

L.T. SUNOCO - THURSDAY, JAN. 15, 1942

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The conference at Rio de Janerior opened today -- the emergency gathering of the foreign ministers of twenty -one American republics. President Vargas of Brazil in an opening address of welcome, described it in these terms: "The most solid and powerful alliance of free and sovereign nations that the history of humanity has ever known."

United States Under-Secretary of State Sumner Welles promptly presented the American viewpoint to the conference. He called upon the American Republics one and all to rally against the Axis. "There can no longer be any real neutrality," said Sumner Welles. And he said it was of the utmost important to rid this hemisphere of all diplomatic, business, financial and trade transactions from which might benefit the Axis. Our Secretary of State did not

mention Argentina, but that South American Republic was what he meant. Argentina -- which has been standing out against the plan of a joint Pan-American Declaration against the Axis.

## PHILIPPINES

The late army bulletin issued at the end of the day tells us nothing about the fighting in the Philippines. But it announces the safe arrival at Australia of the United States Army Hospital Ship carrying wounded from the island battlefields.

As for General MacArthur's army, it was attacked heavily today in their defense lines across the Batan Peninsula. But they're holding their positions with -- "courage and determination."

## JAP LINER

The sinking of the Jap liner is the largest single success by the American submarine fleet thus far. The ship torpedoed somewhere in the Pacific War area was what they call "The Yawata class." They are big ones, seventeen thousand tonners. Japan had three of them, and one is understood to have been turned into an aircraft carrier. So, actually, the ship sunk may belong to that extremely significant class of vessels. In other words, our submarine may have bagged an enemy aircraft carrier -- to make the success still more striking.

## MALAYA

News from Malaya tells of Singapore today beating off a heavy and prolonged air attack -- several Jap bombers shot down. This, together with other indications, intimate that the British sky forces in Malaya have been strengthened considerably.

And Singapore tells of the defeat of an enemy tank column. Australian advance troops assailed a force of Japanese tanks, and won a quick sharp victory. This is described as having happened in the Eastern part of Negri Sembilano, which Malay sultanate is reported now to be entirely in Japanese control. The Singapore dispatch says the Australians were a guerrilla band that had penetrated the advance lines of the Japs.

The larger aspect of the land fighting in Malaya features a City of old and romantic fame -- Malacca on the Straits of Malacca. That historic port on the coast to the north of Singapore, is the next large enemy objective. There are confusing stories

about how near the Japs are to Malacca and the status of the city is tonight in considerable doubt.

Every traveler who has wandered about in Malaya has vivid memories of Malacca -- I, for one. You think of the Portuguese empire of old -- which preceded the British and the Dutch. Vasco deGama, who sailed around Africa and discovered the all water route to India and there laid the foundations of Portuguese power. His tomb to this day is in the Portuguese Cathedral at Malacca. I remember the church as a gem of old time architecture, half covered with tropical growth. And the great Alburquerque was Viceroy at Malacca -- during his years as a golden conqueror of eastern empire.

So Malacca conjures glowing and romantic memories -- and it's odd how the glowing and romantic can be accompanied by bits of comic absurdity. For example, I remember a Malacca cane that I once had, a walking stick given me when I went off to World War

Number One. It was a proud possession, and for years I carried it all around the world. Then I lost my Malacca cane. It was stolen from me. Where? Why, in Malacca, where it originally came from. It had to be swiped from me there -- ironically. A trivial and absurd memory -- to accompany the formidable news that the Japanese campaign in ~~the~~ Malay a is now concentrating on that one time capital of the Portuguese Empire -- Malacca.

## FOLLOW MALAYA

There is more talk of the possibility of a British Counter-attack through Burma -- striking at the rear of the Jap invasion of Malaya. A military spokesman at Rangoon said that such plans were in his words, "naturally being considered." He wasn't very positive about it, but a blow through Burma would be so strategic that it makes a constant appearance in the Far Eastern news.

In India, next door to Burma, Mahatma Gandhi today announced his successor as leader of what they call "the Congress Party" -- Hindu Nationalism. Gandhi's place is taken by Pundit Jawaharlal. In making the announcement Gandhi restated the continued opposition of himself and his party to the British Raj. "The British government," said he, "has done nothing to invite us to reconsider our position." And he added, that the policy of non-violent refusal to cooperate with the Empire war effort will go on.

