

'Several Hundred Thousands' Of Americans In AEF, Says FDR

President Cites Heroism Of Texas Flier; All Americans Must Sacrifice, Nation Told

WASHINGTON, April 28. (AP)—The text of President Roosevelt's broadcast Tuesday night follows:

It is nearly five months since we were attacked at Pearl Harbor. For the two years prior to that attack this country had been gearing itself up to a high level of production of munitions. Yet our war efforts have done little to dislocate the normal lives of most of us. Since then we have dispatched strong forces of our army and navy to bases and battle fronts thousands of miles from home. We have stepped up our war production on a scale that is testing our industrial power and our engineering genius and our economic structure to the utmost. We have had no illusions about the fact that this would be a tough job—and a long one.

American warships are now in combat in the North and South Atlantic, in the Arctic, in the Mediterranean, and in the North and South Pacific. American troops have taken stations in South America, Greenland, Iceland, the British Isles, the near east, the middle east, the far east, the continent of Australia, and many islands of the Pacific. American war planes, manned by Americans, are flying in actual combat over all the continents and all the oceans.

Russians Destroying Foe

On the European front the most important development of the last year has been the crushing offensive on the part of the great armies of Russia against the powerful German army. These Russian forces have destroyed and are destroying more armed power of our enemies—troops, planes, tanks and guns—than all the other United Nations put together.

In the Mediterranean Area

Matters remain on the surface, much as they were. But the situation there is receiving very careful attention. Recently we have received news of a change in government in what we used to know as the republic of France—a name dear to the hearts of all lovers of liberty—a name and an institution which we hope soon will be restored to full dignity.

Much Concerned Over France

Throughout the Nazi occupation of France, we have hoped for the maintenance of a French government which would strive to regain independence, to re-establish the principles of "liberty, equality and fraternity," and to restore the historic culture of France. Our policy has been consistent from the very beginning. However, we are now concerned lest those who recently have come to power may seek to force the brave French people to submission to Nazi despotism.

Planes Helping Defend France

We know how the French people really feel. We know that a deep-seated determination to obstruct every step in the Axis plan extends from occupied France through Vichy France to the people of their colonies in every ocean and on every continent.

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Much Land in Foe's Hands

The Malayan peninsula and Singapore are in the hands of the enemy. The Netherlands East Indies are almost entirely occupied, though resistance there continues. Many other islands are in the possession of the Japanese. But there is good reason to believe that their southward advance has been checked. Australia, New Zealand and much other territory will be bases for offensive action—and we are determined that the territory which has been lost will be regained.

The Japanese are pressing their northward advance in Burma with considerable power, driving toward India and China. They have been opposed with great bravery by small British and Chinese forces aided by the news in Burma tonight is not good. The Japanese may cut the Burma road; but I want to say to the gallant people of China that no matter what advances the Japanese may make, way's will be found to deliver airplanes and munitions of war to the armies of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek.

Chinese First To Stand

We remember that the Chinese people were the first to stand up and fight against the aggressors in this war; and in the future we need the spending of these tremendous funds presents grave danger of disaster to our national economy.

Money Goes Into Pockets

When your government continues to spend these unprecedented sums for munitions month by month and year by year, that money goes into the pocketbooks and bank accounts of the people of the United States. At the same time raw materials and many manufactured goods are necessarily taken away from civilian use; and machinery and factories are being converted to war production.

Went Into War Fighting

Although the treacherous attack on Pearl Harbor was the immediate cause of our entry into the war, that event found the American people spiritually prepared for war on a world-wide scale. We went into this war fighting. We know what we are fighting for. We realize that the war has become what Hitler originally proclaimed it to be—a total war.

One Front for All

But there is one front and one battle where everyone in the United States—every man, woman and child—is in action, and will be privileged to remain in action throughout this war. That front is right here at home, in our daily lives and in our daily tasks. Here at home everyone will have the privilege of making whatever self-denial is necessary, not only to supply our fighting men, but to keep the economic structure of our country fortified and secure during the war and after the war.

