

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, FEB. 2, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Exciting news tonight. The Navy announces that the Japanese are making a major effort to regain control of the entire Solomons area and that both sides have suffered losses in a series of air-naval actions.

And here's a later one:- The Japanese have launched a great new attempt to regain control of the entire Solomons area and American sea and air forces have been trading mighty blows with them during the past several days, the Navy disclosed tonight.

Both sides have suffered losses.

The Navy would not reveal the extent of losses - "To reveal, at this time, details of these

engagements would endanger the success of our future operations in this area," it said.

A Navy spokesman, however, commenting on Tokyo claims that two allied battleships and three cruisers already have been sunk and that another battleship and cruiser have been damaged, said tersely: "The Japanese claims of U.S. losses are grossly exaggerated and their own losses are understated." Tokyo claimed its losses amounted to but ten planes.

Scene of the surface and air battle was not disclosed by the Navy. A Tokyo report said Monday an engagement was in progress off Rennell Island, about a hundred and ten miles south of Guadalcanal, principal American stronghold in the southern Solomons.

One thing seemed certain - the Japs have unleashed their mightiest attempt to recapture lost positions since November Thirteenth to Fifteenth;

when American naval and air forces dealt the Japanese Navy the worst defeat in its history. That effort cost the Japs twenty-eight warships and auxiliaries sunk and ten more damaged.

An indication that something big was brewing came earlier in the day in a navy communique which reported greatly intensified aerial warfare in which American fliers made five raids on Japanese bases and shipping in the southwest Pacific while enemy planes attacked U.S. positions in the Aleutians.

ROOSEVELT

Today the President's office ~~at the White House~~ was jammed for the White House News Conference. The President looked fine, vigorous and tanned by the African sun. Customarily he gives something solid along serious lines, and enlivens the weighty matter with bright and colorful sidelights. ^{And —} That's what happened today.

~~Weighty matter Number One~~ - the unconditional surrender declaration. The President expanded that by saying ~~that~~ there will be no negotiated armistice, as there was at the end of the last war.

Weighty matter Number Two - Why the absence of Stalin and Chiang Kai-shek? The President stated that upon his return to the United States he found that a number of people believed that Russia and China

should have been included in the Casablanca conference. In response to this, he pointed out that the Soviets were not at war with Japan, and therefore Stalin could very well feel that it was not proper for him to attend military conversations that included plan-making for defeating Japan. (He said that he had received a reply from Stalin - a reply to a communication telling ~~him~~ the Soviet war leader ~~what~~ the conference had ~~been~~ decided upon. The President did not disclose the nature of Stalin's reply. He warned the newspaper people not to misinterpret his ~~xxxxxx~~ reticence on that point as an indication that Stalin might not be in whole-hearted agreement with the conference.

He was asked whether he had any plans to meet Stalin personally. The President replied ^{with} ~~xxxx~~ the old phrase - "Hope springs eternal," ~~said he,~~

As for China, he said that Chiang Kai-shek

was not invited to participate because China was not in a position to give aid in the offensive right now. Specifically - the offensive against Hitler. ^{7P}The President stated with emphasis that the Casablanca talks were military, and nothing else. They concerned, not world politics, but the next immediate^e armed blows to be delivered against the enemy.

The President spoke optimistically of the meeting that he and ~~Rixie~~ the Prime Minister arranged between Giraud and DeGaulle - the French leaders who have been in disagreement. ~~He went into few details,~~ but ~~His~~ tone indicated that he expected the French North African administration and the Free French to collaborate.

~~He was asked about the appointment of Marcel Peyrouton as the new Governor of Algeria. There has been a lot of argument about that because Peyrouton was a~~

former Vichy minister. Many have been protesting, but others have pointed out that the former Vichy Minister was named while the President and Prime Minister were conferring at Casablanca, so presumably the appointment had their approval. Today the President stated that he and Churchill did not discuss the naming of Peyrouton. The point did not come up in their talks.

He spoke about the military forces at the disposal of North African Administrator Giraud, and said Giraud told him he could build an army of a quarter of a million men if he could get the weapons. The President stated that efforts were being made to provide Giraud's troops with modern military equipment.

He was asked about French political prisoners in North Africa. There are ~~weird~~ stories that Giraud's regime is still keeping in jail a lot of Frenchmen who opposed the Allied cause and supported Vichy. The

President responded with the opinion that all those who wanted to fight the Germans have been released - except some who have ~~been~~ committed crimes.

He was asked, was it considered a crime to support DeGaulle? He replied by denouncing that supposition as an absolute lie.

