

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The all-absorbing story
~~The most thought provoking single item of~~

in the
^

news today comes from Berlin. That is, it was reported by the Berlin radio as a story picked up by German ~~XXXX~~ agents in Lisbon. The story ^{*being*} ~~is~~ that Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill left London several days ago to meet President Roosevelt.

In Washington, no official comment whatsoever has been made on this report. It was referred to the Office of Censorship which made the ruling that the story comes from the Berlin radio. ^{*And, Berlin*} ~~It~~ goes on to claim that Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt discussed not only the ~~xxx~~ situation in

North Africa and the entire Mediterranean theatre of war, but also the relationship of Great Britain and the United States with Soviet Russia.

ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOW LEAD

Well, For several days, British and American news desks have been on tenterhooks in expectation of a spectacular official announcement about the campaign in the Mediterranean. ^{That} ~~The~~ expectation naturally has led to the keenest kind of speculation. Even the stiff London censorship has not forbidden writers to report that plans of the utmost moment are in the making. One speculation over the weekend was that General George Marshall, our Chief of Staff, was to be the Commander-in-Chief in Europe. In fact, this was published in London newspapers.

Another story out of London is that Lieutenant-General Eisenhower is to be put in supreme command of joint operations in the Mediterranean. In ^{which} ~~that~~ case, Lieutenant-General Harold Alexander, British Commander-in-Chief of the Middle East, will have a job of cleaning the Germans and Italians out of

Tunisia. ^{FF} To Alexander is given a great deal of ~~xxxx~~
the credit for the success of General Montgomery's
brilliant drive across Libya and ^{for} the capture of Tripoli.

^{FF} The bases for that London story is the necessity for
coordinating General Montgomery's Eighth Army with
General Kenneth Anderson's British First Army and ^{with} the
American Fifth Army.

All this, however, is out and out speculation -
grapevine stuff as it is called in newspaper offices.
But until the official announcement is made, you can
imagine the tension and keenness and impatience from
~~all of us who are intimately involved~~
~~everybody concerned in the digging up and telling of the~~
~~news~~ in the gathering and dissemin-
ating of the news.

AFRICA

The story of Africa is ~~quite~~ a thriller today.

The advance guard of ~~General~~ Montgomery's British Eighth Army is reported rolling across the Tunisian frontier. Rolling across not at one point but at three.

This word
~~places. That story~~ comes from Madrid which, though on the side of the Axis, has tipped us off to several Allied successes within the last couple of months.

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But the British ~~do not have~~ *are sharing* the spotlight ~~all~~
with ~~to themselves~~ The American Fifth Army *which* received a ~~xxxxx~~
written challenge from the Germans, a challenge to come out and fight. Our men took them at their word. They came out and they fought. A raiding party of Uncle Sam's fighters dashed across the Axis line, drove forward twenty-two miles from the last outpost, and plunged, shooting and stabbing into a place called Makanssy, ~~that is a point~~ only thirty-three miles from the Tunisian coast below Sfax. Not biting off more

than they could chew, they did not try to go as far as the coast, though they might have done ^{so} ~~it~~. They took ^{quite a few} ~~eighty~~ German prisoners and answered the Nazis' challenge.

Elsewhere in Tunisia, the Nazis were advancing in the sector called Ousseltia. But, ~~there~~ they were stopped by American and French forces. The Germans ^{digging} ~~dug~~ themselves in on the heights east of the Ousseltia Valley.

The Nazi attack in the Ousseltia Valley was made for the purpose of widening the corridor by which Rommel is leading the retreat of his fleeing Afrika Korps. American and British planes have been heavily bombarding the line of retreat. But Algerian ~~dispatches~~ to Madrid reported that most of Rommel's armored units had escaped, moving by night. They even are supposed to have ~~xxxxxx~~ made good their escape past Gabes.

They are still on the run. That means Rommel is not going to try to make any further stand until he has his panzer units all safe within the Axis lines at Sousse or Tunis itself.

At the present rate of progress, we may expect to hear any day that British General Montgomery has effected a junction with the British First Army and the United States Fifth Army in Tunisia.

which
~~This~~
makes
~~renders~~ it all the more urgent for the Allied governments to make that long expected announcement of a unified command in Africa.

The concentration of American armored forces in southern Tunisia is growing ^apace. It becomes more and more evident that the last phase of the Battle of Tunisia is about to begin, the battle to sweep the Germans and Italians out of Africa entirely.