None Must Impede Effort

It must not be impeded by the faint of heart. It must not be impeded by those who put their own selfish interests above the interests of the nation. It must not be impeded by those who, in the name of criticism, introduce falsification of fact. It must not be impeded by self-styled experts either in economics or military problems who know neither true figures nor geography itself. It must not be impeded by a few bogus patriots who use the sacred freedom of the press to echo the sentiments of the propagandists in Tokyo and Berlin.

Will Use All His Power

I shall use all of the executive power that I have to carry out the policy laid down. If it becomes necessary to ask for any additional legislation in order to attain our objective in preventing a spiral in the cost of living, I shall do so. I know the American citizen, the American workman, the American business man. I know that they will gladly embrace this economy of sacrifice—satisfied that it is necessary for the most vital and compelling motive in all their lives—winning through to victory.

Own Population Safe

Our own American civilian population is now relatively safe from such disasters. And, to an ever increasing extent, our soldiers, sailors and marines are fighting with such bravery and great skill on far distant fronts to make sure that we shall remain safe. I should like to tell you one or two stories about the men we have in our armed forces:

There is, for instance, Dr. Corydon M. Wassell. He is a missionary, well known for his good works in China. He is a simple, modest, retiring man, nearly 60 years old, but he entered the service of his country and was commissioned a lieutenant commander in the navy.

Doctor Made Sacrifice

When the Japanese advanced across the island, it was decided to evacuate as many as possible of the wounded to Australia. But about 12 of the men were so badly wounded that they could not be moved. Doctor Wassell remained with these men, knowing that he would be captured by the enemy. But he decided to make a desperate attempt to get the men out of Java. He asked each of them if he wished to take the chance, and every one agreed.

He first had to get the 12 men to the sea coast—50 miles away. To do this, he had to improvise stretchers for the hazardous journey. The men were suffering severely, but Doctor Wassell kept them alive by his skill and inspired them by his own courage.

Bombed, Machine Gunned

On the sea coast, he embarked the men on a little Dutch ship. They were bombed and machine gunned by waves of Japanese planes. Doctor Wassell took virtual command of the ship and by great skill avoided destruction, hiding in small bays and inlets.

A few days later, Doctor Wassell and his little flock of wounded men reached Australia safely.

Doctor Wassell now wears the navy cross.

Now Member of Fleet

Eventually she sailed again under a new name, the U. S. S. *Salifish*. Today, she is a potent and effective unit of our submarine fleet.

The *Salifish* has covered many thousands of miles in operations in the far western Pacific. She has sunk a Japanese destroyer. She has torpedoed a Japanese cruiser. She has made two torpedo hits on a Japanese aircraft carrier. Three of the enlisted men of our navy who went down with the *Squalus* in 1939 are today serving on the same ship, the *Salifish*, in this war. It is heartening to know that the *Squalus*, once given up as lost, rose from the depths to fight for our country in time of peril.

Tells Story of Fortress

One more story, which I heard only this morning: This is a story of one of our army flying fortresses operating in the western Pacific. The pilot of this plane is a modest young man, proud of his crew for one of the toughest fights a bomber has yet experienced. The bomber departed from its base, as part of a flight of five, to attack Japanese transports which were landing troops in the Philippines. When they had gone about half way to their destination, one of the motors of their bomber went out of commission. The young pilot lost contact with the other bombers. The crew, however, got the motor working again and the plane proceeded on its mission alone.

18 Attack Fortress

By the time it arrived at its target the other flying fortresses had already passed over, had dropped their bombs and had stirred up the Japanese "Zero" planes. Eighteen of them attacked our one flying fortress. Despite this mass attack, our plane proceeded on its mission, and dropped all of its bombs on six Japanese transports which were lined up along the docks. As it turned back on its homeward journey a running fight between the bomber and the 18 Japanese pursuit planes continued for 75 miles. Four pursuit ships attacked simultaneously at each side, and were shot down with the side guns. During this fight, the bomber's radio operator was killed, the engine's right hand was shot off, and one gunner was crippled, leaving only one man available to operate both side guns. Although wounded in one hand, this gunner alternately manned both side guns, bringing down three more Japanese "Zero" planes.

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