

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1942

(incomplete because President
was on air at our regular
time)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am sure you have all just been listening to the President of the United States. And I know it is not necessary for me or anyone else to urge you to back up the President's appeal for scrap rubber. We will all do it. Yes, this very weekend, let's search our homes, from attic to basement, for old hose, bathing caps, hot water bottles, anything made of rubber. Old tires, of course. And as my Sun Oil Sponsor reminds us -- let's remember to make our present tires last as long as possible.

The dominant story in the news tonight concerns that naval engagement of more than a month ago, -- the battle of the Coral Sea. The Navy today giving us our first full account -- including the losses we sustained.

The Navy tells us that the story of the Battle of the Coral Sea really goes back all the way to the beginning of March.

The first phase occurred when Australian and American air scouting forces discovered that the Japs were concentrating large forces of warships and transports on the northern coast of New Guinea, the ports of Salamunua and Lae. These were intended for a move along the New Guinea Coast toward Port Moresby. To forestall the threat, our men attacked that concentration of enemy ships.

The attack was highly successful, continuing day after day. The Jap Naval forces based on the ports of Salamunua and Lae were badly battered, many sunk and damaged, and this disrupted their plans for advancing against strategic Port Moresby.

The second phase of the Naval and air engagement brought on the main part of the Battle of the Coral Sea. Once again the Japs were found to be

mustering large forces of warships and transports. This was during April. Now their intention was to push southward along the line of islands east of Australia. They planned to seize air bases in the Solomon Archipelago and the Louiside group.

This will be of special interest of Osa Johnson, who is sitting beside me tonight. She and Martin explored the Solomon Islands many years ago. Well, the Navy account today states that the Japs actually did seize air bases in both the Solomon and the Louisiade Islands. But the larger part of their plan was completely frustrated -- by violent blows, brilliant attacks.

On May Fourth, a task force of our Pacific Fleet sallied forth, and caught a part of the Japanese naval invasion units at anchor at the harbor of Tulago, in the Solomon Islands. The Japs were taken completely by surprise, and virtually annihilated.

was concentrated in the Louisiade Archipelago, and three days later, flights of bombers from Admiral Fletcher's aircraft carriers struck them heavily. A big Japanese Aircraft carrier was just turning into the wind to launch a flight of warplanes, when it was hit by fifteen bombs and ten torpedoes. The carrier sank within a few minutes, with most of the planes. A heavy Jap cruiser was also sunk. And the next day a second enemy aircraft carrier was hit by bombs and torpedoes, and was left ablaze.

May Seventh and Eight were the last two days of the prolonged series of operations, and it was on those two days that we sustained our warship losses. Japanese bombers attacked the U.S. destroyer
tanker,
Sims, and a sinking both.

That was followed by the enemy assault on the aircraft carrier LEXINGTON, flagship of Rear Admiral Fitch. Two torpedoes and at least two bombs hit the LEXINGTON -- setting fires. Near misses did

damage tool The crew extinguished the flames, and the planes of the carrier succeeded in landing on the deck. Later the planes got away safely.

The LEXINGTON was able to navigate, and did so for several hours. Then new fires and explosions broke out -- probably because of the collection of gasoline vapors from leaks in oil pipe connections.

For five hours the crew fought heroically to save the ship. But she was doomed.

With the fires raging out of control, the order was given -- "abandon ship". Almost the entire crew got off safely, the last man off being the commanding officer, Captain Sherman, who had a narrow escape, for as he slid down a rope from the deck, the LEXINGTON blew up. The flames had reached the carrier's supplies of torpedoes. When these blew up the LEXINGTON plunged swiftly to the bottom.

She was a thirty-three thousand ton giant,

commissioned in Nineteen Twenty-Seven -- the only aircraft carrier that we have lost in this war.

So the final count of our naval losses in the battle of the Coral Sea is three ships -- the Lexington, a destroyer and an oil tanker.

