

HUGH GIBSON - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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on reports to the newspapers of Switzerland. Every
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RETAKE

Gibson for

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new policy. Instead of concealing how devastating those air raids are, the broadcasts are emphasizing the completeness of the desolation. They admit now that the Royal Air Force practically erased the City of Krefeld. Those were the words, "Practically erased"

Of course, we have heard that the Nazis have been dismantling entire factories and moving them east, where the British and American raiders would find it more difficult to get at them. But as a British officer pointed out today, it is rather difficult to pick up a coal mine and carry it away. The factories are in the Ruhr for the same reason that our great steel mills are in Pennsylvania. They are close to the coal mines. And Germany's transportation system has been so shot up that it will be tremendously difficult for them to carry the coal to factories in the East.

The Germans, we hear, are trying to erect a sort of Maginot Line in the skies. They now have more than a thousand fighter planes concentrated

in the west. That would be sixty per cent of the entire pursuit plane strength of the German air arm, which means that they have had to withdraw a considerable number of them from the Russian front. Besides the interceptor planes, the Germans have more than thirty thousand anti-aircraft guns ~~and~~ *and* searchlights by the tens of thousand. They have created a belt two hundred miles long and twenty to fifty miles deep. It reaches all the way from the North Sea down to the western border of Germany. They have also erected huge towers for searchlights and flak guns. London believes that the air raids have obliged Hitler's generals to maintain ~~more~~ more than a million and a half effective soldiers in western Europe to man the anti-aircraft and fighter defenses.

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AIR WAR FOLLOW LEAD

The Royal Air Force followed up its raids on the Ruhr today. It sent out formations of between four hundred and five hundred large bombers to raid the Nazi airfields and also industrial plants in France and the Low Countries. They were backed up by a strong support of both American and British fighter planes. Four hundred to five hundred planes ~~announced~~ sounds comparatively mild these days. ~~Not~~ Not so long ago it would have been a tremendous force. But the effectiveness of the raid was increased by the way in which the R.A.F. kept it up, crossing and recrossing the English Channel in a continuing series of attacks.

49 The first shuttle raid which the R.A.F. completed was found to be a great success. The huge Lancaster bombers made a twenty-four hundred mile round trip without a single loss. On their way south, they bombed the great German Radar Works at

Friedrichshaven. From there they went to Africa, where they reloaded. On their way back to Britain, they bombed the daylights out of Italy's largest naval base at Spezia.

The Air Ministry reports that the raid on Friedrichshaven destroyed three acres of the Zeppelin Works there. The Air Ministry does not say how many Lancasters there were in that shuttle raid, but it is known that there were at least several squadrons.

ADMIRALTY

The British Admiralty also put out a favorable report today. British undersea ~~war~~ships in the Mediterranean have sunk thirteen more enemy vessels. One of them was an armed merchant cruiser. Seven other vessels were torpedoed, including two naval auxiliaries, two supply vessels and eight cargo carriers. The subs also came to the surface in broad daylight and shelled an enemy radio location station.

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SOLOMONS

In the South Pacific, our forces are blasting away at Japanese bases. The most recent targets were a couple of enemy outposts in the central Solomons. One of them is an important seaplane base and is also used for refueling submarines. A formation of United States Navy Dauntless dive bombers and Avenger torpedo planes, protected by Wildcat fighters, flew over Rekata Bay on Santa Isabel Island. They dropped twenty tons of bombs, landing several hits on their targets, and started one fire. They met with considerable ~~xxxxxxThexxxxxxwith~~ anti-aircraft fire, but every American plane returned to base, although it was a daylight raid.

United States Army Mitchell bombers, escorted by Navy Corsair fighters, paid a visit to Ganongga Island in the New Georgia group. They attacked a place called Buri, where the Japanese had been seen landing stores recently. Our bombers left several fires behind them.

STIMSON

51 Secretary of War Stimson tells us that the German generals have been strongly reinforcing their armies of France and Italy. The Nazi officers ^{appear to} believe that the Allies intend to invade through one or both of those countries.

The Allies have information that the Germans have sent ten or twelve more divisions into France and several others into Italy. ^{Unfortunately,} ~~Furthermore,~~ they have not been able to learn whether those ~~are~~ reinforcements were drawn from the Russian front or from reserves in Germany itself.

The casualties in all the armed forces of the United States in this war to date are sixty thousand, eight hundred and sixty. That includes Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Of these ninety odd thousand, fifteen thousand, a hundred and thirty were killed; twenty-one thousand, eight hundred and sixty wounded; thirty-three thousand, six hundred and ninety-seven missing; twenty thousand, a hundred and seventy-one prisoners.

Secretary of War Stimson released these figures today. He pointed out that of those casualties, the Army alone lost seven thousand, five hundred and fifty-eight dead. There is an increase in the fact that during the one month of July, nineteen fourteen, more than eight thousand people were killed at the home front by accident. That is, learn from the National Safety Council which has been asking the

CASUALTIES

The casualties in all the armed forces of the United States in this war to date are ninety thousand, eight hundred and sixty. That includes Army, Navy, Mar/ine Corps and Coast Guard. Of those ninety odd thousand, fifteen thousand, a hundred and thirty-two were killed; twenty-one thousand, eight hundred and sixty wounded, thirty-three thousand, six hundred and ninety-seven missing, twenty thousand, a hundred and seventy-one prisoners.