~~As a sidelight to this, we have a dispatch from Algiers telling about some fifteen political prisoners, who included a brother of a close friend and lieutenant of DeGaulle. The Algerian dispatch says these fifteen political prisoners are being investigated in connection with the assassination of Admiral Darlan.~~

The President recited a striking episode of war, which has a significant bearing on the attitude of the French forces in North Africa. *There is* This concerns an ancient fort dominating the mouth of a river - a stronghold built by the Moors of old of sun-baked bricks. The

French commander of the fort told his soldiers that the Americans were about to land - and the soldiers cheered. Then the commander received orders to resist the American landing. Whereupon he commanded his men to fight - and they did. Having cheered the American landing, they now opposed it - because they were ordered to.

American warships blasted the old brick Moorish fort with shellfire, but the garrison held out - for one day and then another. On the third day, American landing forces brought up heavy artillery and blasted the brick fort at point blank range with large calibre shells. The walls were smashed, but the French garrison still fought on, until American infantry stormed through the gaping holes in the wall, and took the fort by assault. Ninety-four Americans and two hundred Frenchmen were killed in that battle, which is reminiscent of the way forts were stormed hundreds of

years ago. The present-day significance is to be found in the fact that the French troops, who cheered the news of the landing of the Americans, fought so fiercely when ordered to resist. *An American general in from No. Africa, told me of similar instances, as illustrating French discipline. After fighting they cheered the Americans.* At today's news conference, the President

talked of something mighty familiar in Washington - rumors. ~~Our national capital is famous as a hot-bed of~~

~~rumors, but it's as nothing compared with Casablanca~~

~~during the conference. The President~~ *He* ~~said today that~~
at Casablanca,
the wildest rumors were circulating. One was that he

and Churchill were meeting with Spanish Generalissimo

~~XXXXXX~~ Francisco Franco. Another was that Hailie

Selassie, Emperor of Ethiopia, had joined in the

negotiations. And as a climax, the report got around

that King Victor Emanuel had come to the Casablanca

conference to arrange a ~~x~~ surrender of *Italy.* ~~his kingdom.~~

Not even Washington could produce rumors to match those.

The President told of safety precautions at Casablanca. Some military leaders were afraid of air raids and suggested that the President and Prime ~~mi~~ Minister move their residence every forty-eight hours or so. Nothing doing - the villas where they lived were too comfortable. So they stayed in the same places all ten days. Air raids did threaten, however. There were two alerts - but hostile planes never materialized.

Today's White House news event was not lacking in that characteristic F.D.R. turn of humor. The President told about five WAACS in North Africa - probably the only ones there. He related how the ship that took them over was torpedoed. They were rescued, and landed in North Africa, with no clothes whatever. *Apparently the WAACS like mermaids came right through the waves. Wow!* ~~So stated the President - and into the imagination came the picture of five WAACS with no clothes whatever.~~

He gave the news conference time to gasp over that

-- in his whimsical way --
vision before adding [^] no clothes except those on
their backs. Which undoubtedly saved the day for the
WAACS. who came thru the waves.

Now, For a closing touch; ~~take~~ the parting of
President and Prime Minister. F.D.R.,
~~He~~ said he left Churchill
at ~~a place called~~ Marrakech, in the shadow of the Atlas
Mountains - that famous mythological range. The President
today told of the snowclad peaks of the Atlas, and said
they were one of the most beautiful ^{sights} ~~sights~~ he had ever
seen. Churchill was ~~sketching~~ sketching them - he's
something of an artist. He was making drawings of the
distant white summits, for which the people of the
classical world of old had that famous legend - Atlas
carrying the world on his shoulders. Maybe President
and Prime Minister felt like 2 Atlases.
~~From his works of art,~~ Churchill went on to
Turkey for discussions with the heads of the Turkish
Government - and then to Cyprus. We hear about this

latter place today, with London reporting a declaration
that the Prime Minister made at Cyprus. ^{There he echoed} ~~He sounded that~~

^{the} slogan - unconditional surrender. "The United Nations,"
said Winston Churchill, "will march forward from strength
to strength, until unconditional surrender is extorted
from those who have led the world ^{into} ~~in~~ havoc and ruins."

Churchill's Near Eastern trip was followed by
word that the Axis is moving reinforcements into the
Balkans and is fortifying the Greek coast. London
observers believe that plans laid at Casablanca call
for an invasion of Europe through the Blakans.

AFRICA

In Tunisia the Americans have launched a successful push, driving the Nazis out of a place called Sened. An American combat team made the advance, and then moved back from the place to contact a second combat team. Our troops are hammering and maneuvering against an important point called ~~Fide~~ ^{Fail} Pass. This pass in Central Tunisia is the gateway ~~through the~~ ^{for} vital roads running toward the port of Sfax. ~~They are~~ ^{It is} strongly held by enemy armored forces. These are going to take a lot of batt^ling before General Eisenhower's combat teams are able to get through -- and debouch from ^{ow} ~~Fide~~ ^{Fail} Pass toward the coast and the port of Sfax.