In London there is continued agitation about



the bad turn of events in the Far East. Observers in the British capital are saying that if Singapore should be captured by the Japs it might result in the downfall of the Churchill cabinet. They are still calling for an explanation of the unpreparedness in Malaya, and one member of Parliament today announced that he would try to bring the whole question to a debate in the House of Commons.

Under-Secretary Lord Croft undertook today to answer the critics. He said there simply wasn't enough armed power to protect the empire at all points. "If we attempted to have substantial forces everywhere," he declared, "we should be able to resist the empire nowhere."

The extent to which British resentment over deficiencies in armament can go is illustrated by a revelation today made by a Senior Air Officer in London. He reverted back to the disastrous defeat of the empire forces in Crete, when British ~~xxx~~<sup>air</sup> power was conspicuously

ineffective. He said that R.A. F. pilots were booed and even stoned by British soldiers.

## CHURCHILL

One of the great contemporary institutions is -- fan mail. Any person headlined in the news gets his share of communications from the public -- praise, blame, advice, everything. So what about our most distinguished visitor -- Winston Churchill, Prime Minister of Great Britain?

A little while ago there was a brief item of news stating that he had received a great quantity of mail and telegrams from American admirers. I thought I'd try to have a look at the Churchill-American Fan Mail, and pick out an interesting bit. And here's the most amusing thing I found -- a solemn letter of welcome written by a little girl down in Birmingham, Alabama.

It goes this way: "Dear Mr. Churchill: We are glad you are here. We thank you for not letting the war come over here. We are not going to let the Japs come over here, if we can help it. We are glad," explains the little girl brightly, "that we have a picture of the Japs and Hitler so that we know what

they look like, and won't let them come over here."

And she adds, "We are going to keep Santa Claus safe in this country." That last determination is refreshing remember whom they used to call Santa Claus in the old days of the New Deal?

The letter from the little girl in Birmingham concludes with the following: "We are glad you is Prime Minister of England, and hope you don't get killed. I am going to send you some candy. Your friend, Ann Strauchan."

## HILL

A verdict was announced today in the trial of George Hill, second secretary to Congressman Hamilton Fish of New York. He's been on trial charged with perjury. The specific accusation is that he lied when he told the grand jury when he said he didn't know George Sylvester Vierick, the German propagandist. Also, that he committed perjury in denying that he gave orders for the concealment of eight mail sacks that contained isolationist literature. These were being sought by the Government and were found in a store room used by Congressman Fish in the basement of the House of Representatives. The prosecution charged that George Hill had been an important cog in the dissemination of Nazi propaganda in this country.

The verdict of the jury today was -- guilty on both counts of perjury. And the Secretary of Congressman Fish faces a possible maximum of twenty year in prison.

All through the affair the Congressman has stood by his secretary, who has been in his employ for twenty years. And Ham Fish still stands by George Hill. This afternoon he said, "George Hill is of English ancestry, his mother and father having been born in England and he had no use whatever for the Nazis. He's a disabled World War veteran," and then the Ham Fish defense concluded, "He had an obsession against our own involvement in the war - before we were attacked at Pearl Harbor."

## ARMY

The size of the United States Army is to more than doubled. Right now there are a million seven hundred thousand men in service. That's to be increased to three million, six hundred thousand during the coming year. This huge augmentation of armed strength was announced today by Secretary of War Stimson, who explained that the number of armored units will be doubled, and the number of air combat units will be more than doubled.

The War Department, meanwhile, announced that qualifications for the air cadets are being revised to make more men eligible for enlistment. The age limit will be lowered to eighteen years, and the educational requirements will be broadened. All this -- because of the number of men they'll need to man one hundred and eighty-five thousand planes ~~are~~<sup>that</sup> are to be constructed according to the schedule set by the President.

CONANT

I was in Boston today, and found people talking about a news story that was a headline in the Athens of America. It was on the academic subject of College prospects during war times -- with President Conant of Harvard making some downright statements. He proposed that the Universities of America do their bit to win the war by functioning as schools for officers.

