

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

We all knew that sooner or later there would have to be an all out battle with the enemy at, or near, that great Japanese naval Gibraltar in the Carolines, the mysterious island of Truk. But few expected it would come so soon. Tonight America confidently awaits the outcome of the Navy's sensational assault on Truk. But news of Admiral Nimitz's attack on the number one Jap naval lair, the beginning of what may be the big story of the year; the biggest story of the war since Pearl Harbor -- news is likely to be slow in coming through.

For some years the legend has grown that Truk was invincible. Virtually nobody but the Japanese

have ever seen the formidable installations there. One American Correspondent who got through pretty much by chance a few years ago, reported that the land locked lagoon of Truk, was large enough to float not merely the navy of the Mikado, but all the navies of the world. You may have heard much of this. But it will bear repeating of how early this month, February Four, Admiral Nimitz, sent out twenty-two volunteers, U.S. Marines; Marine airmen in Liberators. And they took their lives in their hands knowing full well that if there were the slightest mishap they would never live to tell the tale. The Japs would hardly let anyone survive who had cast his eyes upon Truk.

The twenty-two Marine airmen flew to Truk, - and they came back, full a full set of photographs, pictures revealing twenty-five Japanese warships in the big Truk lagoon - two of them aircraft carriers, and

other warships of lighter draft; also supply vessels.

And that knocked out the idea that the main body of the Mikado's Grand Fleet was hiding there behind those precipitous mountains that surround Truk Lagoon. The inference is that the Nipponese Grand Fleet is on the alert at some nearby base, waiting for just such an attack as Admiral Nimitz has just launched against Truk.

This may well turn out to be the big war story of the year; so let's have a look at this Pacific stronghold of the Japs. It's not just a single island. It's a group of some twenty mountainous volcanic islands, all of them surrounded by a great coral reef. The group is roughly thirty miles in diameter.

Then inside the Truk Lagoon itself are several peaks rising out of the water to a height of a thousand feet or so. Sheer rock.

The reef surrounding these isles of mystery

happens to be so arranged by nature that the defenders have all the advantage. In other words, the Japanese can dictate how the attack can be directed.

These facts make the initiative taken by Admiral Nimitz seem all the bolder. But, it's an operation in accordance with the oldest traditions of the U.S. Navy:- attack and attack and continue attacking!

Situated as it is, right in the middle of the Pacific, Truk has been a threat to every point the Allies held. It's one thousand and forty odd miles west of Kwajalein, in the Marshalls; three thousand, four hundred and fifty miles southwest of Pearl Harbor, and only about two thousand miles from Tokyo. From a military point of view, the belief has been that so long as the Japs held Truk, their homeland was impregnable. It has been obvious, therefore, that a

blow at that mighty fortress would mean the beginning of a real attack on Japan proper, the heart of the Mikado's Empire. This offensive is no mere air raid for in the words of Admiral Nimitz's official communique are: "Powerful naval task forces of the United States Pacific Fleet commenced an attack on the Japanese naval base at Truk with several hundred of our planes participating/" And it adds: "No further details are available."

It is explained that the necessity for radio secrecy makes it impossible for the Fleet to report its operations, which is easily understandable. After all, this unquestionably is the greatest offensive operation by the United States Navy in the entire war. For that matter the greatest offensive operation by any navy anywhere at any time.

Admiral Nimitz has for months been daring the

Japs to come out and fight. He showed every sign of wanting it when he sent out the task force that captured the Marshalls. In fact he has offered them battle several times; but, they have always refused.

With their home ports only two thousand miles away the enemy have all the geographical advantages, quite aside from having a base and fortress as powerful as Nature and Man can make a fortress.

Ray Chapper, before he vanished into the water of Kwajalein lagoon, gave us a graphic description of the immense American force that swept down on the Marshall Islands. Presumably this one going against Truk is as great or greater.

Naturally there has been ~~the~~ excitement throughout this country since this news first came over the wire today - and then went out over the air.

Tonight all America waits for more news. But, we must

## ITALY

Secretary of War Stimson, as a rule has been staunch in discouraging too much optimism. Today he went in the other direction and said that there has been too much pessimism about the fighting at the Anzio Beach-head. He used the phrase, "Keep your shirt on!" The pessimism of last week, he said, was uncalled for. The allied forces are firmly established and able to give blows as well as to take them. At the same time, he added, we must not be too sanguine, because a great deal of bitter fighting is ahead in that region.

The issue had been raised that the pessimism was caused chiefly by excessive censorship. The news papermen asked Stimson about that, to which he replied that General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson was in <sup>at the beachhead</sup> ~~Command there~~ and was therefore the best possible judge of a question like that.

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# RETAKE

not expect too much - in the way of details, since the Navy warns us there is the greatest need for radio silence concerning the movement of the Pacific fleet. We may hear nothing more of any consequence until there has been decisive action.

