

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

The Allied armies in Italy have now thrown their siege lines around Naples. General Mark Clark's American Fifth Army has ~~px~~ pushed its way up the backbone of the Sorrento Peninsula -- which points at Capri. So American guns are now on those Sorrento peaks five thousand feet above the Bay of Naples.

As for the German divisions that have been holding us up in that part of Italy, they are pulling away from the Salerno area as fast as they can under heavy blows from the Allied air forces.

There is one small town the Fifth Army had been trying to take for several days. Finally, long-range ~~fixx~~ fire from Allied warships at sea made the place impossible for the Nazis to hold, and they withdrew so fast that four American correspondents drove into the town ahead of our Infantry patrols.

Naples already had been under fire from Allied artillery on two small ~~at~~ islands just off Naples. But the famous old city is also now within reach of our big guns on the mainland, ^{on the distant} ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ heights of Sorrento sixteen miles to the south of Naples, and half that distance from Vesuvius. Our artillery is also dropping shells on the naval base on the south side of the Bay.

According to a radio broadcast from Algiers, the Germans have declared a state of siege in Naples itself.

As for the German defense around Salerno, it broke when the Allies captured Amalfi, so dear to the hearts of all tourists. Amalfi is a small dreamlike port ten miles west of Salerno. There Mt. San Angelo rises abruptly out of the sea to a height of more than five thousand feet. With Amalfi in their hands, General Clark's men drove ahead fast, ten miles at one point, twenty miles at another.

The Berlin radio today claimed that the Germans

were still in control of the Salerno area, and that British forces were making abortive attacks against the Nazi positions. Berlin then admitted that its troops were withdrawing, when it said that farther to the east the enemy is following up German movements only hesitatingly.

Dispatches from the headquarters of the American Fifth Army report that the Germans are fighting a determined rear guard action. But that they are going so fast they have abandoned quite a number of tanks -- the Allies having captured more than forty of them in and around Salerno.

Long convoys of German trucks are hurrying north tonight, through the mountain passes, in swift retreat from the Salerno front. These, of course, offer an excellent target to American Invader and War Hawk planes that are pouring ~~mm~~ cannon shells and machine gun bullets into them. The word is that Nazi vehicles are being destroyed by the hundreds.

On the right flank of General Mark Clark's Fifth Army, ~~Montgomery~~ Montgomery's Eighth is marching ahead and meeting almost no resistance from the Germans. Also the British Fifth Army is advancing rapidly from Taranto.

Correspondents at headquarters were told that we must expect a lull in Italy while the Allies are consolidating their positions and preparing for the final advance on Naples and Rome.

The British Eighth Army is now almost two hundred and fifty miles from the place where it originally landed in Calabria.

Berlin claims that the Allies now have ~~ex~~ ten divisions massed on the Salerno front, including an American Second Parachute Division, the Third Infantry Division, and the First Canadian Division, which have just been landed.

Doolittle's airmen evidently are having an easy time of it in southern Italy now. The Nazi

air arm is virtually out of the battle. So British and American bombers are destroying bridges in the path of the retreating German army.

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Berlin claims that the Italians, fighting on the side of the Allies, did not take the island of Sardinia. They say the Germans evacuated it. The usual alibi. The Nazis also claim to have occupied a harbor on the Adriatic side of Italy.

CORSICA

And, the Germans are being turned out of Corsica. The moment the Italian armistice ~~was~~ was announced, patriot fighters on the island - and the Corsicans are fierce fighters - went to work on the Germans. Thereupon, French commando forces were landed on Corsica, and these have been backing up the Corsican patriots. Evidently they are succeeding too, because a communique from Allied headquarters in North Africa uses these words:- "Events have taken a favorable turn," in Corsica.

The communique is signed by General Henri Giraud, as general officer commanding the French forces.

BADOGLIO

One interesting event of today was a radio broadcast by Marshal Badoglio, Premier of Italy.

The theme of it was - "out with the Germans!" And he sounded the praise of the British-American forces, calling them "our old comrades in arms of the last war."

Then he went on to ^{recount} ~~say~~ the ^{many} grievances of the Italians against the Nazis. He referred to their description of his armistice as "a traitorous move." He demanded to know how can the Nazis speak of honor, when they never had any. There was no honor in the Germans who abandoned Italian soldiers on the Don, in Libya, in Tunisia, and in Calabria, ^{said the veteran Marshal.} Then he turned to the Italian Fascisti and talked scornfully about the Mussolini henchmen who had filled their pockets with gold which ought to have been used in preparing for the war ^{into} ~~so~~ which they ^{so unwisely forced} ~~incautiously threw~~ ^{their} ~~into~~ their country.

Badoglio declared that all along the Germans have treated Italy as a conquered nation. ~~And~~ had been willing to let all Italian cities be destroyed in order to save ~~the~~ German cities. He talked also about the Nazi conscription of Italian workmen for slave labor in the Reich, and described how brutally the Nazis had treated the Italian populace.

In one passage of his speech he suggested that Italian soldiers and civilians should take to guerrilla warfare against the Nazis. He told his people to leave the cities and go to the country, where they can sabotage German communications and attack the isolated Nazi outposts. "Above all," he said, "don't give up! don't lose heart!"

RUSSIA

On the eastern front, the Russians are still blasting their way ahead. It seems difficult to believe that the Red armies are now advancing almost as fast as the Nazi hordes when they first invaded an unprepared Russia. *there continues at its* If the fighting ~~goes on there as it has been,~~

present pace we may hear of two *more* ~~other~~ sensational victories this week. In one direction they are forging closer and closer to Smolensk, and further south they are approaching Kiev.