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Tonight we learn also that a division of

Fighting French troops under General Jacques LeClerc has fought its way north twelve hundred miles from French Equatorial Africa. It has reached a point only fifty miles from the Mediterranean, a point west of Tripoli, and will shortly join up with the Allied forces there. On its way, the Fighting French cleaned out several Italian outposts in the desert oases.

And here is an important British naval announcement from that area. The British and American submarines in the Mediterranean are starting in on the sinking of their second million tons of Axis vessels. This was announced by Admiral Sir Henry Harwood, Commander-in-Chief of His Majesty's Mediterranean fleet. The latest vessel to be sunk by a British undersea boat in those waters completes the first million tons. And the Admiralty announces that four of His Majesty's underwater men-o-war have sunk four

enemy supply ships and two escort vessels. One of the supply ships, ~~was~~ a large modern vessel. All ~~those~~ ~~enemy ships~~ were north bound. Presumably they had discharged their cargoes.

SUBMARINES

Another warning about German submarine strength ^{came} ~~was uttered~~ today ^{from} ~~by~~ a high officer of the Royal Canadian Navy. Vice-Admiral Nelles, Chief of ~~the~~ Naval Staff, said ^{at} ~~a~~ Montreal today that Hitler's U-boat fleets are increasing at the rate of more than ten a month. What is more, some of those modern German subs are larger than British corvettes. ~~They~~ They are strongly constructed and mount guns capable of engaging surface warships in action. Furthermore, they hunt in packs and can stay at sea for much longer periods than U-boats used to.

RUSSIA

The most dramatic Russian victory today was ^{again} reported first from Berlin, not Moscow. The Nazis admitted ^{ing that} ~~ed that~~ their troops had ^{we} ~~had~~ withdrawn from Voronezh. At first the Soviet high command kept silence about this, which might have seemed a bit strange. As a matter of fact, the Reds never ^{had} admitted that the Germans had taken Voronezh. Actually, ^{Nazis had only taken} they ~~only took~~ about three-quarters of the city. The line between the two armies ran through the western and northwestern sections of Voronezh. On the other hand, the Nazis never admitted that the Russians were still in possession of part of the city.

At any rate, the Red Army now has Voronezh, all of it. The Nazis ^{are insisting that} ~~claimed~~ they evacuated it in order to shorten their front. In characteristic Nazi style they added that they ~~had~~ ~~withdawn~~ of their own accord and without any pressure from the enemy.

Later in the day, there was a special
communique from Moscow which read:- "Our troops have
taken complete possession of Voronezh." The communique
adds that the eastern bank of the River Don, west and
southwest of the town, has also been cleared of German
troops. ^H The Red divisions took eleven thousand more
prisoners. ^{Running} ~~Thus~~, the total number of captives taken

on the Voronezh front ^{up to} ~~is now~~ seventy-five thousand.

A spectacular feature ~~from~~ ^{of} the Russo-German
war this week, is ^{the} ~~the~~ complete about-face of Nazi
propaganda. Its crowing, triumphant tone has been
changed to a note of grim and ominous warnings. In
addition to the fall of Voronezh, the Nazi high command
admits that "the Russian enemy succeeded in penetrating
farther in German western lines by employing strong
forces."

Another spokesman admitted that, "the situation

of the German defenders has become more critical.

Fresh Russian battalions and tanks appeared from their hideouts unceasingly and are virtually flooding the battlefield." That spokesman goes on to acknowledge ~~that~~ that "Stalingrad's def^deners," meaning the Germans, "have still more contracted their lines."

Most significant of all German communiques is the statement that "the Sixth Army in Stalingrad has attached immortal glory to its colors in an heroic and self-sacrificial fight against overwhelming superiority."

^{Which}
~~That~~ is interpreted as a clear admission that the Axis divisions that formerly were besieging Stalingrad are now being annihilated.

The Berlin communique mentions Rumanian units as fighting shoulder to shoulder with German comrades to the utmost.

It looks quite clearly as though the Nazi

propaganda Ministry were getting the German people

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ready for the announcement that the Sixth Army has been wiped out.

The explanation of this change in propaganda is that the Hitler Government is now using fear as an instrument for rallying the German people.

Moscow, on the other hand, is looking forward to the annihilation of all the Nazi armies in the field south of the Rostov line. ^{Meaning} ~~That means~~ that more than a hundred and eighty-five thousand German effectives would be exterminated. The Soviet high command announces that its armies in the Caucasus are cooperating with planes and warships of the Red fleet in the Black Sea. Most of the railway system in the Caucasus is now in Russian hands, or at any rate Russian control.

