

CONFERENCE

C.T. - Standard. Wed., Dec. 1, 1943. (2)

The immediate reaction in this country to ~~that~~
momentous ~~the~~ declaration of Cairo is favorable, ~~and~~ *— even* enthusiastic.

~~even~~ Newsmen promptly took the official announcement to various members of Congress, and asked them what they thought of the ~~statement made~~ *statement made in Egypt* by the war leaders of Great Britain, the United States and China, ~~in Egypt~~

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What about that pledge to strip Japan of her empire, all that she has gained ~~by conquest~~ *during* for many years ~~of~~ *conquest?*

~~This pronouncement was the first definite statement by the United Nations of penalties to be inflicted on any of the Axis aggressors.~~

Typical of the congressional applause was the comment given by speaker Sam Rayburn of the Lower House. "A nation like Japan with inordinate ambitions for world domination," ~~and empire,~~ said he, " should be pushed back into ~~the~~ Japan and kept there.

The chief line of dissenting opinion concern *ed*

the fact that the Cairo declaration does ~~not~~^{not} threaten the Japanese enemy with anything more than the loss of ~~the~~ Japanese Empire. "That," said Senator George of Georgia, "is a minimum requirement. Whatever ~~we~~^{we} ~~do~~ do to Japan beyond that," he added, "is entirely justified by her treacherous and inhuman conduct." In other words, the mere stripping of the Japs of the ~~the~~^{lost} they have acquired is not enough punishment according to the Senator.

I do not know ~~if~~^{whether} Messrs. Chiang Kai-Shek, Roosevelt and Churchill had in mind anything more, but the Cairo declaration does limit itself to the matter of territory. ^{TP} And the statement, as issued tonight, is most notable--since it presents a set of clear and definite terms of peace to be imposed on Japan.

The kind of peace to be made with Germany is under ~~the~~^{hot} discussion, and is up in the air. Peace conditions to be imposed on Italy, formerly our enemy

and now on our side, must await the end of hostilities.

But we know the territorial penalty ~~is~~ that is to be

inflicted on Japan: They are to lose everything they have seized since 1895, when they started on their plundering career by grabbing the island of Formosa from China. The Chinese are to get Formosa back and everything else they have lost to Japan since then. Korea is to be set free. And the Japs will be deprived of the islands they have gained as a result of World War Number One, those immensely strategic isles that stretch out into the Pacific.

Beyond the setting forth of those territorial terms, the pronouncement issued by Roosevelt, Churchill and Chiang Kai-Shek concentrated *strongly on* the plan to defeat Japan *once and for all.* ~~strongly~~ The three war leaders expressed this determination in relentless and even contemptuous terms, and their declaration was backed up by their presence at Cairo ~~of~~ of the top-most military commanders for the United Nations,

featuring the Pacific war commanders--Like Lord Louis Mountbatten, General Stillwell, General Chennault-- though not Admiral Nimitz or General MacArthur.

One point for inference is ~~fix~~ this-- the immense emphasis was on ^{the} mighty stroke of war to be hurled by the combined forces of the United Nations against the far-eastern enemy. ^R The high military leaders were busy planning. And we may suppose from this that the Allied leadership believes that the defeat of Nazi Germany will not be long delayed. The Churchill-Roosevelt policy has been, from the beginning, to beat Hitler first. And they must be of the belief that the defeat of Hitler is in sight, if they figure that it's time to get around to the subject of the Japs in an all-out way.

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The meeting of the chieftains in Egypt was a spectacular affair, with all those famous figures on the Allied side gathered in one place and moving about in conferences and discussions. The

accent was on military precautions for safety, elaborate protection all the way from impenetrable cordons of ~~army~~ troops to anti-aircraft batteries and air raid shelters.

One amusing thing was a visit of Prime Minister and ~~the~~ President to the Pyramids *and Sphinx.*

Whoever would go to Egypt without taking a look at *those wonders of the world?*
~~the Pyramids?~~ Well, Like traditional tourists,

Messrs. Churchill and Roosevelt were shown around

by a professional guide ^adragoman. They had the *greatest*

~~Prime~~ Dragoman of Egypt, a long-time veteran

at explaining ²⁷the Pyramids and the Sphynx to tourists.

