

Text Of President's Fireside Chat On U. S. War Progress

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (U. P.)—The text of President Roosevelt's address last night follows:

Washington's birthday is a most appropriate occasion for us to talk with each other about things as they are today and things as we know they shall be in the future.

For eight years, Gen. Washington and his continental army were faced continually with formidable odds and recurring defeats. Supplies and equipment were lacking. In a sense every winter was a Valley Forge. Throughout the 13 states there existed fifth columnists—selfish men, jealous men, fearful men, who proclaimed that Washington's cause was hopeless, that he should ask for a negotiated peace.

Washington's conduct in those hard times has provided the model for all Americans ever since—a model of moral stamina. He held to his course, as it had been charmed in the Declaration of Independence.

He and the brave men who served with him knew that man's life or fortune was secure, without freedom and free institutions.

A New Kind of War

The present great struggle has taught us increasingly that freedom of person and security of property anywhere in the world depend upon the security of the rights and obligations of liberty and justice everywhere in the world.

This war is a new kind of war. It is different from all other wars of the past, not only in its methods and weapons but also in its geography. It is warfare in terms of every continent, every island, every sea, every airplane in the world.

That is the reason why I have asked you to take out and spread before you the map of the whole earth, and to follow with me the references which I shall make to the world-enduring battle lines of this war.

Many questions will, I fear, remain unanswered; but I know you will realize I cannot cover everything in any one report to the people.

The broad oceans which have been heralded in the past as our protection from attack have become endless battlefields on which we are constantly being challenged by our enemies.

GO WHERE ENEMY IS

We must all understand and face the hard fact that our job now is to fight at distances which extend all the way around the globe. We fight at these vast distances because that is where our enemies are.

Until our flow of supplies gives us clear superiority we must keep on striking our enemies wherever we can meet them, even if, for a while, we have to yield ground.

Actually we are taking a heavy toll of the enemy every day that goes by.

We must fight at these vast distances to protect our supply lines and our lines of communication with our allies—protect these lines from the enemies who are bending every ounce of their strength, striving against time, to cut them.

The object of the Nazis is the Japanese is to separate the United States, Britain, China and Russia, and to isolate them one from another, so that each will be surrounded and cut off from sources of supplies and reinforcements.

It is the old familiar axis policy of "divide and conquer."

SAILING-SHIP DAYS GONE

There are those who still think in terms of the days of sailing ships.

They advise us to pull our warships and our planes and our merchant ships to our own home waters and concentrate solely on last ditch defense.

But let me illustrate what would happen if we followed such foolish advice.

Look at your map.

Look at the vast area of China.

Look at the vast area of Russia, with its powerful armies and proven military might.

Look at the British Isles, Australia, New Zealand, the Dutch Indies, the Near East and the continent of Africa, with their resources of raw materials and of peoples determined to resist axis domination.

Look at North America, Central America and South America.

It is obvious what would happen if all these great reservoirs of power were cut off from each other by enemy action or by self-imposed isolation:

