

JAVA

P. J. - Sumoco. Tuesday, March 3, 1942.

The news from Java has a better tone tonight than it had this morning. The latest is from a Dutch authorized spokesman who describes the situation in these terms - "well in hand, on all fronts." He added that he made this satisfactory report - "without reservation."

It would appear that the Japs have not landed any further troops on the island. Their forces <sup>seem</sup> ~~would~~ appear to be limited to the three groups put ashore in the first invasion push. The advance of these is said to have been stemmed at all points, save perhaps in the middle of Java. One dispatch today stated that there was a disturbing lack of news from the central area. There the enemy seems to have the twofold purpose of cutting the island in two and capturing the great naval base at Soerabaja.

The tactics, which give us a comparatively bright report tonight, are those of offense. Dutch, British and American units are ~~not~~ not waiting to be attacked - ~~they're~~ <sup>they are</sup> striking.

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*and,* We are given some vivid accounts of the offensive spirit in Java. One dispatch tells of green clad Dutch soldiers attacking like jungle animals in the weird moonlight. Today <sup>however, there was,</sup> ~~an account was different - so far as weather conditions were concerned.~~ } Tropical heat and torrential rain, with fighting men moving along through jungles and plantations, sweltering in the heat and using large banana leaves to protect themselves in the <sup>equatorial</sup> ~~tropical~~ downpour. They met the enemies <sup>y</sup> ~~ies~~ with the Jap's own tactics, which consist of infiltrating through the trees, that Equatorial green. Groups of twenty or more, slinking along, lurking and hiding. ~~They~~ <sup>Concealing</sup> themselves among the bushes and cocoanut palms.

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That's the way the Japanese operate, and the Dutch, American and British defenders are meeting them at their own game - attacking them, stalking them, sniping from hiding. <sup>They have</sup> ~~And they've~~ driven back the Japs at various places - for seven miles at one point.

This is the kind of news which is in striking contrast to the pessimism we had earlier in the day - a Dutch spokesman stating that Java could probably not resist for long. "No country in Java's present circumstances," said he, "could hope to hold out indefinitely." He said the Dutch had sustained losses which he called - "tremendous." "The need of reinforcements is desperate, but the chances of getting reinforcements appear to be only slight."

This dark view, presented by the spokesman for Holland, was echoed in other quarters. It was part of

the interpretation put on the removal of General Sir Archibald Wavell from the unified command for the Allied Nations in the Far East. The supposition was expressed that General Wavell was sent back to India, because there was not much hope of a successful fight in Java.

In any case, the Dutch are now running their own show. The unified command didn't last long. First, our own American Admiral Hart was relieved of the command of the naval forces of the United Nations. He was succeeded by Dutch Admiral Helfrich. And now General Wavell, who commanded everything, has turned his job over to the Dutch General, Ter Poorten.

PHILIPPINES

It isn't clear just what the new Japanese activity in the Philippines may mean. The enemy today shelled seven places on three islands - the islands of *Sayboo* Cebu, Negros and Mindanao. They <sup>are</sup> ~~the~~ landing troops at the port of Zamboanga, <sup>at</sup> the southwest <sup>end</sup> tip of Mindanao. The place is in flames after <sup>a</sup> ~~the~~ bombardments, and it is assumed that they <sup>Japs</sup> are preparing to land at ~~the~~ other points that they <sup>are</sup> ~~the~~ bombing and shelling.

Today's War Department communique, in announcing this, states that it is all an apparent attempt of the Japs to consolidate their occupation in the Philippines. Just why they should undertake these operations at this particular time is none too clear, but they may be trying to improve their Philippine communications.

On the Batan peninsula - nothing to report.

The Japs are laying off General MacArthur and his forces.

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## BURMA

~~There's~~ Not much new from Burma. The Japanese enemy is pushing on to cut off the Rangoon area from the northern part of the country. Allied air forces hitting hard at the enemy on the ground - bombing and machine-gunning by American volunteer and British pilots. Those flying men have borne the brunt of the Battle of Burma, and have scored just about all the success that has been achieved. Today's dispatch tells us that air action has slowed the invader on the ground.



RUSSIA

In Russia, for some reason or other, the Nazis are featuring Red army attacks. Hitler sources also tell of strong concentrations of Soviet troops for a coming offensive. This may have some propaganda angle.

The Soviets themselves state that the Red Army is slowly tightening a ring of steel around <sup>that</sup> a trapped German <sup>force</sup> ~~army~~ in the area of Staraya Russa, south of Leningrad.

