

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Japan strikes at us again. This time ~~they~~
~~came~~ right up ^{at} ~~to~~ the backdoor of the continent of
North America, ^{They have} and bombed Dutch Harbor on the Island of
Unalaska. ^{Our main} ~~That is our most important~~ ^{newly made} base in the
Aleutian Islands. For months, our high command in
Washington has been expecting this attack. ^{And} ~~to start at~~
^{Uncle Sam has} ~~any moment.~~ We have been working ^{feverishly,} ~~like beavers~~ trying to
build up Dutch Harbor and other bases, in the Aleutians,
and along the Alaskan Coast —
before the Japs could get there. There has been no
doubt in the minds of military observers that the Tokyo
high command had its eye on the Aleutians, has been
planning to take them if possible, and part of Alaskan
^{mainland.}
~~too.~~ In fact, they have little doubt that Tokyo also

plans ^{to try and} ~~to~~ seize the Siberian seaboard from Vladivostok to the Gulf of Sakhalin, as well as the Russian half of the Island of Sakhalin. ^{which} ~~That~~ would cut the Russians off from ^{joining up with us for an} ~~ever coming to our help.~~ ^{attacks from Siberia.}

The attack on Dutch Harbor today was only a short one. The Navy ^{doesn't tell us much} ~~is exceedingly thrifty in details~~ about it. Four Japanese bombers and some fifteen fighters appeared suddenly around noon, Eastern Wartime. The raid lasted only fifteen minutes. We don't know how much damage they did. The Navy believes that the planes were launched from a Japanese aircraft carrier. The nearest Japanese base is fourteen hundred miles west, too far for fighter planes. ^{TF} Only last week Secretary of War Stimson published a warning that this attack might be expected at any minute. Brief though the raid was, it ^{may easily be} ~~is obviously only~~ the forerunner of a concerted attack, an attack in full naval force.

500.
Stimson pointed out that we are doing everything that humanly can be done to protect ourselves, but that with such a long coastline as Alaska's, perfect defense is impossible.

On the several occasions that I have been to that harbor, on the way down from Nome, it was ~~quite an~~ *a rather* unimportant little *far northern* port infested with fog *and from Bering* ~~and~~ *Sea.* ~~surrounded by rocks.~~ But it is a large harbor, ten miles long, *and* not far from where the Alaskan peninsula stretches out into the *Pacific,* ~~ocean.~~ When I was there, the Island of Unalaska was uninhabited except for ~~some~~ *a few* thousand Aleut Indians, *and* a few descendants of the old Russian pioneers who discovered the place, *and a* ~~But~~ *handful of Americans.* ~~But~~ a couple of years ago, it changed over night. Soldiers, sailors, defense workers were taken there by the thousands, to build up defenses and establish a strong base. According to one story from Washington, Dutch

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Harbor, though not necessarily the strongest base in those parts, is the spearhead of our chain of defenses there, the point from which we might want to launch our heaviest assault on Nippon. And the natural question tonight is, are the Japs beating us to the punch. And what will be the next development?

RAIDS

The Royal Air Force went at it again last night. They paid a return visit to Essen, the heart of the Krupp factories, adding to the flames they started on the night before. The latest raid was on nothing like the same scale as the other two. Only about three hundred planes took part in this one. They went partly to find out what had been accomplished Monday night and to keep up the good work and hamper the Germans in putting out the great fires. They report that a cloud of smoke hangs thick over the Ruhr today.

They also bombed several towns in the neighborhood of the Krupp capital.

The British report that they sighted squadrons of German fighter planes and tried to give them battle, but that the Nazis turned tail and fled.

The Germans on their side, again raided the Cathedral town of Canterbury. Their boast is that they sent wave after wave of fighter squadrons dropping

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countless bombs, causing large fires in and near
the Cathedral.

LIBYA

The second phase of the battle of the Libyan desert has begun. On the one hand, ^{Colonel} ~~Nazi General~~ ~~Colonel~~ Rommel has established a ten mile bridgehead in the desert southwest of Tobruk. ~~It~~ Sounds a bit curious to talk of bridgeheads on land, but desert fighting with tanks ^{is not unlike} ~~has a good deal of analogy to~~ naval warfare. Rommel has found a gap in that ^e ~~that~~ line of British mine fields, ~~that we heard about yesterday,~~ a gap ten miles wide. Through this he is bringing up a flock of armored reserves for a new direct attack on Tobruk.