And he gave them the works, reciting all of his usual

oration, the same one that he had speeled a thousand

times--and *those 2 great orators Churchill and*
~~they had to listen to it.~~

Roosevelt, had to listen to it.

Today's announcement from Cairo tells us

that the Prime Minister, the Generalissimo and the

President have gone to meet Stalin, though the

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announcement refrains from saying where. We are not told the locality where the meeting of the big four is ~~xxxxx~~ being staged right now. But the report still ~~holds~~ ^{holds -} ~~holds~~ --Tehran, ~~the~~ capitol of Persia.

The mix-up in the breaking of the news of the Cairo conference was wide open tonight with angry recrimination. ~~The whole thing was supposed to be kept a blank secret.~~ On Tuesday the Cairo declaration, made public tonight, was issued to the news services--with the most emphatic instructions that it was not to be released until 7:30 P. M. Eastand Wartime, Wednesday, December first--tonight. The ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ American press observed the injunction scrupulously but the story was broken by Reuters, the great British news agency, on Tuesday--right after the declaration was passed out. ~~with such positive injunctions that nothing about it was to be published until the release date~~ So there you had every editor ^{and radio commentator} in the United States with the document on his desk,

and he wasn't allowed to print or say a thing about
it--although British Reuters had broken the story *which*
and was promptly picked up by the enemy radio and
broadcast ~~x~~ world-wide. ^{TR} Newsmen put up an urgent
argument at the White House, but were told by
presidential secretary ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Steve Early that
they still could not publish the official announce-
ment. They ^{were,} ~~xxx~~, however, permitted to pass along
the accounts picked up from the European radio,
which meant that most of what we were able to put
out was from the enemy side.

Newsmen in Britain were on the same
hot-spot too, because the Reuter's dispatch was
released by the Lisbon Branch of that great British
news agency, which meant that the ~~xxxxxxx~~ word
was passed around on the continent. But the London
censor would not allow it to appear in Great Britain.

Tonight in Washington, Elmer Davis, ~~■~~

head of the OWI, spoke indignately about the Reuter procedure. Today the British news agency explained that the breaking of the release, the disclosure of the secret, was, in the words of the explanation--

"the result of spontaneous journalistic enterprise by the Reuter's Bureau Chief in Lisbon." To this Davis tonight says with sarcasm, "It was enterprise that every American editor could have indulged

in had he wanted to. They all had the advance ~~of~~ ^{says Davis.} official communique on their desks," ~~Reuters~~ ~~xxx~~

^{TP Reuters} makes the ^{further} argument that there were no restrictions on the story breaking in Lisbon. "This excuse,"

~~says~~ Davis ~~likewise~~ likewise rejects with the statement that the official restriction applied everywhere.

"They have done it before," he said angrily tonight, "and we ^{will} endeavor to see what we can do to make ~~it~~ sure it is not repeated."

And Davis cast out a further hint in these words: "British censorship might have stopped

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said he,
it, " [^] And that would seem to involve the British
sensor ~~in~~ the storm around the breaking
of the release, the premature ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ disclosure
of the Cairo Conference.

RUSSIA

In Russia, the Germans are throwing heavy forces into the Korosten sector - in an attempt to exploit their success in recapturing that city, Korosten.

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Soviet dispatches, however, state that the Red Army forces are still intact, in spite of the German advance.

There is ~~nothing to indicate that the Nazis have been~~ able to break through. ~~However, military observers agree that the loss of Korosten is a serious blow, because it now establishes two Nazi bulges in the big Russian bulge. ~~xxxx~~ After capturing Kiev, the Soviets drove forward with an enormous pocket, and now the Germans have dented this pocket in two places - at Korosten and Jitomir, the two important points that they have succeeded in recapturing.~~

at } Further to the north, Russian successes are reported. Soviet troops are driving rapidly toward a place called Zhlobin, in White Russia. That's in the

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area northwest of Gomel, and Zhlobin is described as the junction point for the escape route along which two hundred and fifty thousand Germans are retreating.