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And, here's another piece of drama from the war in the Pacific, this one from the southwest Pacific. American and Australian airmen have destroyed six enemy ships, destroyed or damaged them so critically that they cannot operate. They have also shot down fifty-one Japanese planes, some of them on the ground; and, they wrecked ten enemy barges. This news from the headquarters of Admiral Halsey.



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italy #2 Cont

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To which Davis replied grimly that the public certainly has not been getting very much. He added that the censorship in Italy had exceeded the bounds of military security.

See Stimson gave out another set of casualty figures. Since the landing at Salerno, there have been four-thousand-a-hundred-and-fifty-eight americans killed, eighteen-thousand-one-hundred-and-fifty-four wounded, six-thousand-four-hundred-and-twenty nine missing. While he was about it he also gave out figures about the war in the Pacific. In the recent fighting at Arawe, Cape Gloucester and Saidor, there have only been four-hundred-and-sixty-five Americans killed, one-thousand-one-hundred-and-fifty-six wounded, and twelve missing.

As for ~~the~~ latest news from Anzio, a strong german armed force has just begun the second big offensive there. But so far the British and American's with planes, <sup>t</sup>tanks and infantry have <sup>brought</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Nazis ~~brought~~ to a full stop.

The Huns moved behind a rolling barrage. They had strong concentrations of heavy artillery, and big formations of low flying attack planes. On the ground they <sup>struck</sup> ~~attacked~~ in great strength.

Italy #3 Contd

Reynolds Packard, of the United Press, observed that the Boche were firing anything that had a barrel on it, and their tanks came in wave upon wave. The artillery barrage, said Packard was the heaviest he had ever seen on that beach-head.

But all along the line the American G I's and British Tommies were standing firm.

The Allies met tank with tank and sent up <sup>a</sup> swarm of interceptors and fighter-bombing-planes, against the german aerial ~~attacks~~ <sup>assault</sup>.

Anzio was not the only place where the Germans attacked.

They also let loose an offensive around Cassino. But that was more in the nature of a feint than serious business and the American's drove them back with planes.

Around <sup>Rome</sup> the beach head the fighting still is going on at this minute. This second attack of the germans is even more ferocious than the first. Our American Tank destroyers knocked out six german tanks, at almost the first crack out of the box.

Never-the-less the germans kept coming on, driving over their own dead, and leaving wrecked equipment as though they had equipment to burn.

TROOPSHIP

~~Here is~~ <sup>a</sup> late Bulletin from the War Department. —

An allied troop ship has been sunk in the Mediterranean, and one thousand american soldiers were lost. ~~It is~~ The first time such a thing has happened <sup>to us,</sup> either in this War or in the last War, <sup>Up to now not</sup> in 1917 and 1918. ~~Not~~ <sup>had been</sup> a single soldier ~~was~~ lost by the sinking of a transport.

A heavy sea was running at the time the <sup>is</sup> transport was struck, <sup>Nevertheless nearly</sup> ~~but about~~ a thousand men were saved. We are not told the date on which this happened, ~~because~~ There is reason to believe the enemy <sup>didn't</sup> ~~does not~~ know the attack was successful. By the same token we are not told what it was that sank the transport, <sup>Just lost</sup> ~~except~~ in enemy action.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

~~RUSSIA~~ RUSSIA

Lots of exciting news today.  
For example take that latest triumphant  
~~And here's a bulletin from Moscow, just in. & triumphant~~

announcement by ~~Marshal~~ Stalin: <sup>that</sup> ~~himself~~ The Soviet armies in  
the big bend of the Dnieper have complet<sup>ly</sup> cleaned up those ten  
german divisions in the trap west of Cherkassy. After fourteen  
days of desperate fighting, the Russians have killed fifty-two  
thousand Germans and taken eleven thousand prisoners.

H R L for

~~The Russian limelight today is aimed principally at Pskov,~~

that city almost on the Estonian frontier through which so many rail-  
way lines pass, Soviet columns are moving on <sup>it</sup> ~~that junction~~ by forced

marches, both <sup>from</sup> ~~in~~ the north and <sup>from</sup> ~~in~~ the east. Again they are trying

to cut off the Nazis of the garrison and encircle them.

The speed with which the Russian armies are forging ahead in-  
dicates that the germans must be retreating through the forests and  
over the lakes of the Estonian frontier country. In fact, it is  
highly doubtful that the Huns will make any serious effort to defend <sup>d</sup>  
Pskov. The Red column in the north is only twenty miles away and  
the divisions advancing from the east are only fifty miles distant.