The Jap losses, as officially announced in today's final navy tabulation, include the sinking of one aircraft carrier, three heavy cruisers, one light cruiser and two destroyers. Not to mention transports and smaller vessels. One other Jap cruiser and one other destroyer were so badly damaged that they probably sank. And, severe damage was inflicted on twenty other ships, including one carrier, three cruisers, three destroyers and two aircraft tenders.

Today's official reckoning of the battle of the Coral Sea has been awaited for weeks. The Navy did not release it sooner because by withholding the information we handicapped the enemy in the course of the subsequent operations -- like the battle of Midway

LEAD - 7

Island. The keeping of the military secret helping
the Navy to win the Battle of Midway.

And now H@gh.

MOLOTOV

P.T. - Sunoco. Friday, June 12, 1942.

In today's disclosure of the big diplomatic secret, the first focus of the news is inevitably on the words - second front. That is the phase which ~~the~~ is the closest to everybody - the prospect of a United Nation's assault on the Nazi-controlled continent of Europe. ^H An invasion would involve vast numbers of men, and our own American soldiers in great masses ^{would} ~~will~~ be in the thick of it. ~~So~~ let us consider first the fact that President Roosevelt came to an agreement with Soviet Foreign Commissar Molotov on the subject of a second front in Europe - this year. ~~It~~

The official announcement from Washington ^{uses} ~~puts it in~~ these words:- "In the course of the conversations, full understanding was reached with regard to the urgent tasks of creating a second front in Europe in Nineteen Forty-Two." And this would seem to say that Molotov got a promise of a second front.

What kind? Actually, the White House declaration does not specify a land front, does not prescribe an invasion necessarily. The answer might mean air attacks.

(In fact, the British in talking of their mighty devastation bombings launched against Nazi centers, have been calling them - a second front offensive. And, of course, American sky forces are scheduled to join the British in these warplane assaults. That has been promised.)

However, Washington tonight does not believe that today's White House announcement means nothing more than a continuation and increase of air power offensive. Half measures are considered as ruled out, and the opinion is that in speaking of "second front", the President means land invasion as well as aerial operations. That ^{is} what the Soviets have been wanting all along, with open and insistent demands.

Along this line of argument, we may note that the Molotov-Roosevelt agreement about a second front coincides with the recent headline conversations with British and American military leaders in London. These have been reported to concern plans for an invasion.

And then there was chief of staff Gen. Marshall saying that American soldiers would fight
And also there is the fact that great convoys have been

taking tens of thousands of American troops to the British Isles. Why? A land second front might be the answer.

France!

Furthermore, the news early today stated that American naval forces had joined the British home fleet. United States vessels of war, including battleships, now operating in British waters - a powerful task force. This again might well fit in with invasion plans - troops having to move across water.

All of this is as much as we have to go on tonight - in trying to reckon the meaning of the

second front agreement between the President and the Soviet Foreign Commissar. ^{and} It is about all the material we have ~~tonight~~ for trying to picture to ourselves the prospects of a United Nations' land invasion of Nazi-controlled Europe this year.

In revealing the big diplomatic secret today, the White House announcement tells us of other results of the negotiations. These concern primarily an American promise of increasing aid to the Soviets, more United States armament for the Red Army in its battle with the Nazi war machine. Also - American-Soviet cooperation after the war, mutual understanding for the peace settlement that is to come. President Roosevelt conveyed through Molotov a message to Stalin. The President tells the Soviet premier that the negotiations in Washington have been most useful in establishing a closer relation between Moscow and

Washington in pursuit of the common objectives of the United Nations.

Simultaneously today, there was an announcement from London - and that too was part of the disclosure of the big diplomatic secret. Because Molotov made a concealed visit to London as well as to Washington. And there he signed a new treaty with Great Britain - a twenty year pact for mutual assistance. Great Britain and Soviet Russia agree to work together for a period of twenty years - during the war and after. They reaffirm their pledge not to make a separate peace with Nazi Germany, and they undertake to support each other after the war in case of any future trouble with Germany or its present satelites. In other words, ~~it~~ **is** a twenty-year British-Soviet alliance against any adversary - in Europe. There is a lot of point in that word - "Europe." The British and Soviets agree

to collaborate only against European enemies.