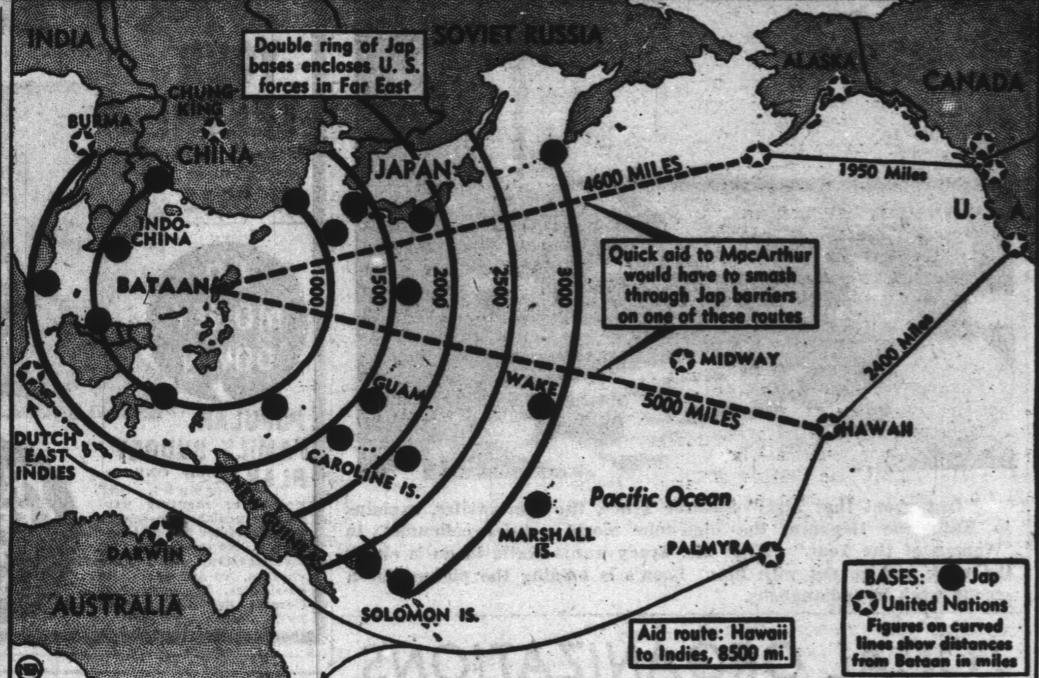
1. We could no longer send aid of any kind to China—to the brave people who, for nearly five years, have withstood Japanese assault, destroyed hundreds of thousands of Japanese soldiers, and vast quantities of Japanese war munitions.

It is essential that we help China in her magnificent defense and in her inevitable counter-offensive—for that is one important element in the ultimate defeat of Japan.

OSTRICH AND THE TURTLE

2. If we lost communication with the southwest Pacific, all of that area, including Australia and New Zealand, would fall under Japanese domination. Japan could then release great numbers of ships and men to launch attacks on a large scale against the coasts of the western hemisphere, including Alaska.

In Indianapolis
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This map shows why President Roosevelt described as "hopeless" any project to send the U. S. fleet to relieve Gen. MacArthur in the Philippines. Hemmed in by multiple rings of Jap bases, the forces of MacArthur must fight on unaided as they are cut off from supply or bomber help.

At the same time, she could immediately extend her conquests to India, and through the Indian ocean, to Africa and the Near East. 3. If we were to stop sending munitions to the British and the Russians in the Mediterranean and Persian gulf areas, we would help the Nazis to overrun Turkey, Syria, Iraq, Persia, Egypt and the Suez canal, the whole coast of North Africa and the whole coast of America.

4. If, by such a fatuous policy, we ceased to protect the North Atlantic supply line to Britain and to Russia, we would help to cripple the splendid counter-offensive by Russia against the Nazis, and we would help to deprive Britain of essential food supplies and munitions.

WEAR DOWN THE ENEMY
Those Americans who believed that we could live under the illusion of isolationism wanted the American eagle to imitate the tactics of the ostrich.

Now, many of those same people, afraid that we may be sticking our necks out, want our national bird to be turned into a turtle. But we prefer to retain the eagle as it is flying high and striking hard.

I know that I speak for the mass of the American people when I say that we reject the turtle policy and will continue increasingly the policy of carrying the war to the enemy in distant lands and distant waters—as far as possible from our own home grounds.

There are four main lines of communication now being traveled by our ships: the North Atlantic, the South Atlantic, the Indian ocean and the South Pacific.

These routes are not one-way streets—for the ships which carry our troops and munitions outbound bring back essential raw materials which we require for our own use.

The maintenance of these vital lines is a very tough job. It is a job which requires tremendous daring, tremendous resourcefulness, and, above all, tremendous production of planes and tanks and guns and of the ships to carry them.

And I speak again for the American people when I say that we can and will do that job.

The defense of the world-wide lines of communication demands relatively safe use by us of the sea and of the air along the various routes; and this, in turn, depends upon control by the United Nations of the strategic bases along those routes.