American ~~flying Fortresses~~ ^{bombers} hit Nazi Germany

today for the third successive raid in as many days.

The target? Salinger, the steel center.
~~The massive squadrons in the sky, escorted by flights~~
27 of our Fortresses and Liberators
~~of fighter planes, flew to targets in western Germany,~~
lost.

~~and released their tons of bombs. The day operations~~

~~followed night raids against various Nazi war centers,~~

~~during which twenty-four thousand tons of explosives~~

~~were hurled.~~

~~All of which was hitting Germany from the north, while at the same time indications increase that the Nazis are soon to be smacked with equal vigor from the south. This prospect accompanies news of the First American raid against the Adriatic port of Fiume, which the Germans now are using. Liberator bombers, escorted by ~~Lighting~~ Lightning fighters, hit Fiume hard. And we are told that this was only the beginning of a series of American air blows that will~~

~~reach further and further into German-occupied~~

H In the Mediterranean -
~~territory~~
Adriatic - Fiume was bombed;

And In Algiers today, the comment was made that

U. S.
~~United States~~ air forces ~~in the Mediterranean~~ are

preparing to launch an offensive against Germany proper-

from the south - -

-- an offensive as devastating as the assaults that are

being hurled with such destructive effect from bases

in Britain.

ITALY

In Italy, the British Eighth Army is still driving on - after their break-through on a twenty-five mile front. The latest reports are that General Montgomery's troops are within fifteen miles of the transverse highway across the Italian peninsula to Rome, the highway that terminates at the important harbor of Pescara. The Germans are launching desperate counter-attacks, but these are described as being of the rear guard variety - not major blows, ~~but~~ there attempts to keep the Nazi retreat from becoming a rout. ~~However, spokesmen at Allied headquarters give~~

~~the warning that the character of the German reaction may change, and that a real big time counter-attack may be launched - an ambitious Nazi try to restore that Winter Line which has been so completely shattered at its eastern end.~~

The Eighth Army battle thus far has relied

GILBERTS

Today in Washington the casualty figures for the conquest of the Gilberts were announced. On previous days, the intimations have been that our losses were heavy, and now the figures bear this out - especially considering the ~~xxxxxx~~ brief time of fighting, only seventy-six hours. The total number of American fighting men killed ~~xxxxxx~~ or wounded was three thousand, seven hundred and seventy-two, mostly marines. The number of killed was one thousand and ninety-two.

~~We all know that the bitterest fighting was on the big island base of Tarawa, and there one thousand and twenty-six Americans were killed, and two thousand, five hundred and fifty-seven were wounded. The capture of Makin was easy, with casualties ^{of} sixty-five killed and a hundred and twenty-one wounded. The seizure of Abemama was almost bloodless, one killed~~

~~and two wounded.~~

How did the Gilberts compare with Guadalcanal?

On Tarawa atoll alone, in a mere seventy-six hours of fighting, our losses were almost as high as they were on Guadalcanal during the weeks of savage struggle *there.*

CHINA

There is news from China tonight - that war front which too often is left unnoticed because of exciting events in other theatres of battle. The Chinese ^{have} inflicted heavy defeat on the Japs in Hunan Province and have recaptured the ^{city} ~~town~~ of Changteh, after one of the most ferocious struggles of the China War. (A dispatch from Chungking ~~xxxxxx~~ tells of forty hours of continuous and savage combat in the streets of Changteh - before the Japs were finally hurled out. Two Japanese columns had converged to take the city, and these are now in danger of being encircled. The Chinese forces are converging on them, and the Japs, trying hastily to retreat, face annihilation.

GRIPSHOLM

And They sang about America on a Swedish liner!

~~today~~ - the liner GRIPSHOLM, bringing home twelve hundred and thirty-six Americans. The GRIPSHOLM put into New York harbor today, and men and women laughed and cheered and wept - to see their home shores again, after nearly two years of captivity in the hands of the Japs. Some of them had never seen these home shores before - American nationals who had been born and raised in the Far East. They all sang "land that I love", the GRIPSHOLM ringing with the strains of "God Bless America."

