

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:-

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There is a British victory to report tonight -- and a major one. And it's all the more important because Britain's fighting men by quick-but-long-planned attack have recaptured a key position which they were forced to evacuate fourteen weeks ago. This time it was a British desert Blitzkrieg.

Sidi Barrani, an advanced post far out on the western edge of the Egyptian Desert, seventy-five miles from the frontier of Libya, was retaken by the British under General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's forces in Egypt.

The Italians, under Mussolini's Marshal Graziani, the conqueror of Ethiopia, were not only thrown out, but large numbers of them have been surrounded and captured.

It was Graziani who took Sidi Barrani fourteen weeks ago. British reports tended to make light of it at the time, said it didn't mean much. But in the interim Graziani build a superbly paved motor highway across the

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desert along the shore to Libya and was reported to be well equipped, well reinforced, ~~with~~ even with German bombing planes and mechanized equipment at his disposal.

There is no doubt about this news. Even Rome admits that Mussolini's Libyan troops have been forced back. ~~But~~ The Italian communique claimed^s that the Black Shirt January Third Division and the First Libyan Division ^{have been} ~~were~~ fighting ~~back~~ ^{off} attacks of exceptional violence for two days.

The British have been exceedingly conservative in ^{giving} ~~us~~ ^(about all) ~~their~~ news ~~of~~ this fighting. The first hint came on Monday, when Cairo divulged that reports had filtered back from ~~that~~ ^{the} desert front to the effect that Sir Henry Wilson's troops had captured five hundred Italians. Then the five hundred were increased to a thousand. Yesterday the total climbed to four thousand. ~~and~~ ^{Then} rumors went ~~not~~ flying around ~~hectically of the~~ ^{of the} surrounding and surrender of two entire Italian divisions, numbering perhaps as many as thirty thousand men.

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This afternoon the excitement mounted, for word came definitely ~~back~~ from Cairo that Sir Henry Wilson had retaken

Sidi Barrani. Along with the first balletins, it was announced that the prisoners were numerous and that they included three generals. Then came word of six thousand prisoners . Now we hear that ten thousand or more have been taken.

The whole thing had been planned with the utmost care. A few details are now bēginning to tricle through. The territory occupied by Graziani was in the shape of a quadrangle. Sir Henry Wilson swept round one corner of it with a mechanized division. Difficult as it must have been in that desert country, and it is all nothing but desert, the British took the Italians by surprise, smashed through their lines, and cut Graziani's communications between Sidi Barrani and a place called Bagbag, the next nearest Italian base.

The British announce that in addition to prisoners they have acquired rich booty in supplies and mechanized equipment.

Rome says tonight that the British had as many as fifty thousand soldiers in that desert battle, mostly Australians and New Zealanders. Also that Graziani in person is directing the Italian forces from front line headquarters. Which might place him in danger of being taken prisoner.

INSURANCE

Have you heard about this rather startling insurance proposal of the British Government? It's a plan to insure the property of the entire nation -- against damage in war.

Every new bill must be read out loud three times before members of Parliament may even vote on it. In some countries the national-lawmakers vote on bills without even bothering about reading them.

But to get back to this new British plan which has had its first reading in Parliament:- it would make the insurance of buildings and business assets compulsory. Including not only the machinery in a factory but the equipment of all offices. The value of buildings in Great Britain thus to be insured would total somewhere between six billion and eight billion pounds, around thirty-two billion dollars. For instance, on a house valued at four thousand dollars you would pay a premium of twenty dollars a year.

Surely the most stupendous insurance plan ever suggested since insurance first began.

HITLER

The Nazis ~~in Germany~~ today were busy denying that ~~Fuehrer~~
Hitler ^{had} expressed any threat to conquer the world. ^{That} It is not the
will of Germans to impose Teutonic domination ~~all~~ ^{all} over the earth.
They declare that a passage in ^{the} ~~that~~ speech which Hitler delivered
yesterday was improperly translated, ~~absolutely false~~.