The Red Army, which captured Armavir, advanced twenty-five miles over night and is already within artillery range of Kropotkin, ~~That is~~ one of the only

two important railroad junctions south of Rostov, still
in Nazi hands. ^{It} It is even intimated that the Germans are
trying to evacuate some of their troops from the
Caucasus across the Straits of Kerch to the Crimea.
But that sounds a little premature.

SOLOMONS

More heavy
~~Nice news from the Solomons too!~~ Fighting

~~grew hot~~ on Guadalcanal. ~~again~~. Washington observers

believe ^{this} ~~it~~ means the beginning of the final battle to

wipe out ~~those~~ ^{all} Japanese ^s ~~who are still left~~ ^{still remaining} on the island;

- all four thousand of them. Uncle Sam's doughboys, who

relieve ^d the leathernecks last week, have ~~started~~ ^{gone} into

action. ~~right smartly~~. Over the weekend, they attacked

west of Henderson ~~XXXX~~ airfield. The Japs fought ~~like~~

~~mad~~ ^{desperately,} but the doughboys took six important points on

the heights and killed ~~numerous Japs~~ ^{many of the enemy}.

From there they went further, ~~and mopped up~~

~~their successes by~~ finally taking Kokumbona, seven

miles west of the airdrome. ^{IF} The Navy communique

reported that United States troops continue to mop up

pockets of enemy resistance.

At the same time, United States warplanes

bombed and damaged a large Jap destroyer and also a

large cargo ship in the waters ^{off} ~~of the~~ Shortland Island.
~~district.~~

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Then, Saturday and Sunday, American planes and warships bombarded Jap installations on Kolombangara Island in the New Georgia group. They gave the enemy such a thorough pounding that fires from explosions of fuel and ammunition dumps indicated the enemy area was ^{just about} ~~completely~~ burned out; ~~in other~~ ~~words, the operation was~~ a complete ~~American~~ success.

GAS FOLLOW GOVERNORS

Many people have been speculating whether Hitler and the Japs would not take to using poison gas when they find the war going against them too badly. If they do, they will find the United States prepared. The War Department is quite alive to the danger. It is hurrying the building of chemical warfare plants, to be ready the moment the enemy starts ~~ixxxxxxxx~~ anything of the sort. An official of the War Department so testified to a Committee of Senators at Washington today. That, he added, is the reason for the failure of the War Department ^{to} ~~in~~ approving ^{priorities} ~~priority ratings~~ for synthetic rubber ~~ixxxxxx~~ factories.

GOVERNORS.

A loud cheer went up ~~to the heavens~~ from a meeting in Baltimore today. What provoked that cheer was a tycoon who proclaimed "There are too many experts in Washington." The ~~magnifico~~ ^{man} who said ~~that~~ ^{it} was ~~none other than~~ Rubber Director William M. Jeffers. He made the statement to the ~~Ex~~ Sixth General Assembly of the Council of State Governments. And how those delegates did applaud! ~~him!~~

~~That was not the only tart phrase from Jeffers that they cheered.~~ He also told them that war production is being hampered by army and navy officers who are called "expeditors."

"We have just too many so-called expeditors," ~~in this class~~, declared Jeffers. ~~He~~ ^{described} ~~And he then applied to them by the name of~~ ^{called them} "Army and Navy loafers." He went on to say that ~~"We need less interference from the government. If we can get those~~

"Keep loafers out and we can produce what we need," he said.

Among the delegates who applauded the criticisms by Jeffers was Governor Bricker of Ohio, who was presiding. The so-called experts were not the only targets for the Rubber Director's irony. He also complained that he was not able to get priority ratings from Production Chief Donald Nelson to carry out the synthetic rubber program. And he said further: "I understand we need more high octane gasoline, also that we need more escort vessels to combat the submarine menace." Then he added: "It is my contention that we can carry all these programs along at the same time."

Production Chief Donald Nelson also spoke at the meeting, but he preceded Jeffers. The burden of Nelson's message to the Council of State Governments

was that too many of the workers in war industry took too many days off. In the aircraft industry, for instance, the percentage of absenteeism is ten per cent, ^{he said,}

Nelson went on to say that we cannot meet all our objectives with such a high percentage as that,

812 it will have to be reduced to two per cent. Women war workers, he ^{added,} ~~went on to say,~~ are better than men.

For one thing, the women do not suffer from Monday ^{the} morning sickness as a lot of men do.

~~Well, well - and now Hugh.~~

P.S. The O.W.D. is disturbed. It says it had no advance knowledge of the Jeffers speech and didn't clear it!

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