

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1942

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Today we have an explanation of why the defense of Java against the Japanese was hampered by lack of protection in the air. The news came as a bit of a shock in the United States, considering what we had been told our flying fortresses were on the job, But tonight we know that our heavy bombers had to be removed from the island because there were not enough fighter planes to protect them. And that's one of the ironies of modern super mechanized warfare. The most deadly engines of destruction, such as heavy bombers are themselves desperately vulnerable to attack, almost helpless without an escort of fighter planes, just as that floating monster, the battleship, has to be protected by the small swift destroyer as well as by aircraft.

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destroyer as well as by aircraft.

While ~~it was~~ in Java, the American air force  
— those Flying Fortresses —  
did a magnificent job. They were based <sup>on</sup> ~~at~~ secret  
airdromes cleverly hidden in the mountains of the  
island. Their attacks checked the invading Japanese  
for at least a week by battering at them not only on  
land but at sea. ~~But~~ Even so, they were fighting at a  
<sup>great</sup> disadvantage. <sup>We hear</sup> They had some fighter planes, but the  
Japanese had <sup>many</sup> more, and <sup>hear now</sup> ~~were given to understand~~ that to  
make matters worse, late last week a number of American  
planes were destroyed on the ground just at a time when  
they were most sorely needed. Furthermore, ~~expected~~  
<sup>allied</sup> reinforcements of fighter planes ~~that had been expected~~  
did not arrive. <sup>When</sup> ~~so~~ it was necessary to remove other  
— <sup>big bombers</sup> —  
American aircraft ~~from the vicinity~~ in order to save  
them from being picked off on the ground by the

machine guns of ~~the~~ Japanese fighter planes.

There were numerous pilots on the spot, not only available for service but rarin' to go. ~~But~~ <sup>However</sup> ~~their~~ <sup>were no planes</sup> there ~~wasn't anything~~ for them to fly, which made their helplessness infuriating. ~~They~~ <sup>flies</sup> made no attempt to

hide their anger when they were evacuated from ~~the~~ <sup>Java</sup>.

<sup>And we hear</sup> ~~There~~ <sup>There</sup> were considerable numbers not only of ~~American flyers~~ <sup>pilots but also men of the R.A.F.</sup> ~~but R.A.F. pilots in Java. But a~~

<sup>TP</sup> ~~An~~ <sup>An</sup> ~~airman~~ <sup>airman</sup> without ~~a plane~~ <sup>a plane</sup> is even more impotent than a cavalry troop without a horse.

One pilot told a reporter that he had bombed a Japanese armada which included so many transports ~~stretched~~ <sup>stretched</sup> that they ~~stretched~~ all the way to the horizon.

Observers in those latitudes believe that the next objective of the Japanese is to be Australia. The way the fighting is going in Java, it looks as though they were hurrying to mop up there as quickly as possible.

~~at once~~ and then  
subdue the Dutch islands ~~in order next to~~ concentrate  
all their striking power ~~for a blow at~~ <sup>on</sup> Australia  
before the Americans are able to establish a strong  
fighting force there.

It seems to be taken for granted that the fight  
in Java is as good as lost. The official admission  
*came through today*  
that the United Nations had given up Batavia, ~~sounded~~  
~~like a solemn note.~~  
*knelt.* From all accounts, the position

*Java*  
of the <sup>^</sup>defenders is now somewhat similar to that of

General MacArthur and his men in the Batan peninsula, --  
*only* ~~but~~ not so favorable as MacArthur's. *In the* ~~The American~~

*MacArthur*  
Philippines ~~General~~ is concentrated in a small bit of  
terrain particularly well suited for the type of  
tactics that he has chosen. And at his back he has the  
island fortress of Corregidor, a source of considerable  
strength. General Ter Poorten in Java has no such

fortress at his back. He is out-gunned,  
out-numbered in the air, and fighting with a tired  
army, whereas the <sup>Tap</sup>invaders have a constant stream of  
reinforcements to relieve them.

The Japanese now <sup>hold</sup>~~have~~ all of western Java.

And they have cut the main body of the Dutch troops  
off from the eastern half of the island, including  
the naval base at Soerabaja. The Dutch high command  
admits that several places, including not only Batavia  
but Jokjakarta, had to be abandoned. <sup>TR</sup>As a result of  
the enemy's mastery of the air, the Dutch troops are  
continuously exposed to such violent bombardments that  
they have been unable to rest for many days and are  
now <sup>nearing exhaustion, which</sup>~~becoming over-tired.~~ That makes the situation  
<sup>- almost</sup>serious, ~~but not~~ hopeless. <sup>TR</sup>Whenever they have retreated,

the Dutch have left the Japanese nothing but scorched  
earth, even destroying the stores of liquor in towns



likely to be taken by the invaders.

Meanwhile, <sup>the vast naval</sup> the defenders of Soerabaja have started demolishing installations <sup>there</sup>.