On the other hand, British General Ritchie, with his Eighth Imperial Army, accomplished a thirty mile dash across the desert, led by twenty-eight ton American General Grant tanks. So doing, Ritchie has captured Rommel's advance base at Segnali. This is reported from Cairo with much circumstance, and

evidently the British there consider it ~~quite~~ an
important ^{and} successful action.

BENGAL

Japanese warships have pulled off ^{a good show} ~~a fast coup~~ in the Bay of Bengal. It happened a long while ago, April Sixth, but the news broke today from the mouth of an American freighter captain. He says that on that date, three Japanese cruisers, two light and one heavy, made a ~~fast~~ dash into that ^{great bay which then} ~~bay~~. It was full of shipping belonging to the United Nations.

The Japs destroyed eighteen Allied cargo ships in one day. Some of them ^{going down under} ~~were sunk by~~ salvos ~~fired~~ at close range. Six of them ^{sunk} ~~went down~~ in forty minutes. The Japs cleaned up the whole bay according to the story of that shipmaster.

^{says this skipper's} The Navy in Washington ~~declares that his~~ was the only American vessel destroyed. He and his crew rowed to shore on the Indian coast, and at the spot where he landed on the beach there were three hundred and fifty survivors altogether. They had to walk through

dense jungles to the nearest village, some of the sailors without clothes, and the villagers were afraid of them.

COMMANDOS

One British arrival in Washington today was His Royal Highness, Lord Louis Mountbatten, cousin of King George the Sixth. This is important news, not so much because he is H.R.H. and a royal cousin, but because he is also a much decorated Vice-Admiral, and the top man of the British Commandos. the forces that have been pulling off those adventurous raids on the Nazi occupied coasts. The explanation from London is, that Lord Louis ~~XXXXX~~ is probably in Washington to discuss the training of American commandos for similar raids.

SUBMARINES

Six more ships torpedoed or shelled by Hitler's wolves of the sea. That's the total announced by the Navy tonight. In two cases at least these are delayed announcements, as the sinkings happened May Sixth and May Ninth. Another occurred May Seventeenth, and another May Twentieth. With a total loss of fifteen men.

The survivors of one American ship declared that they owe a lot to a little three year old boy who was one of the passengers. He took it all as a lot of fun, and his laughter so infected six other passengers and the thirty-eight men of the crew who were in the lifeboat, that they all were cheered up mightily.

Another destroyed ship was hit by three torpedoes. When the first of these hit, a passenger was taking a sun bath and timing himself with an alarm clock. He grabbed his alarm clock and ran below for his trousers. Later, when the excitement subsides, he found he still had the alarm clock, but no pants.

INTRO TO ADMIRAL LAND

Last week in Washington I spoke of seeing Admiral Emory S. Land, Chairman of the United States Maritime Commission, and War Shipping Administrator -- the man who is supposed to have very nearly the most important job in the world, and the toughest. I say that because top-ranking leaders from nearly all of the United Nations, from Field Marshall Sir John Dill, former Commander of the British forces in this war, on down, have told me that to win this war we need more ships, and need them more than we need anything else. And that's Admiral Land's assignment.

Naturally the Admiral has had to take plenty of criticism. That's inevitable for any man on that job. He has had it quite a while now, and on all sides I am now beginning to hear praise for what he had done.

While in Washington I hoped to have the Admiral on the air for a few moments. But, we were obliged to postpone it until this week. And now we

are going to hold our radio conversation, back and forth, between New York City and Washington. Right at this moment, the Admiral -- I hope, is sitting in front of a microphone in the nation's capitol. If you are, Admiral Land, then tell us how this job of producing ships, more ships and still more ships is coming along. Every man and woman in America wants to know.