~~That~~ Sounds a bit curious when you consider the conditions
under which those quotations were transmitted around the world ^{by}
~~radio and by cable~~. Speeches by Hitler or any other Nazi official,
which are considered interesting enough to transmit, ^{both for} are translated,
^{cable and radio,} by interpreters of ^{the highest ability.} ~~unquestionable~~ ^{competent}. Without exception,
they are men who speak German as well as they do English, in fact
they have to be. What's more, before they are transmitted, they
are passed upon by the Nazi censorship. And the Nazis in turn
have ~~plenty of~~ men employed who speak English as well as they do
German.

The Nazis were also denying a remark attributed to
Hitler's Propaganda Minister, ~~Dr~~ Goebbels, ^{who} ~~You may remember~~
~~that he~~ was quoted ^{as saying} ~~to have said~~ that the high command had plans
made for an immediate invasion of Britain. Today they claimed he

said nothing of the sort. What he did say was that he thought the English Channel would be no more ~~xx~~ of a serious obstacle to the German army than was the Maginot Line.

That also sounds a bit curious, in view of the history of the last three months.

ARGENTINA

Uncle Sam

~~We're going~~ to lend sixty million dollars more to Argentina. That makes a total of a hundred and ten millions, ~~to go to Buenos Aires from different pockets in Uncle Sam's clothes.~~ Fifty million ~~dollars~~ will come out of the Treasury's two billion dollar stabilization fund, ~~That will be loaned to Buenos Aires~~ to stabilize ~~the~~ Argentinian currency. The additional sixty million ~~dollars is~~ to come from the Export-Import Bank. Secretary Jesse Jones described it as a loan.

SUBMARINE

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The day before yesterday we heard that a submarine of mysterious ~~or at any rate unidentified~~, origin had been sighted in Cuban waters. Those rumors were revived today, ~~revived~~ *this time.* on the Florida coast. One of Uncle Sam's destroyers suddenly put to sea from the base at Key West. ~~It is~~ ^a destroyer attached to the squadron ~~that has been~~ ^{the} assigned to neutrality patrol. But the navy officials at the base refused to give out any information about the destination of the destroyer. ~~Consequently,~~ ~~further rumors about submarines in the offing.~~

N.A.M.

The National Association of Manufacturers is ^{all for} ~~heart, soul~~

~~and body in line with the~~ national defense program. ~~of the~~ This
was brought out today in
~~United States. Such was the sense of~~ the opening speech at the

Forty-Fifth Congress of American Industry, ~~at New York today.~~

^{TP}
~~The speaker was~~ H. W. Prentiss, Jr., President of the Association,

~~At the same time, he~~ suggested a three-point program for the

manufacturers to encourage. First, a clear definition of what it

is we are going to defend with our defense program. Second,

more centralized authority for the National Defense Advisory

Commission. Third, simplify the tax laws. And he added, "Much as

they abhor war, American manufacturers will do their full part

under any and every circumstance."

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

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Men with a conscientious objection to war cannot escape the Selective Service Act, meaning the draft. They will not be forced to fight or be trained for fighting. But they can be drafted and compelled to do anything which does not imply the bearing of arms or training with arms. Such is the gist of an executive order today signed by President Roosevelt.

ARMY FOLLOW CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS

Incidentally, there's a story running round Washington that the new army program is not forging ahead with much speed. In fact, it's behind schedule. By January the Army will have fifty thousand men less than it expected. That includes both National Guardsmen and men who have been drafted. The betting is that Secretary of War Stimson is going to rearrange the schedule, put down a new one to make a vigorous effort to catch up by June.

CHURCHES

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A possible conference between eminent churchmen and members of the Roosevelt government is reported. The Secretary of the International Missionary Council told the assembled Clergymen of the Federal Council of Churches today that war with Japan is inevitable if our present policy continues. Then he added: "We in America must not let ourselves get into a holier-than-thou attitude, and churches must be more than amateur statesmen".

SUPERMAN

The superman should be taken out of the comic strips and reproduced in real life. ~~Don't pin that statement on me, I don't make it~~ I'm just quoting Roger Babson, the famous economist.