So, Japan is not included. The treaty does not affect Soviet relations with the Far Eastern enemy of the United Nations. So it contains nothing that might bring Russia into the war against Japan.

In the big diplomatic secret, one dramatic element was -- secrecy. Our nation, at large, knew nothing about it, that the Soviet Foreign Commissar was in Washington as a guest of the President. The secret was kept until the Soviet statesman was back in Russia. He is in Moscow tonight.

The White House disclosure was made today in the following words: "The People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Republics, Mr. V. M. Molotov, following the invitation of the President of the United States of America -- arrived in Washington on May Twenty-Ninth, and was for some time the President's guest."

He left on June Fourth -- was here for nearly a week. With a party of thirteen, Molotov

arrived in Washington on a Soviet bomber -- after a trans-Atlantic flight. The plane landed at a Washington airport four hours ahead of schedule. That threw the reception program off a bit, and the Commissar was met only by officials of the Soviet Embassy. At the airport a number of bystanders looked on, but nobody recognized the man with the big blackmoustache. However, a second-lieutenant of the Army almost recognized him. He looked hard, went up to an attache of the Russian Embassy, and demanded, "Who is that guy you met? I've seen his pictures in the newspapers." The attache passed that one off, and the second Lieutenant never did find out.

From the airport, Molotov went to the White House as a guest of the President. He took a walk around the White House grounds and was in full view of hundreds passing. But nobody recognized him. He had dinner at the White House, and along talk with the President. There he spent his first night in

Washington, and the next day moved to Blair House -- an historic old mansion now used by the government for the entertainment of guests of state. Day after day Molotov would leave the Blair House, and plenty of people would see him, but there would never be any thronging of recognition.

The most amusing thing of this sort is found in the fact that the Soviet Commissar went to New York for a day. He visited Radio City, attended one of the leading motion picture theatres of the metropolis, saw the usual tourist sights and mingled with the crowds on the streets.

His pictures have been published in the American press innumerable times for years, but of the thousands who saw him in New York -- nobody recognized him.

He was recognized at times in Washington. For example by a party of Newsreel photographers, who spotted him at once. They were on their way to the

White House to shoot pictures of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor when they were presidential guests.

Those newsreel men know their faces, and couldn't miss Molotov's. They know, however, what to do in cases of official secrets. So they didn't start grinding pictures of the Soviet Commissar then and there. However, Newsreel pictures of the Molotov visit were made. Today I put in a call to Movietone Newsreel, and was told that these pictures have now been released -- and will be shown next week.

The truth is that the big diplomatic secret was pretty generally known among newsmen. We understood that Molotov was in Washington, but press and radio are eager to cooperate with the government in wartime - in matters of what shall be publicized and what shall not.

RUSSIA

54

Nazi Germany official^{ly} states that the big Hitler offensive is about to begin. The present fighting is described as a prelude to the expected all-out attempt to defeat the Red Army. The Nazi drives at Kharkov and Sevastopol are described by the Berlin radio in these words: "They are considered by the German High Command as important for the launching of the coming great German offensive."

At Kharko^v the Nazi attack is assuming such proportions that Moscow expects^{it} to turn into a major ~~offensive~~^{drive, at} In Sevastopol the enemy is hurling fresh masses of troops against the great naval base. They are pounding Sevastopol with everything they have, air bombs, land guns and infantry assaults. Moscow tells of attacks hurled back ~~xx~~ with huge losses, but adds that the situation in Sevastopol is grave.

LIBYA

In Libya the Axis forces have captured the important stronghold of Bir Hacheim. This was the southern anchor of the British line, and was defended by forces ~~for~~ of the Free French -- obstinately defended for days. But now the British headquarters in Cairo ~~announces~~ that the garrison of Free French has been withdrawn, leaving the place to the German panzers. This brings a flanking threat to the British line further north, and may cause a withdrawal.