## STALIN

It is rather startling to hear that Stalin has sent a message to the Pope. The report comes from an Italian news agency, which attributes the information to well-informed circles of the Vatican. The story is that several days ago Pope Pius the Twelfth received a long personal message from the ruler of Soviet Russia. No hint is offered of what the message may contain. We are merely told that the whole thing is being kept a secret.

This is followed by a denial of the story -- from Berlin.



DUKE

In an African hospital, a royal duke died today -- a prisoner of war. The Duke of Aosta, cousin of the King of Italy and Viceroy of Ethiopia until he surrendered to the British last May.

For years, he was a well-known figure in the affairs of Europe -- as a soldier, an aviator, a speed motorist. After the Fascist conquest of Ethiopia, the Duke of Aosta was made Viceroy of the captured country. When Italy joined Nazi Germany in the present war, he resisted the British, and held out in a mountain fortress for a last stand.

We are now told that the Duke of Aosta had been ill since his surrender. The malady, tuberculosis. And now he has succumbed in a hospital a royal casualty of war and Fascist ambition.

DESTROYER

The story of the sinking of an American destroyer is one of catastrophe, sudden, swift and complete. It happened early Saturday morning before dawn, and was revealed by the Navy today. <sup>TF</sup> U.S.S. JACOB JONES was a vessel dating way back to World War days -- launched in Nineteen Nineteen. ~~It was~~ <sup>Of</sup> the same type as ~~Navy~~ ~~ships~~ transferred to the British in the fifty-destroyer deal. The JACOB JONES had a predecessor of the same name. A vessel sunk by a German submarine in the previous World War -- Nineteen Seventeen. The more recent JACOB JONES was of the same class as the REUBEN JAMES, which was sunk by a Nazi U-boat off Iceland -- before we were in the war formally and all the way.

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Last Saturday the JACOB JONES was steaming off Cape May. No submarine was sighted -- nor were either of the torpedoes, two of them. The first blast of high explosive shattered the bow of the vessel, blew it to wreckage. The second torpedo hit the stern of the ship, and blew up the supply of depth bombs. The destroyer's

own arsenal for submarine hunting exploded,  
and that completed the utter devastation -- the  
ship sinking immediately. This accounts for the  
heavy loss of life -- only eleven survivors rescued.  
And more than a hundred lives lost -- one was a boy  
from my own neighborhood. A fine lad. Son of ~~xxxx~~  
~~of~~ a farmer neighbor of ours. A victim of that  
catastrophe on the dim sea before dawn.

## U-BOAT

We all realize how near those Nazi U-boats are to our coast, and here's a detail to emphasize the knowledge - an enemy submarine photographing the skyline of New York. A radio story from Rome relates that one of the Hitler U-boats approached so closely to the metropolis of the Western Hemisphere, that - by using a telescopic lens, members of the crew were able to snap a picture of New York.

LT tells of  
Dutchess  
County  
blackout.

Mar. 3, 1942.

## DUTCHESS BLACKOUT

What with stories of rather exciting blackouts coming to us from the Pacific Coast, word that Washington, D.C. is to have one of ten hours' duration, and today's news about that German submarine actually coming up and photographing the skyline of New York -- millions of people are wondering about our anti-aircraft xx defenses.

Incidentally, my own first taste of an American blackout came the other night when I went home to the Farm, up in Dutchess County. Our New York Central train pulled into Pawling right in the middle of the blackout. Those of us on the train sat in our seats for several minutes because we didn't know we ~~xx~~ had reached our destination. It seems odd indeed to land in your own home town at around nine o'clock at night, in utter darkness, not even candle-light or a lighted match. And I found ~~it~~ out that all of Dutchess County was blacked out -- including every farm house. I ~~xx~~ was a bit puzzled.

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DUTCHESS BLACKOUT -

If the Boche ever bomb Dutchess County, it will be a terrible waste of bombs. Especially if they dropped one on Joe Cavaleri's place!

I also discovered that our train wasn't supposed to cross the line from Putnam County to Dutchess, with its headlights on. But someone had slipped on that, and we had gone roaring in, the train ablaze with light.



TAXES

In any time but war-time, the tax program as presented by Secretary Morgenthau would come with a stunning impact - <sup>in fact</sup> would practically knock us out.

Double the income tax, he proposes. The income tax rates for Nineteen Forty-<sup>Two</sup>~~One~~ are vastly higher than anything we've ever had before, and now the suggestion for Nineteen Forty-Three is to double them for all who make less than ten thousand dollars a year, meaning - nearly everybody. The Secretary of the Treasury wants to raise seven billion, six hundred million dollars in taxes for war revenue.