When the war is over and society settles down to reconstruction, we will give more attention to experiments in the proper breeding of human beings. So said Babson to the Chamber of Commerce of Manchester, Connecticut. "Eugenics and religion," he added, "will determine the future of the nation."

LABOR

Mrs. Roosevelt yesterday made a suggestion to a congressional committee, the House Committee on Migration. It had been reported that a man needing a job at an army fort in Virginia was turned down because he didn't belong to a union, and couldn't join the union because it would have cost three hundred dollars. It was this that Mrs. Roosevelt wanted the Committee to investigate.

The Committee did investigate and it ^{turns out to be)} true. It was admitted by the business agent of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The initiation fee into that union is three hundred dollars. ^{Yes,} Before you can go to work, you ^{must} ~~have got to~~ have three hundred dollars. [!] How ~~you should go to work~~ ^{the} to get three hundred dollars is not explained.

However, ^{the} ~~that~~ union ^{agent added} ~~magnifico explained~~ that the three hundred could be paid ⁱⁿ ~~by~~ installments, fifty dollars down and the rest at intervals. Still, ~~there is~~ no answer to the question, ~~what is~~ ^{where is a man out of a job to get} ~~the man to do if he hasn't got the fifty dollars to put down.~~
the \$50?

BASEBALL

Owners of the Major League Clubs were squabbling today over the vexed question of night baseball. Quite a number of the magnates of baseball don't like night games. It's against tradition and a lot of other things.

The heads of the National League have been opposed to allowing each club owner any more than seven night-games a year. In the American League, fourteen. Well, they had it hot and heavy in a closed meeting at Chicago today, with both sides deadlocked,

Baseball Czar Judge Landis today was re-elected for another five-year term.

TRAFFIC

New York City comes forward with a salutary idea for the holidays. It's a drive with this slogan - "Save a life for Christmas." And that might easily mean - "Save your own life for Christmas."

December is the worst month of the year for traffic accidents - dangerous December, they call it. This is especially true in large cities with traffic congestion - a perilous time for pedestrians. So it's up to the public, the automobile drivers and those afoot, to take the danger out of December. Everybody in the automobile world, like my sponsors, the Sun OIL Company, is constantly urging - safety. And right now is one time to think about it -- save a life for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS

Santa Claus will carry such a heavy bag this year that it will weigh even more than the one he brought down the chimney in Nineteen Twenty-Nine, ^{And what a Christmas that was,} ~~the banner year of all years,~~ That's a prophecy by big-wigs of the Department of Commerce. But you don't need to be a government official to make a prophecy like that. All you have to do is to walk into a department store and feel your ribs when you come out, after they've been battered by thousands of ~~female~~ ^{IT} elbows. ~~But~~ ^T The Department of Commerce bases its prophecy on figures such as two million, three hundred thousand unemployed who have ^{gotten jobs} ~~been put to work~~ since February. * Of these at least nine hundred and thirty-five thousand went to work in September and October alone.

And the Post Office hints that most of Santa Claus's visiting will be done in these United States. Precious few gifts will be sent across the seas. ~~for~~ For one thing, there's no steamship service to most countries now, and for another, ~~thing,~~ no parcel post packages can be sent to any country at war because of the Neutrality Act.

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FOOD

The food situation in Britain today is grim, ^{according to} ~~that's on~~
~~official authority: it's a statement by the Right Honorable~~
Robert Hudson, Minister of Food. Conditions are as grim today
as they were in Nineteen Seventeen, ~~when Prime Minister David~~
~~Lloyd George began his intensive campaign.~~

~~Incidentally,~~ The British Food Ministry is ~~running a~~
^{urges}
~~campaign urging~~ Britishers to eat less. All the prominent
newspapers today carried an advertisement with a little rhyme
which runs:-

"Reflect whenever you indulge,

It is not beautiful to bulge.

A large untidy corporation

Is far from helpful to the nation."

Lets see - where's Hugh?
wonder if he's missing
tonight?