The weather has been extremely cold on that northern front, so  
cold that the Reds have been able to cross on Lake Peipus on the ice  
and establish beach-heads on its western shore. Elsewhere the Russians  
have cut behind the german defense lines by dropping large contingents  
of para-troopers

~~The armies of the Ukraine are fighting in a heavy blizzard and  
according to Moscow, the Germans there are dying by the thousands. They  
have given up all hope for the ten divisions under Lieut General~~

~~AP BT Paid~~

~~New York NY Feb 17 1944~~

~~Lowell Thomas~~

~~Fucson Ariz~~

KID

When the Nazis overran Poland in nineteen-thirty-nine, one of the poles whom they enslaved was a boy named Stanley, barely fifteen years old. They threw him into a labor camp in east Prussia, and made him work on a farm, helping to raise crops for his enemies. Of course, this was entirely against the provisions of the Geneva convention, but what is a promise to a <sup>Nazi?</sup> ~~German?~~

For three years he was kept away from his home, denied even news of his family.

In March, nineteen-forty-three, some officer took a look at Stanley's blond hair and light blue eyes, decided he was an aryan and threw him into <sup>the</sup> prussian army. So he had to fight side by side with the soldiers who had destroyed his country and treated his people in characteristic German fashion.

When his training was complete, they put Stanley into a unit bound for Italy. He took part in the fighting on the German side just three months, and on december twenty-third was taken prisoner by the British to his great relief.

cont'd #2

KID - 2.

An American correspondent interviewed Stanley the other day. He was then dressed in a British Battle uniform, as a fighter in the Polish contingent of the British Army. When the American News Paper man saw him, it was on top of a mountain, up which he and his mates had to<sup>l</sup>-ted their mortars, ammunition, food, fuel and even water, with the help of only a few mules.

42  
And there, after for years, he is happy for the first time, fighting with his own kind against his country's enemies, in a

mortar company on top of a snow clad ~~mountain~~ <sup>peak.</sup> The adventures  
of young Stanley, the Pole.

147PM



JEWS

A message from London today brings word that the Nazis have wiped out all the Jews in Holland. There never were but a hundred-and-eighty-thousand of them. *And all of these* ~~They~~ have either been deported for slave labor, thrown into concentration camps, or killed. Only some ten thousand ~~of them~~ managed to escape and hide out. ~~But~~ more than a hundred and twenty thousand of them were carried off to Germany and other Nazi occupied territories.

And here is ~~an~~<sup>a</sup> interesting side light on the German attitude towards Jews. It comes from Switzerland. A Swiss printer at work on an issue of Hebrew prayer books ran out of ~~Hebrew~~<sup>a</sup> type. He was unable to get replacements anywhere in Switzerland. So he wrote to a type foundery in Berlin, which promptly supplied him with all he needed.

AIR WAR

Berlin tonight is still in flames. The assault by the big Lancasters and other bombers of the R A F on Tuesday caused such havoc that fires are still burning in the german capital. Subway<sup>s</sup> are not running, street cars are not running, express trains are halted <sup>some</sup> sixty miles outside the city. <sup>7</sup> In the matter of railroad-transit Berlin is not like other world capitals. Trains run right through Berlin, normally. It's not a terminus. So, if you are able to impede traffic through the Prussian capital, you have really interfered with the central system of Prussian transportation.

~~And~~  
And Ben Slack pull up a chair and tell us something to calm us down after all this excitement.

Used only early  
Thurs.

SUBSIDIES

The seventy-eight congress of the United States continues in flat and open rebellion against the President on the question of food subsidies. The House today accepted a compromise on the bill raising the retail price of milk and for-bidding subsidies after june thirtieth. This was a compromise between the House and the Senate versions of the measure. The Senate had adopted the same compromise as yesterday <sup>^</sup> unanimously.

In the House, President Roosevelt's leaders today demanded a roll call, insisting that the Representatives should stand up and be counted. They were willing enough, and the vote was two hundred and forty nine for the bill and only a hundred and eighteen on the side of the President.

Mr Roosevelt, it is believed will undoubtedly veto the measure, but the law makers with the bit in their teeth, believe they can assure themselves of the two thirds majority <sup>to</sup> ~~which will~~ over-ride <sup>a</sup> ~~his~~ veto. <sup>^</sup>

~~Mr Roosevelt and his un-official super Cabinets have repeatedly warned the Congressmen that if they throughout the~~ <sup>throw out the</sup> ~~^~~

FOOD

Almost every week we get different information out of Washington about food. Not so long ago we heard that there would be a grave shortage of meat after the next few weeks. Today the War Food Administration says we shall have somewhat more beef but less pork and mutton. *And, that,*

*And* in ten days we shall all be using ration tokens, as well as food ration stamps.

The tokens will be worth one point each and will be given in change for ten point stamps.

Like most things ground out by the government mills, the whole business is exceedingly confusing.

<sup>320pm</sup>  
*And now a Sunoco message that isn't confusing.*