It is becoming more and more evident that the Japanese in Java are using ~~xxx~~ tactics copied from those of the Nazi Germans. Indeed, military experts in Washington believe it possible that the Java high command <sup>is</sup> ~~are being~~ actually advised by Nazi officers.

<sup>TP</sup> The entire Java campaign is marked by German technique! ~~For instance,~~ passing by the hard spots and pouring the biggest concentrations into the weakest holes. The next step after that is to fan-out, after breaking up into smaller units. These tactics put the defenders up against it for means of communication and supply.

Everywhere <sup>these ~~they~~ tactics</sup> ~~these tactics~~ have been used, ~~they~~ they have been successful <sup>except</sup> against General MacArthur on the

Batan peninsula. And, say the Washington experts, the

nature of the terrain on Batan has been unfavorable to those German-Japanese tactics.

The Washington observers declare that man for man, soldier for soldier, the troops of the United Nations are ~~either~~ as good ~~as~~, or better than, the Japanese. <sup>And that</sup> That applies to land, air and sea. At sea, the Japanese had a far larger covering force for their transports. <sup>And</sup> In spite of being outnumbered, the naval concentrations of the United Nations inflicted heavy losses. In the air, wherever American pilots have confronted Japanese aircraft, the Japanese have come off a poor second best. As the full descriptions of these <sup>air</sup> ~~dog~~ fights are released, they will show how overwhelmingly superior <sup>the</sup> ~~our~~ American flyers are. <sup>Which is a little</sup> ~~So that is a xx~~ consolation to look forward to.

## BURMA

In B<sup>r</sup>uma, the Japanese <sup>now</sup> claim to be only fourteen miles from Rangoon, and ~~to be~~ in a position to cut two of the principal roads leading to the former Burmese capital. They also say they have captured two important places on the <sup>vital</sup> railroad from Rangoon to Lashio. That's the Japanese end of the story. <sup>TF</sup> From the other side, however, it's reported that the British and their allies have taken the offensive, <sup>attacked</sup> ~~attacking~~ the Japanese on the Pegu front, and killed <sup>200</sup> ~~200~~ a large number of the invaders in heavy fighting. The Imperial forces there have tanks to help them. They are still holding Pegu, and they <sup>are</sup> still waiting for the long-expected all-out attack by the Japanese for the capture of Mandalay.

The cutting of the Burma Road to China has not left Chiang Kai-shek helpless. A new route <sup>already</sup> has been developed and is actually being used. Part of it goes through thick jungles, where the stuff has to be hauled



by elephants. Shipments of war materials have already gone over that road, <sup>which is</sup> ~~that is~~ known as the jungle

Trail." It goes from India across northern Burma to

Lashio, at the head of the Burma Road; ~~and thence~~ <sup>on to Chungking</sup>

as before. And Chinese engineers are now building a

second highway from India to China.

The Chinese are somewhat sour over the news of those American troops that were sent to Britain instead of the Far East. An important newspaper in the Chinese capital remarks that for three whole months MacArthur has been fighting on Batan but not a single American reinforcement has been sent to help him.

## FRANCE

Here's more about the collapse of France.

Another Ex-Cabinet Minister spoke his piece before that war guilt trial court at Rion. It was Guy LaChambre, the former Air Minister, who was quite out of the clutches of the pro-Nazi French Government, safe in the United States, but returned to France to defend his honor.

LaChambre says the weakness of the French army in the air was largely due to the general staff. Its members seemed to be unable to make up their minds what type of planes they wanted to build. Then too, he says, there was collusion between Communist leaders and producers. One thing the general staff did, concerned fifty Curtiss planes made in the United States. They were on the docks all ready to ship to France, but the general staff ordered them sent to Casa Blanca in Morocco, where there was no material to equip them.

## BLACK MARKET

The British authorities are becoming infuriated by the wide penetration of black markets all over Britain. <sup>And</sup> That's a subject that ought to interest us, because we may be up against the same sort of thing ourselves before Leon Henderson gets through rationing <sup>so many things</sup> ~~everything~~ away from us. <sup>In England</sup> There has been a vehement campaign in the newspapers, directed largely against magistrates who have been passing too lenient sentences on men convicted of infringement of the rationing laws.

And today there was a general order issued by Sir William James, Commander-in-Chief of King George's navy base at Portsmouth. The General's order contained these words:- "We are now fighting the greatest war in our existence and in our own country we are fighting a battle of the people against parasites. Soldiers, airmen and sailors are daily

giving their lives to their country but in our midst there are people not only doing nothing to help the war effort but living in comfort on the proceeds of their illegal dealings in commodities necessary to the well-being of our people."

