air hissing, the submarine blowing off her tanks.

"A moment or two later," says the American, "we heard a rattling noise. Then the hatch leading to our compartment opened and we beat it to the conning tower."

He says further: "We forced our way into the conning tower and saw British aircraft flying around." And he adds: "Boy! That was a good sight."

When the Royal Air Force pilot came close to the submarine, he found the conning tower jammed with men ^{waving} ~~waiting with~~ bits of white cloth. ^{TP} The Italians ~~had~~ ~~gone crazy and~~ opened up on the British plane with a machine gun. ^{But} The gun on the plane soon stopped the Italian gunner, and, presently British destroyers approached. When the Italians saw the destroyers, they went overboard like flies. ^{And} The submarine went down, ^{whereupon} ~~and~~ the American and British prisoners had to swim around for a couple of hours until the destroyer picked them up.

SOLOMONS

Our marines and infantry on Guadalcanal have killed a hundred and fifty more Japanese. Wiping the enemy out of the island is a long and laborious process, but ~~xxxx~~ every little bit helps. A number of other Japs were taken prisoner. Of course, a hundred and fifty are not many, but ~~in the course of time~~ they ^{all} ~~will~~ add up.

More important are the airplane operations in the Solomons. Flying Fortresses attacked the Kahili area of Bougainville and left two large fires among the Japanese positions there. On the ~~very~~ same night, ~~United States~~ Catalina patrol bombers paid a visit to the same scene, and started fresh fires. They then went to New Georgia Island and raided the Japanese positions at Munda, and bombed Baliale Island in the Shortland area.

All of this conveys no precise meaning to us.

~~layments.~~ But from ~~this~~ Navy bulletin we can gather two ^{things.} ~~facts.~~ First, ^{that} ~~of all,~~ we are coming closer every day to

cleaning Guadalcanal of Japs; and ^{that} our airmen are making
themselves more and more of a nuisance to the enemy in
the northern and northwestern ~~part of the~~ Solomons.

COAL

The strike of anthracite miners has become more than a worry for national statesmen. The first episode in the drama today was a request from the War Labor Board asking the President to intervene.

TP

This is the twenty-first day of the strike. ~~and the War Labor Board has not even got to first base. There~~
TP There is no
~~was no~~ indication that Mr. Roosevelt ~~would~~ take any action. ~~In fact, according to unofficial reports around the White House, it was quite uncertain.~~

In Pennsylvania, the answer to that ~~action~~² by the War Labor Board was a walkout of eight hundred more anthracite miners, eight hundred in addition to the fifteen thousand already striking. They ~~do not~~^{to dont} want to pay fifty cents a month extra ~~dues~~ to John L. Lewis and ~~his confederate~~^{the} United Mine Workers officials. They say they ~~do not~~^{dont} see why they should pay fifty cents a month extra for the nourishment of the heads

of the ^{organization,} ~~United Mine Workers of America,~~ when the national union officials do nothing to get them the two dollar a day wage increase, which they say they need.

Later in the day, one of the key locals at ~~Wilkes-Barre~~ Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, voted to return to work. ^{By a} ~~But it was a mighty~~ close vote: — Two hundred and thirty to two hundred and twenty-six. Such is the margin of compliance with the War Labor Board. The local ^{that} so voted represents twelve hundred workers in the largest anthracite mine in America.

One of the President's nominations ^{has been} ~~was~~ approved
unanimously by the United States Senate. Republicans
and Democrats alike confirmed the appointment of their
former colleague, Prentiss M. Brown of Michigan, to
succeed Leon Henderson. ~~Republican Senator McNary~~
~~of Oregon, the minority leader, said he had not the~~
~~slightest desire to oppose the nomination.~~ So, former
Senator Brown ~~will~~ become ^s Administrator of the Office
of Price Administration.

HOUDRY

The name of Eugene Houdry, petroleum chemist and engineer, broke into the news again today. Houdry, once a Frenchman and now an American, has made another contribution to the science of making gasoline out of petroleum. His latest bids fair to put the United States and our Allies ahead of the entire world in aviation.

Eugene Houdry today announced a process which makes possible the production of aviation fuel of higher octane equivalent than engineers ever before considered possible. In fact, it ^{is described as even} ~~has been rated~~ ahead of airplane engines as they are today. This in turn means that our aviation engineers will be able to design more powerful aircraft engines than could be achieved with the fuel now available. It means faster speeds, more maneuverability, greater flying range and heavier loads.

And This is of ~~extreme~~ immediately military

importance. It also ^{will} ~~means~~ ^{much to} ~~an enormous improvement for~~
~~all~~ commercial aviation after the war. But, for the
immediate future, it ^{may soon give Uncle Sam} ~~implies~~ great advantage in the air ^{for Uncle Sam's planes.}

The first time the public heard of ~~this man~~
Hourdry was ~~one day~~ six years ago. He had then already
been working in the United States for some time. The
engineers and heads of the Sun Oil Company learned of
his ~~achievements~~, brought him over here, and gave him
facilities to develop his ideas. This was done in
cooperation with the engineers of the Socony Vacuum Oil
Company. In Nineteen ~~t~~Thirty-Six, Hourdry avhieved a
spectacular improvement in the catalytic cracking down
of petroleum into gasoline.

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Immediately after Pearl Harbor, the chemists
and engineers of the Houdry Process Corporation
concentrated on finding a method for producing synthetic

rubber to offset the loss of our crude rubber supply in Malaya and the East Indies. The new process for producing aviation fuel comes as a by-product of that search for the rubber ingredient.