Control of the air involves the simultaneous use of two types of planes—first, the long-range heavy bomber; and second, light bombers, dive bombers, torpedo planes, and short-range pursuit planes which are essential to the protection of the bases and of the bombers themselves.

Heavy bombers can fly under their own power from here to the southwest Pacific, but the smaller planes cannot.

Therefore, these lighter planes have to be packed in crates and sent on board cargo ships.

JAPS 'GOT THE JUMP'
Look at your map again, and you will see that the route is long—and at many places perilous—either across the south Atlantic around south Africa, or from California to the East Indies direct.

A vessel can make the round trip by either route in about four months, or only three round trips in a whole year.

In spite of the length and difficulties of this transportation, I can tell you that we already have a large number of bombers and pursuit planes, manned by American pilots, which are now in daily contact with the enemy in the southwest Pacific.

And thousands of American troops are today in that area engaged in operations not only in the air but on the ground as well.

In this battle area, Japan has had an obvious initial advantage.

For she could fly even her short-range planes to the points of attack by using many stepping stones open to her—bases in a multitude of Pacific islands and also bases on the China, Indo-China, Thailand and Malay coasts. Japanese transports could go south from Japan and China through the narrow China sea which can be protected by Japanese planes throughout its whole length.

I ask you to look at your map again, particularly at that portion of the Pacific ocean lying west of Hawaii.

Axis propagandists called those figures fantastic. Last night Mr. Roosevelt said:

"After a careful survey of progress by Donald Nelson and others charged with responsibility for our production, I can tell you that those goals will be attained."

U. S. Well on Way Toward Arms Goal, Nation Is Told

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (U. P.)—Fantastic or not, the United States is well on the way toward attaining the tremendous armament production goal announced almost two months ago.

That is the report the nation has from President Roosevelt today on the progress of the arms program. On Jan. 6 Mr. Roosevelt outlined to Congress a program calling for 60,000 airplanes in 1943 and 125,000 in 1945; 45,000 tanks in 1942 and 75,000 in 1945; 20,000 anti-aircraft guns in 1943 and 35,000 in 1945; and 8,000,000 deadweight tons of shipping in 1942 and 10,000,000 deadweight tons in 1943.

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"After a careful survey of progress by Donald Nelson and others charged with responsibility for our production, I can tell you that those goals will be attained."

and for all to the people of the world: We Americans have been compelled to yield ground, but we will regain it.

We and the other United Nations are committed to the destruction of the militarism of Japan and Germany.

We are daily increasing our strength.

Soon, we and not our enemies, will have the offensive; we, not they, will win the final battles, and we, not they, will make the final peace.

Conquered nations in Europe know what the yoke of the Nazis is like. And the people of Korea and of Manchuria know in their flesh the harsh despotism of Japan.

All of the people of Asia know that if there is to be an honorable and decent future for any of them or for us, that future depends on victory by the United Nations over the forces of axis enslavement.

GOAL WILL BE REACHED

If a just and durable peace is to be attained, or even if all of us are merely to save our own skins, there is one thought for us here at home to keep uppermost—the fulfillment of our special task of production.

Germany, Italy and Japan are very close to their maximum output of planes, guns, tanks and ships. The United Nations are not—especially the United States of America.

They have suggested silly that the government has withheld the truth about casualties—that 11,000 or 12,000 men were killed at Pearl Harbor instead of the figures as officially announced.

They have even served the enemy propagandists by spreading the inaccuracy that shiploads of bodies of our honored American dead were about to arrive in New York harbor to be put in a common grave.

Almost every axis broadcast directly quotes Americans who, by speech or in the press, make damnable misstatements such as these.

The American people realize that in many cases details of military operations cannot be disclosed until we are absolutely certain that the announcement will not give to the enemy military information which he does not already possess.

SOLEMN FACT OF TRUTH

Your government has unmistakable confidence in your ability to hear the worst, without flinching or losing heart.

You must, in turn, have complete confidence that your government is keeping nothing from you except information that will help the enemy in his attempt to destroy us.