~~There were official precautions, as there were~~

~~the last time the GRIPSHOLM brought repatriated~~

~~Americans home. The returning captives of war, the twelve hundred and thirty-six Americans and two hundred and twenty-one Canadians, are said to be in fine physical shape - after their long imprisonment.~~

On the ~~long~~ ^{around the world,} trip home, they made up for the ordeal they had endured, especially the ordeal of the ~~XXXXXXXX~~ food the Japs gave them, that meager oriental diet which leaves a white man half starved. Some of the passengers of the GRIPSHOLM gained as much as twenty-five pounds during the voyage.

One of the returning American repatriates is Bernard Covit, who was United Press correspondent at Manila. He was in a Japanese prison camp when Batan fell, and tells of information that he received concerning the American troops captured at Batan.

The Japs marched them through Manila streets, and Bernard Covit passes along the following account:

"The Americans were thin and feverish looking, unshaven and in ragged clothes, many without shoes or hats - as they walked under a hot sun and were prodded by cruel Jap guards. When a man fell to the ground,"

the account goes on, "he was left there by the Japs, who had orders that no assistance be given." ~~all~~ ^{all} this," ~~it is~~ explained, "was done to humiliate the Americans before the Filipinos."

The Filipinos, however, disregarded Japanese warnings, and many of them tossed cigarettes to the Americans. "You could see," the story concludes, "how the Filipinos felt - how loyal they were."

DRESS

At St. Paul, Minnesota, the police have been confronted with a peculiar detective problem - the search for the blue dress. It all came about because of an ^{air} army cadet ^(always) dreamed of his wife ^{in a most becoming} ~~as absent army men~~ dress of blue. ~~are likely to do. The dreams of Cadet O. W. Rupert, however, were singular, for in his dreams he always saw his wife in the same dress, this of a kind, in fact, that she never had. It was a blue dress, most becoming. He had never before seen her in anything quite so pretty.~~

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Cadet O. W. Rupert was on his way to his air base at Santa Ana, California, and happened to stop off at St. Paul. There he was passing along the street, when in a shop window what did he see? That same blue dress, the dream dress. ~~He thought he must have it and send it to her.~~ ^{And} What could be more perfect as a Christmas gift ^{for his wife?} But the store was closed at the time, and army travel regulations carried the cadet on his way

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to the Pacific coast.

Out at the air base he wrote to the St. Paul police and asked them to look up the dress. Unfortunately he couldn't remember the name of the store. "You see," he wrote, "I was in St. Paul for only two hours but the store was a block and a half from the train station. The dress," he continued, "is blue, trimmed in gold, and crossed over the chest in a belt-like effect. I want it," he explained, "because the dress looks like the one she wears in all my dreams."

He asked the police to buy the dress and send it to his wife for Christmas, and for the purpose he enclosed a ten dollar bill - explaining that the price he saw on it was Five Ninety-Five. ~~And he asked the police to put the rest of the cash into some charity fund or other~~
~~Five Ninety Five~~ Any man will envy that, seeing the dream dress for his wife priced at Five Ninety-Five!

The St. Paul cops turned the case over to Policewoman Kathryn Ryan and told her to do some detective work. She began sleuthing and promptly found the shop, but alas! The frock had been sold. The dream dress had been taken away and was being worn ^{by} some other woman. ~~The shopkeeper phoned a brand store at Duluth, Minnesota, but found that the blue dress was out of stock there.~~ An inquiry was placed with the manufacturer; and ~~the~~ final word was that there were no more blue dresses of that style.

Policewoman Ryan kept on sleuthing and found a ^{1/2} black dress of the same description - trimmed in gold and crossed over the chest. And today's news tells that she has written to Cadet Rupert, asking him if the black one will do. ~~The St. Paul police force hopes that it will be the same.~~ *Ah, but it won't be the same. It won't be the blue dream dress, that is, the one on the force. Policewoman Kathryn Ryan will it George?*