CHINA

In China the Japs are pressing on, with three columns driving to seize full control of the railroad from Chekiang to Kiangsi. The Chinese state that the enemy is making what are called "long strides." Chiang Kai-Shek's men are counter attacking desperately to slow down Jap advances -- those long strides. And the Chinese say the situation is grave.

MIDWAY

Japan today admitted the loss of two aircraft carriers in the Battle of ~~the~~ Midway Island. Hitherto, Tokyo had conceded no more than the sinking of one. Today, however, ^a~~the~~ Jap spokesman used the following phrase: "We should not be disappointed at the loss of two aircraft carriers," said he. Which is an official enemy admission that our men sank a pair of those giant vessels which have now become the capital ships of naval battle.

Meanwhile from Pearl Harbor we have vivid personal stories told by American aviators who accomplished the victory. Here's an example of their racey tang: ~~of their stories.~~ Lieutenant-Colonel Walter Sweeney of San Francisco tells of attacking a big Jap vessel. "We laid our bombs right smack across the port bow," said he. "The gunner yelled 'We got her right on the nose.'"

Corporal Don Bargdill of Kansas tells how

an

^ American bombers shot down a fighting plane.

"The Jap fighter pilot," says he, "seemed to hang in the air a fraction of a second, and then plummeted to the sea. He had buck teeth like a cartoon," says the corporal.

RUBBER

An Administration spokesman today spoke out in favor of a nationwide rationing of gasoline. He was Under-Secretary of War Robert Patterson, and he told the Senate Banking Committee that the armed forces face a shortage of two hundred thousand tons of rubber.

He pointed out that there is more rubber on the tires of the automobiles of the nation than anywhere else. "The rubber on the highways," said he, "is the biggest stock we have now." He estimated that this rubber on the highway amounts to one million tons, and he added that, unless that stock were conserved, serious consequences would result. So he proposed a four-point program for conservation of the rubber in automobile tires.

One:- Limit the speed of all driving to forty miles an hour -- slower speed saves rubber.

Two:- Have the government purchase from civilian users all extra tires. -- meaning more than five per auto.

Three:- Send all possible freight by
railroad.

Four:- Nationwide gasoline rationing, as a
means of cutting down automobile driving and
conserving rubber.

WIFE

In the Caribbean, two men from a torpedoed ship were on a raft. For ten days they drifted on waters infested by sharks - and one of them decided to go back to his wife. ~~That may seem to be a rather optimistic resolution for a castaway on a tropical ocean amid sharks.~~ But, Apparently - absence, and the man-eating ^{very} sharks, ~~of the deep,~~ make the heart grow fonder.

Today, having been rescued, Sailor William Hoppe told how he went to sea to escape the little woman. "I joined the merchant marine at Mobile because I wanted to get away from friends who tried to get me fixed up with my old girl, and I ran away." ~~In other words, he preferred the peril of U-boats and torpedoes to life with his old girl. That is, he did in Mobile.~~

The fugitive husband sailed aboard a cargo ship, and presently this was attacked by a U-boat, and sank. Sailor Hoppe and another man got off on a raft,

and then they proceeded to drift - for ten days.

"I had a lot of time to think out there," he related today, "and I guess I was probably wrong in the arguments with my wife." Then Sailor Hoppe went on to philosophize:- "A fellow thinks of all the bad things he has done in his life and the good things he might have done, when he drifts for days and days on an open sea." So there you have the picture - drifting on a shark infested sea and repenting those domestic arguments. Of course, a cynic, cold and heartless, might say cruelly - "The more the ~~xx~~ sailor saw of the sharks, the better he thought of his wife."

872

Anyway, the fugitive husband today announced:-

"I am going back to her."

Ah, a beautiful sentiment and I don't want to hear anybody draw any further conclusions on the subject of wife and sharks. Let's keep our thoughts lofty and turn now to Hugh.

59