RUSSIA

Moscow announces that all the Germans in Stalingrad have finally been wiped out. This information comes in a late special bulletin from the Soviet capitol. The Germans in North Stalingrad fought to the last, and two of their high commanders were captured -- Lieutenant General Strecker and General Radtke. That brings the Soviet bag of German brass hats to a total of twenty-four Generals made prisoners. As for ~~merely~~ soldiers and officers of lower rank, the figure is ninety-one thousand. That ~~many Nazis~~ *have been* captured at Stalingrad, according to *Moscow,* ~~tonight's Moscow bulletin.~~

The Russians are pushing on, with today's Moscow bulletin telling of four major drives. Soviet forces ~~are~~ advancing along parallel lines all the way from Voronezh to the North Caucasus, *The* ~~in~~ four drives, directed at three objectives -- the cities of Kursk, Kharkov and Rostov. These are major *goals* ~~objectives~~ for the Red Army in its sweeping advance to push the Nazis out of all the territory they captured last summer.

DRAFT

Tonight we have the statement that by the end of this year ten out of every fourteen able bodied men in this country, between the ages of eighteen and thirty-nine will be in the armed service, -- ~~ten out of every fourteen.~~ "These men will be combatants," said Man Power Administrator Paul McNutt. ^{TP} This followed the news that married men with children are to be drafted, unless they are engaged in essential occupations. A long list of occupations not considered essential is ~~to be~~ made public -- such as jewelry business, florists, beer, wines and liquors, and so on. For all ~~not~~ engaged in such ~~non-~~ essential occupations deferrments from the draft ~~will~~ are to be cancelled. Man Power Commissioner McNutt stated that the list issued today is only the beginning -- and ^{further} additions will be made to the list of non-essential occupations.

~~In today's list of non-essentials the game of baseball was not included. If it is in further~~

TAXES

7
The Treasury today came out for pay-as-you-go income tax but not for the cancellation of a tax year. Randolph Paul, Counsel for the Treasury stated that it was urgent that a pay-as-you-go program be started -- "certainly not later than July First," said he. But he argued against any forgoing of last year's taxes, while the people are paying this year's -- as they earn the money.

He did not, however, propose double taxation -- whereby we would pay last year's taxes and this year's at the same time.. He proposed that the levy for last year be spread over a period of years -- pay it off gradually. *The Treasury Counsel suggests*

~~Pay some of the taxes incurred in nineteen~~
~~Forty-Two while shelling out those for the current year.~~

~~The counsel for the Treasury expressed this~~
~~pay-as-you-go proposal in terms of figures -- interesting~~

~~figures. One was -- nineteen percent. He suggested that~~

that
nineteen percent of wages and salaries should be taken out of the pay envelope. ~~This would represent the~~

~~six percent normal tax and the thirteen percent surtax~~
~~on the first two thousand dollars of income -- after~~
~~deductions and exemptions are taken out. The nineteen-~~
~~percent to be withheld from people's wages under pay-as-~~
~~That~~
~~you-go~~ would be in addition to the five percent Victory
Tax, -- bring^{ing} the total to twenty-four percent. So,
according to the Treasury Plan presented today twenty-
four percent of people's wages would be deducted for
income tax. — *if it goes thru,*

Along with this we have a statement from the
Under-Secretary of the Treasury, John Sullivan. He
told the Ways and Means Committee of the House of
Representatives that people this year are delaying in
filing their income tax returns. Ordinarily a great
number of people file their returns before the deadline
day of March Fifteenth. This year they're not doing so
in such abundance. An increase of one-third ~~xx~~ over
last year was expected, but instead of an increase
there's been a decrease. The number of income tax

WEATHER

Wartime censorship forbids the radio to announce weather reports, and I tremble to think of talking about rain or shine. For example, I would not dare tonight to tell about the groundhog -- except that today the groundhog did not prognosticate the time when spring would come.

At Gobbler's Knob, Punxsutawny, Pennsylvania *and at Woodington on the outskirts of Greenville* this morning -- local scientists gathered to watch for the famous Punxsutawny groundhog^s to come ^{on} out ~~of its~~ *hole*. We all know that if the groundhog does not see his shadow on the morning of February 'Second, winter will not end for six weeks more. If he does see his shadow, spring, beautiful spring, is no more than six weeks away.

The Punxsutawny + Greenville
So what happened this morning? ~~The~~ groundhog

8 1/2 did not appear at all. Why not? Later in the day we were told. The censor in Washington ordered the groundhog ^{for} not to appear, ~~and look for his shadow -- for~~ *any such* ~~that~~ long range weather prediction might be an aid to the enemy.

The groundhog is scrupulous about observing the rules of censorship, which is more than I can say about some radio commentators.

9 But here's Hugh who always observes the rules.