## SUBMARINES

Two more merchant ships lost, says the Navy. The American freighter NORVANA and the tanker OLYMPIC, flying the flag of Panama, <sup>They are long</sup> ~~are a lot~~ overdue, <sup>^</sup> <sup>^</sup> <sup>so</sup> and it is presumed ~~that~~ they have been ~~sunk~~ <sup>gone</sup> down.

LYTTLETON

There seems to be a lack of coordination between the British and United States governments on the subject of giving out information. One example of this became so flagrant that President Roosevelt spoke in acid terms of a bit of news revealed by the Right Honorable Oliver Lyttleton, Supervisory Production Minister in the Churchill Cabinet. Cabinet Minister Lyttleton made public a statement about a new American naval base located somewhere in Africa. Lyttleton named the exact location of that base, adding that it was not very big at the moment but would soon be tremendous. Whereupon President Roosevelt declared that even discussing the existence of that base was an invitation to the enemy to bomb it. A newspapermen told the President that the story has come through the censorship on the other side several times but has



always been stopped over here.

The British in London point out that the story had been passed not by the censors in London but by those in Cairo.

Nor should we get irritated over such things. When you are involved in a worldwide war there is bound to be plenty of fumbling.

## ALIENS

The latest raids on aliens by the F.B.I. in California, brought in quite a haul. The government men working in twenty-nine communities of California, found contraband in large quantities and arrested members of two Japanese military societies . The Federal Bureau obtained information about one of these from a mass of records found in the possession of a Buddhist priest at Sacramento.

## FINANCE

As we have been expecting for a couple of months, the Secretary of the Treasury wants Congress to raise Uncle Sam's debt limit to a hundred and twenty-five billions. He sent a message to Congress today, urging quick action. At the end of February, he said, the government had almost reached the ~~sixty-five~~ sixty-five billion dollar limit, and was only short about one billion, four hundred millions. The Treasury will want to put out bond issues in the month of April and unless the lawmakers raise the limit at once, the Secretary will be up against it for cash.

In the meantime, both Houses are getting busy ~~on~~ on the new tax bill for which Morgenthau asked yesterday. There are various ideas among the Congressmen. Some, for instance, want to up the excise taxes ~~on~~ immediately on such things as the cup that cheers and the ~~cigarette~~ cigarette smoke that people puff in your ~~face~~ <sup>food</sup>

in the middle of dinner. Excise taxes, according to Senator Prentice Brown of Michigan, should be passed at once in order that the government might start taking in the money ~~at once.~~ *right now.*

Also, judging by the reports from Capitol Hill, exemptions are going to be lowered, although that <sup>part</sup> is not the Treasury's idea.

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Mr. A  
Congressmen took quick action to comply with what the Secretary asked. A few minutes after reading Morgenthau's message, ~~the~~ House Committee on Ways and Means voted unanimously to report a bill favorably to raise the debt limit.

One thing the Secretary seems to fear is the tendency among certain Congressmen to pass laws for compulsory investment in defense bonds. They want to stick a clause in some bill ~~or~~ other requiring money to be deducted from everybody's pay check and invested

in the bonds. <sup>But</sup> <sup>says it</sup> <sup>^</sup> The government <sup>^</sup> doesn't want anything

with such a Nazi flavor as that. The defense bonds

are selling well, <sup>See.</sup> says <sup>^</sup> Morgenthau, sales are high,

and he <sup>himself is</sup> <sup>^</sup> in favor of leaving the buying of bonds up

to <sup>each citizen.</sup> <sup>^</sup> ~~people's individual good-will.~~

Congress will try and see to it that there is no favoritism in the use of automobiles. Even members of the President's Cabinet will have to go to their local rationing board before buying a car or even a tire! Whereupon, if the rationing board says "No," then the distinguished gentleman will have to walk or thumb a ride.

58  
Possible conversation:- "Where do you want to go? Washington?- You say. Huh, ~~Huh~~ Who are you anyhow? The Secretary of Labor!! Huh ~~Huh~~, Mister, Miss, I mean -- don't kid me! Okay, hop in!"

All this may happen if the House Committee on Appropriations has its way. That Committee proposes to pass a law to eliminate the spectacle of plain citizens walking the streets while government-job-holders roll along<sup>on</sup> the highways. The Committee would



8 1/2 pass a law forbidding the sale of new passenger cars for government use to anybody except the President and his staff, and the Departments of War and the Navy. Except, of course, for the few people who have definite work to do for the government, absolutely requiring the use of an automobile.

## ELECTRICITY

9  
President Roosevelt wants us to use no more electricity than we have to. More and more of that vital ~~ju~~ juice is being needed for the making of planes, tanks, guns and all the things that go with them. So civilians must cooperate, save every possible kilowatt.

Somebody asked the President, what about night baseball? His reply was that he thought there ought to be night baseball, because it helps civilian morale. And that if everybody who goes to a night game turns off the lights at home, it will all be, even -- stephen!

9 1/2 That from the President,  
Now something from Hugh