Late this afternoon Moscow announced that they *near the river of Dnieper* were within nine miles of Melitopol. And that puts them almost within striking distance of the Germans in the Crimea. Melitopol controls one of the two railroads that lead into that peninsula. In that advance, the Soviet troops have occupied more than seventy *that's* inhabited places, including one large town, the center of an entire region.

Further north, in the direction of Poltava, the Red army has captured more than sixty^{more} inhabited places, including two key centers in the Poltava region and two important railway stations.

The army advancing on Kiev has captured a place called Grebenka, a town and railway junction, also several other large towns in the same area.

Further north, one army has broken the German line northwest of Smolensk, while another column advanced from ten to eighteen kilometers in one day, south of Smolensk.

In fact, they are pushing ahead all along that line, and will soon have conquered the entire valley of the Dnieper River.

ADD RUSSIA

Altogether, the Soviet forces have recaptured more than one thousand towns and villages, in one day. They have been advancing in eight separate and distinct sectors, on a front seven hundred and fifty miles long. Over the weekend, the number of inhabited localities they have retaken total more than three thousand. They are not only approaching Kiev, but are also close to Dniepropetrovsk, where they had their great dam and hydro-electric works, center of one of the biggest manufacturing areas of new Russia.

PACIFIC

McArthur's forces in the Pacific, we learn today, have done considerable damage to the important air base the Japs have on the Solomon island of Bougainville. According to official report, the enemy in that part of the world is now definitely on the run. Bougainville is of major importance at present because the Japs there have a bastion protecting their all important position at Rabaul in New Britain. And Rabaul we must have before long.

McArthur's airmen have been striking day and night. Sometimes General Kenny's bomber squadrons appeared so suddenly that they caught the Japs completely off guard. Fleets of more than two hundred planes have wrecked the air field at Ballale. They have damaged the enemy installations at Kahili. And they shot down at least fifty-two Jap interceptor planes, also numerous aircraft that they caught on the ground. Our losses? Fourteen planes; but more than half the pilots were saved.

In New Guinea, MacArthur's men are getting ready to take advantage of the capture of the Jap air base

at Lae. Engineers are busy repairing the airdrome, making it into a base for our own planes. Meanwhile, Australian troops are mopping up the scattered garrison as it flees through the New Guinea jungle.

Today for the first time Tokyo admitted the loss of Lae and Salamaua. The Japs also announced a heavy raid by American planes on their bases in the Gilbert Islands. The Tokyo radio said this happened in the dead of night, on September Eighteenth and the early morning of September Nineteenth. The attacks were delivered by more than two hundred American planes based on carriers. The places raided were the islands of Tarawa, Makin and Nauru. Admiral Nimitz's headquarters at Pearl Harbor acknowledged ³₁ that ^{our}₁ naval forces ~~did~~ raided Tarawa and Nauru, but made no mention of Maikin. The Japs claim to have shot ⁺ down twenty-two of our planes.

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CEYLON

There was an air raid alert today way off in the Indian Ocean. ~~The~~ ^{there} Spotters observed a lone Jap plane approaching Colombo, ~~the~~ capital of the fascinating ^{island} island of Ceylon. The inhabitants were all prepared for a raid, but nothing happened. No bombs were dropped and the Jap fled before he could be caught. It turned out that it was a reconnaissance plane. *A lone Jap having a look at the riches of fabulous Ceylon.*

The British take that to mean that the Japs are growing nervous lest the 'Allies make use of Ceylon for the invasion of Burma. ^{And} The air command, ^{under} ~~is~~ Lord Louis Mountbatten ^{is} stepping up the pace of its raids on ~~the~~ Jap positions ^{from Rangoon to Mandalay.} in Burma. Both the number and the intensity of the raids has increased.

^{capital of fair Ceylon,} It was at Colombo, that the Japs were set back for the first time ^{since} ~~that~~ they had started the war.

On April Fifth, Nineteen Forty-Two, they sent a force

of seventy-five planes to attack the capital of Ceylon. But the British were ready for them. Interceptors shot down twenty-seven of the raiders, perhaps another five, and damaged twenty-five more. The next day there was another raid when the Japanese lost six and probably twelve planes over another part of Ceylon--over Kandy. Since then they have more or less ignored the island.

DRAFT

A committee of Senators today heard testimony about the plan to draft fathers, ^{They heard it} from the Chief of Staff, General Marshall, himself. ^{Marshall} He said that if Congress interfered, it would seriously dislocate the plans for the invasion of Europe, ~~it~~ would increase the casualties, and prolong the war endlessly.

He went on to explain that if the army is not allowed to draft fathers, key combat units will be emasculated just at a time when what we want to do most is to get at the enemy. General Marshall then used these words:- "We are on the offensive, and it would be unfortunate to do anything that would diminish our power."

He backed up his declaration with specific facts about the training of the army, the casualties, and its future strength. Marshall told the Senators that if we can't hit the enemy now while they are off balance, we shall lose much military advantage.

ADD DRAFT

Another witness before the Committee today was the Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet, Admiral King, who backed up everything General Marshall had said.

MARSHALL FOLLOW DRAFT

Rumors about General Marshall came to a head this afternoon in Congress. Last week the Army and Navy Journal declared that powerful influences were at work to get Marshall removed as Chief-of-Staff and sent to Europe as Allied Commander over there. When reporters asked the President about it, Mr. Roosevelt replied that he had not the foggiest idea about the proposal.

8 1/2 Today on the floor of the House, Congresswoman Sumner of Illinois said she had heard that it was British influence that was trying to get Marshall kicked upstairs because he stands up for American rights. She said she had it on the right kind of authority ^{too. And she also} ^{afect} said there are ~~also~~ intrigues to get rid of Admiral Leahy, the President's Chief-of-Staff, ~~and~~ also to keep General Douglas MacArthur in the background. ⁹ *And now Hugh.*