Secretary of War Stimson released these figures today. He pointed out that of those casualties, the Army alone lost seven thousand, five hundred and fifty-eight dead. There is an ironic comparison in the fact that during the one month of July in Nineteen Forty-Two, more than eight thousand people were killed on the home front, by accident. That we learn from the National Safety Council which has been asking the

Governors of all the States to issue proclamations urging people to avoid this unnecessary loss of life. as an impediment to the war effort.

away from the Administration leaders. They voted to recommend a law to give Chester Davis complete control over the food industry. That would give the Food Administrator power not only to fix prices, but also rationing as well as distribution. This is flatly in the teeth of the wishes of President Roosevelt.

The Committee vote was eighteen to eight, with Democrats as well as Republicans defying the President. In fact, the bill that they recommended was by Democrat Congressman Fulmer of South Carolina, ~~the~~ Chairman of the Committee.

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FOOD

The members of the Agriculture Committee of the House took the bit in their teeth last night and ran away from the Administration leaders. They voted to recommend a law to give Chester Davis complete control over the food industry. That would give the Food Administrator power not only to fix prices, but also rationing as well as distribution. This is flatly in the teeth of the wishes of President Roosevelt.

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In the upper Chamber, Senator Clyde Reed of Kansas started the effort to defeat the President's subsidy plan. Reed represents the farm vote. He claims the wages of workers in war industries are way ahead of

the cost of living. On January of this year, he points out, factory pay checks were a hundred and eighty-four per cent of the average between Nineteen Thirty-Five and 'Thirty-Nine. At the same time, the cost of living was ~~only~~ only a hundred and twenty per cent *of what it was in the same period.*

Seven days from now you will be having more coffee. Maybe that will console people who cannot get enough meat. The O.P.A. announces that the rationing will be increased to one pound for every person for three weeks. At present the allowance is one pound for four weeks.

COAL

Thousands of coal miners are paying no attention to the orders of their Union leaders to go back to work. This is particularly serious in ~~the case of~~ central and western Pennsylvania. The bulk of our steel mills depend upon the coal that comes from those regions. And there, out of a total of a hundred and twenty-five thousand miners, only twenty thousand were ^{at work} ~~on the job~~ today.

In some cases this was a concerted movement, as the local unions voted to stay at home. The consequence is that some of the biggest mills producing steel for tanks, guns and ships, armor plate for warships, are at a standstill. The biggest of them all, the Carnegie Illinois Corporation, has already had to shut down five of its blast furnaces. Another company has been obliged to bank one of its two furnaces.

The Union leaders do not take that silent walkout very seriously. They say that if the men have a

couple of days to cool off, they will relent and do what is expected of them. One Union official blamed their staying away on the statement issued by President ~~Roosevelt~~ Roosevelt yesterday. They say it did the situation no good because the threat to draft them merely enraged the men.

Secretary Ickes, as boss of hard fuels, warns us that he may be ~~obliged~~ obliged to ration coal this winter. He told the operators that he would ~~be obliged~~ ^{have} to interfere more actively in ^{the} management of the mines. This, he declared, is essential to protect the government's interests. He went so far as to intimate that this might include changes in salary and control of the personnel of the mine companies.

By way of consolation, he said the government hopes to be able to return the mines to private

management before the end of the war. But as matters are now, he will have to hang on to them longer than the government had planned at first.

Today Several Congressmen were appealing to the President to sign the Connally-Smith Anti-strike Bill. Senator Byrd of Virginia declared that if Mr. Roosevelt vetoes it, there will be a suspicion that a trade has been made with John L. Lewis.

The truce declared by Lewis ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ *has* met with a lot of criticism in Washington. The operators object to the conditions of the truce, also some members of the War Labor Board.

56

ATTU

The commanders of our forces on the Aleutian Island of Attu have established one interesting fact. They found evidence that the Jap^{max} never contemplated keeping Attu as a permanent base. They wanted it rather as a jumping off point, to proceed ~~west~~^{EAST} and grab the rest of the Aleutian chain. They thought they could take other islands, hold them and keep their garrisons there supplied.

The best evidence of this is that the Japanese garrison attempted no permanent construction on Attu. They used no concrete, no steel, and only a limited quantity of sheet iron. The Jap garrison was in command of a colonel. He had plenty of guns, ammunition and food, but it is now evident that the Tokyo high command considered the colonel and his men as "expendables." in other words, it was a gamble, a costly one as it turned out.

WRECK

Two army planes collided in the air over Massachusetts today, and the result was rather disastrous. The colliding planes caught fire. Then they fell on the tracks of the Boston and Albany Railroad and exploded with a terrific roar.

The body of one pilot was blown the distance of nearly a quarter of a mile. The other one, fortunately, was able to bail out and land safely. ~~But~~ Another consequence was that a passenger train ~~from~~ ^{of} the Boston and Albany was derailed, but fortunately no car overturned.

BULLETIN

There are indications that the Axis powers are concerned over the prospects of an early invasion.

From London comes news that the Italian Secret Police have arrested more than eleven thousand persons in a sweep of the country, in search of possible Fifth

Columnists. [Germany and Italy make no bones about fearing a Mediterranean invasion somewhere between Sardinia and the Dodecanese Islands.]

PRODUCTION

A gentleman in Cleveland has an idea that ought to make him popular in factories. I wish Lowell Thomas could hear this one.

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There was a meeting of foundry operators and union officials at Cleveland today. One of the speakers was Dr. William P. Edmonds, Director of the War Manpower Division in that area. He is by profession a physician and psychologist. And this is what his knowledge of Psychology leads him to say:

"What war production needs is free beer and pretzels twice a day." As Lowell Thomas might remark

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if he were here: Does that meet with your approval,

Hugh James?