ADMIRAL LAND: Mr. Thomas we have been asked to turn out two thousand three hundred ships by the end of Nineteen Forty-Three. Some twenty-three million tons. Uncle Sam's biggest year of shipbuilding ^{until} now was back in Nineteen Nineteen. In the First World War we had not reached our ship building peak until the end of the war. And in Nineteen Nineteen we turned out just a little over five million dead weight tonnage. I mention this to show you just what a colossal job we are now asked to do -- twenty-three million tons by the end of next year. In the history of the world

there has never been anything to compare with it. But, let's be fair to the fellows who did the shipbuilding in the other war. Then, as a nation we were not at all prepared. This time we haven't quite started from scratch.

L.T.: So our shipbuilding program is up to schedule. That's good news. How about the rate at which they are being sunk?

ADMIRAL LAND: That's a question for others to answer. As an old Navy man I know that our Navy is doing its utmost. We all know what a huge job it has fighting a war in the Pacific and a war in the Atlantic -- in fact, on all of the Seven Seas. To do that job as it should be done means we must have a bigger Navy than we have. But, Mr. Thomas, the other day when we were talking this over in my office you asked whether it wouldn't be a wise thing to concentrate on demolishing the submarines in the ship yards where they are being built, instead of waiting

until they are at sea, lurking in wait for our Merchant Marine. And, that colossal bombing raid on Cologne the other night -- and later on Essen -- is an answer to your question. Undoubtedly some of the things needed to turn out those submarines some of the instruments, and possibly some of the parts, are made in Cologne and Essen. And if the R.A.F. and our own great fleets of bombers, continue to demolish the plants where Hitler is turning out his war machinery, that may put a stop to the U-boat raids quicker than anything else.

L.T.: How about the building of fast patrol vessels to run down submarines?

ADMIRAL LAND: That's also out of my province. That phase of shipbuilding comes directly under the Navy. But, as you yourself know, we are turning out patrol craft of one sort or another on the assembly line principle. They are going to make it awfully tough for the submarines. And more and more blimps are being

turned out. I mention all this because I want to pay tribute to the people who are guarding our ships, the ships that are being made under the direction of our United States Maritime Commission. In May we delivered fifty-eight ships into service; launched sixty-five and laid keels for seventy-five. So may I repeat again; our shipbuilding program is up to schedule.

L.T.: That's fine, Admiral Land. What you tell us means a great deal at this crucial hour.

Here's a later word from the Navy, just off
—about Dutch Harbor
the wire. Those Jap raiders did no serious damage to
Dutch Harbor. Casualties were few.

NAVY

Eight billions more for the Navy. ~~If you insist~~
To be
~~on being~~ exact, eight billions, three hundred millions.

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A bill to appropriate that much is to be introduced immediately by Congressman Vinson of Georgia, Chairman of the Naval Affairs Committee. The idea is to build one million, nine hundred thousand tons more fighting vessels for Uncle, Sam, of which half a million tons will consist of new aircraft carriers.

C.C.C.

Exit Civilian Conservation Corps! Ever since the war started, Congressmen have been sniping at it, saying it was unnecessary and an expense. President Roosevelt asked the lawmakers to continue it on a reduced basis. He asked for only seventy-five odd millions, which sounds trifling in these days of staggering billions. But the economy hunters in Congress are not satisfied, so the Appropriations Committee has cut that seventy-five million dollars out of the budget.

for the c.c.c. right

EDUCATION

The United States Commissioner of Education has filed a report that the public school system of the country is in danger of collapsing. The war to blame. That state governments have been obliged to reduce their subsidies to communities for the support of schools, that many of the ablest teachers are now in the armed forces; and so on.

Others have resigned to take jobs in war industries. Also he tells us that budgets for teachers' pay, materials, supplies, heat, lighting and maintenance of buildings, have been cut. Altogether he paints an unfavorable picture of one of the things of which we have been most proud -- our public schools.

BATHTUB

I hope Admiral Land has better luck than the farmer in California who has applied to the War Production Board for help in getting married. He has the bride picked out, and she is willing; but, she will not go to the altar without a bathtub. Without the permission of Production Chief Nelson and his men, the farmer cannot get the tub or the plumbing. W.P.B. has made an answer. The word comes from Washington that the government officials will think over the matter of the farmer's bathtub!

And now Hugh, have you something ~~is~~ for us to think over?