In a democracy there is always a solemn pact of truth between government and the people; but there must also always be a use of discretion—and that word "discretion" applies to the critics of government as well.

This is war. The American people want to know, and will be told, the general trend of how the war is going.

But they do not wish to help the enemy any more than our fighting forces do; and they will pay little attention to the rumor-mongers and poison peddlers in our midst.

To pass from the realm of rumor and poison to the field of facts: The number of our officers and men killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7 was 2340; and the number wounded was 946.

Of all the combatant ships based on Pearl Harbor—battleships, heavy cruisers, light cruisers, aircraft carriers, destroyers and submarines—only three were permanently put out of commission.

LOSSES ARE EXPECTED

Very many of the ships of the Pacific fleet were not even in Pearl Harbor. Some of those that were there were hit very slightly, and others that were damaged have either rejoined the fleet by now or are still undergoing repairs.

When those repairs are completed, the ships will be more efficient fighting machines than they were before.

The report that we lost more than 1,000 airplanes at Pearl Harbor is as baseless as the other weird rumors. The Japanese do not know just how many planes they destroyed that day, and I am not going to tell them.

But I can say that to date—and including Pearl Harbor—we have destroyed considerably more Japanese planes than they have destroyed of ours.

We have most certainly suffered losses—from Hitler's U-boats in the Atlantic as well as from the Japanese in the Pacific—and we shall suffer more of them before the turn of the tide.

But, speaking for the United States of America, let me say once before that this is not so.

Even if the attack had not been made your map will show that it would have been a hopeless operation for us to send the fleet to the Philippines through thousands of miles of ocean, while all those island bases were under the sole control of the Japanese.

Heavy bombers can fly under their own power from here to the southwest Pacific, but the smaller planes cannot.

Therefore, these lighter planes have to be packed in crates and sent on board cargo ships.

WE ARE DOING A WHALE OF A BUSINESS ON

The Task—and How U. S. Citizens Can Get It Done

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (U. P.)—Highlights of President Roosevelt's address:

The Immediate Task—"Understand and face the hard fact that our job now is to fight at distances which extend all the way around the globe. . . . For awhile we have to yield ground."

Aid to Allies—"We already have a large number of bombers and pursuit planes, manned by American pilots, in daily contact with the enemy in the southwest Pacific. Thousands of American troops are in that area. . . . We can and will do the all-important job of keeping war materials flowing to the allies."

Aid to MacArthur—"It is Japan's encirclement of the Philippines which has prevented use from sending substantial reinforcements of men and material."

A Long War—"The war as a whole will be a process of attrition; we can 'outbuild' Japan and ultimately overwhelm her."

The United Nations constitute an association of independent peoples of equal dignity and importance. The United Nations are dedicated to a common cause.

We share equally and with equal frankness and with equal sacrifice of war.

In the partnership of our common enterprise we must share in a unified plan in which all of us must play our several parts, each of us being equally indispensable and dependent one on the other.

We have unified command and co-operation and comradeship.

ALLIES ARE UNITED

We Americans will contribute unified production and unified acceptance of sacrifice and of effort.

That means a national unity that can know no limitations of race or creed or selfish politics.

The American people expect that much from themselves.

And the American people will find ways and means of expressing their determination to their enemies, including the Japanese admiral who has said that he will dictate the terms of peace here in the White House.

We of the United Nations are agreed on certain broad principles in the kind of peace we seek.

The Atlantic Charter applies not only to the parts of the world that border the Atlantic but to the whole world; disarmament of aggressors, self-determination of nations and peoples, and the four freedoms—freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear.

The British and the Russian people have known the full fury of Nazi onslaught.

There have been times when the fate of London and Moscow was in serious doubt. But there was never the slightest question that either the British or the Russians would yield.

And today all the United Nations salute the superb Russian army as

it celebrates the 26th anniversary of its first assembly.

Though their homeland was overrun, the Dutch people are still fighting stubbornly and powerfully overseas.

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