President Conant pointed out that officers for our new giant army will be chosen largely from the men drafted under Selective Service -- college men picked for the most part. But that's hardly democratic because college in general is limited to the well-to-do. So President Conant suggests that the army should take promising high school boys, no matter whether rich or poor, lads with a talent for leadership -- and send them to the colleges for training as officers. Meaning of course, that the universities would virtually become military schools.



The President of Harvard, in recommending this, pointed out that wartime <sup>army</sup> duty is going to hit the colleges hard -- many fewer students enrolling. He said that Harvard itself faces a shrinkage of revenue by one million, seven hundred thousand dollars - this calculation based on the war time experience of the universities in England.

LINDBERGH

It isn't clear just what kind of job Lindbergh will do for the Army. He has been assigned to what the secretary of War calls "a technical commercial project." We are specifically told that the project is one in which the army is interested. The commercial angle signifies that the Lone Eagle will serve in a Civilian capacity -- without military rank. He won't become a Colonel again. Lindbergh renounced that title, resigning from the ~~Army~~ Army Reserve, when the President criticized him sharply last Spring because of his activities as an Isolationist Leader.

After the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor the world's best known aviator offered to serve the Army in any capacity -- and the army took him up on that. On Monday Lindbergh conferred with Secretary of War Stimson, and he told the Secretary he was particularly qualified for what he called "technical experimentation." This was revealed by Secretary

Stimson today. Lindbergh was referred to Chief of the Air Force, General Arnold, and today was appointed to that -- "technical commercial project."

Lindbergh made headlines some years ago when he did pioneering work in the development of inter-American commercial air routes, and there is some surmise that his new job may be along that line -- air route pioneering.

## CADET

A wild and wooly story comes from an army air training school at Tuscaloosla, ~~Ex~~Alabama. The hero, or rather the victim of the fantastic sky adventure is a British Air Cadet sent over to train in this country -- Student Pilot Derek Sharp of Yorkshire.

It happened yesterday, and was revealed today an official army dispatch telling how Cadet Sharp of Yorkshire was riding as a student in a training plane. Speeding along at an altitude of five hundred feet the plant hit a bump, and Cadet Sharp bounced right out. The army dispatch tells it in vivid terms:

"Suddenly," says the report, "he found himself sitting on thin air, His next impression of the mishap, was a severe rap, when his head hit the tail of the plane. Throwing his arms around the tail, with his legs hanging below," the dispatch continues, "he managed to hold on long enough to wiggle himself up onto the elevator surfaces." And that was a dickens of a place to be.

The first the instructor knew about it was when the plane began to act mighty funny -- obeying or rather disobeying, the controls in a very peculiar way. He looked back and saw that his passenger was missing. He looked harder and saw Cadet Sharp of Yorkshire hanging onto the tail. So no wonder the controls were going haywire. The instructor, Jay McAusland, was in a quandry. The ideal solution would have been for Cadet Sharp to slide off the tail and ~~xx~~ make a parachute descent. However, at an altitude of only five hundred feet he couldn't do it safely -- not high enough to be sure about a parachute drop. The next alternative was to climb, and give him more altitude. And that was tough -- steering the plane up into the sky, with a full-sized air cadet hanging onto the elevator surfaces of the tail. However, Instructor Jay McAusland did it. He climbed to twenty-five hundred feet with what he later called "extreme difficulty."

Time to jump and parachute'. He tried to convey that information to the student. He tried to signal. This phase of the adventure is eloquently expressed in today's army report. "In an attempt to attract the student's attention," the communique says, "McAusland kicks the rudder bars back and forth. And to his surprise he felt Sharp take hold of the tail and wiggle it back at him. " And that was a deuce of a way to answer back. What it meant was that Cadet Sharp of Yorkshire wasn't having any parachute jumping that afternoon. Pilot McAusland looked back, and saw him signally with the typical British gesture - thumbs up.

It was hard to figure out what thumbs up meant in that situation, but finally McAusland got the idea that Cadet Sharpe was going to stick with the plane -- come what may. The instructor would have to land, and the Cadet would risk the trip down -- riding the elevator surfaces of the tail.

The happy ending lies in the fact that Pilot McAusland in so difficult a predicament, made a perfect landing, and Cadet Sharp of Yorkshire came out of it okay. Philosophical about it too -- about riding the tail of the plane. He said he'd seen it happen before, in England.

And Now, Hugh, I'll turn the controls of this Sunoco aircraft over to you.