He points out, true enough, that a war has to be paid for, and that it is cheaper to win than to lose. Then there's another angle in addition to that of raising revenue. The Secretary points out that a tax increase like doubling the income tax, would help ~~to~~ check inflation. When the government takes so much of your

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money, you've got a smaller amount of cash with which to buy things. However, Secretary Morgenthau does not think that even the drastic tax increase will be enough to check inflation. He says that in addition we'll have to ration consumer goods -- adopt a complete rationing system to control the sale of things that most of us buy.

The new proposal, doubling the income tax, has the approval of the President -- so stated the Secretary of the Treasury to a Congressional Committee today. The word from Washington is, however, that the Committee members seem to be critical

## ALIENS

The army today declared certain sections along or near the West coast to be military areas. These include the western halves of Washington, Oregon and California, and the southern half of Arizona. It is the most drastic step taken as yet for the handling of the problem of enemy aliens and American born Japanese. These are to be moved out of the new military areas, which contain a hundred and forty thousand enemy aliens and seventy thousand native born citizens of Japanese parentage.

SPY

The spy trial in New York has produced some curious angles. And today <sup>the</sup> testimony yielded some of the strangest oddities of all. The witness was one of the defendants, Paul Borchardt, a one-time major in the Kaiser's army, <sup>who</sup> ~~he~~ states that he is a Jewish refugee. He relates that he was a professor in a German military academy, was tossed out of his job by the Nazis, and ~~was~~ later put into the notorious Hitler prison camp - Dachau. That seems an odd record for a Nazi spy - and remind us of stories of how the Gestapo sometimes places its agents in refugee groups, passing them off as Jewish exiles. The defendant Borchardt maintains that he can prove his status as a Jewish victim of Nazi anti-Semitism.

~~He admits that he was in touch with alleged members of the espionage gang, and was in secret communication with persons in Germany. This, he explains,~~

Today he stated that he had offered to the F.B.I. a theory to explain sabotage fire aboard ships. Last summer an oil tanker exploded, and this inspired Borchardt to go to the F.B.I. and say -- bacteria. Bacteria, germs - as a possible cause of ship fires. He advised the F.B.I. that the Nazis were known to have placed bacteria in such fashion that they would generate methane gas, a product of decomposition and highly inflammable. He added that the British discovered this Nazi trick for bacteriological ship sabotage.

Germs for setting fires! Yes, a picturesque line of testimony.

STAR

Out west in movieland, a beautiful film star has a bump on her head, and every time she puts her hand up and feels the ache and swelling, she can think - "Well, it was really a compliment." ~~Because there's no more flattering tribute to the loveliness of a lady than when big, strong he-men are inspired to rescue her from a watery grave, for example.~~

At a film location in California, Movie Star Susan Hayward had a scene where she walk<sup>ed</sup> along a log above a pool. She was acting her part on the log with a thrill of emotion. Maybe too much emotion - because she fell off the log and into the pool. The water was cold and deep, ~~xxx~~ a chilly ducking for Susan.

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Around the pool were the assorted workers of the motion picture company - ~~the~~ cameramen, ~~the~~ sound ~~man~~<sup>men</sup>, electricians and others. They were strong, brave men, the kind to rescue a lady in distress. And, when the



lady was so lovely as Susan Hayward, their chivalry was simply uncontrollable. With one impulse they leaped to the rescue, five of them - and took a headlong dive into the pool. They landed simultaneously - and right at the place where the film star was just coming up. The poor girl was buried under an avalanche of rescuers - and down she went again. Apparently, the coco of one of the rescuers hit smack on the cute cranium of the star. This time she was in real peril - knocked groggy by the impact.

The rescue was finally accomplished by the one guy who stayed there on the bank. He was a lumberman working for the Monterey Redwood Company. Maybe he wasn't as chivalrous as the movie boys, or maybe, being a lumberman, he understood better about such things.

Anyway, he just leaned over, reached down and ~~hauled~~ <sup>dragged</sup> the lady out. It doesn't tell whether he <sup>also</sup> hauled <sup>out the</sup> ~~the~~



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five movie heroes. Maybe he just let them <sup>drown.</sup> ~~scramble up~~  
~~the bank the best they could.~~

His comment afterward was eloquent:- "If those movie fellows had stayed out 'of the way," said he, "I could have pulled her right out. As it was," he observed, "she got two duckings instead of one." Also an egg on the bean.

And now Hugh, old boy,  
a/2 how have you been?!