

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1942

(Mr. Henry J. Taylor)

GOOD EVENING LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

There is news from India. I am awfully
sorry Lowell Thomas isn't here tonight to treat this ^{with}.
He lived thre two years, studied the Indian question,
came to know most of India's leaders intimately.
Few men in the United States know India as he does.
It is too bad this dispatch comes to you without his
views.

INDIA

(1)

Today in India Sir Stafford-Cripps and Mohatma Gandhi held what may have been a fateful conference. All India, and all the world in fact, has been waiting for the discussion between the London ^{envoy} ~~emissary~~ bearing a British offer to India, and the small, swarthy ascetic whom so many millions regard as a Saint.

Gandhi for years has represented in his own inimitable way India's demand for self-rule, and Sir Stafford-Cripps is offering India some form of independence. Presumably, he laid it before Gandhi today, and the great question is - Did it satisfy the Mohatma? Britain's purpose is to get India wholeheartedly into the war against Japan. Gandhi, in addition to his nationalism, is also a pacifist - opposed to war. And he says he maintains his non-violent position. So how far could he be persuaded to back full Indian participation in Britain's conflict

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with Japan?

None of these questions are to be answered tonight. The official bulletin from New Delhi ^{DELHI} merely tells us that Sir Stafford and the Mohatma conferred for ninety minutes today. We are not told of any decision at which they may have arrived. The dispatch contends itself with saying that Cripps and Gandhi emerged - smiling. Smiling but silent. In fact, Gandhi made a point of that. He referred to his mystical habit of going into silences now and then, and said:- "I take my silence now."

JAPANESE SUICIDE

(1)

Out in Hawaii today the military authorities were studying a sheet of paper inscribed with a sombre, enigmatic message. There is much in that message to excite the interest of the intelligence officers of the Army and Navy. ~~and what itxix does it refer to specifically - what secret doing and conniving? And then, in addition to the military aspect, the note found at Hawaii gives dark hint of an inner conflict in the soul of a tortured man, a clash of loyalties, a conflict of Japanese and American loyalties.~~

TAT-SUN-O-SUKE KO-BAY-ASHI

At Honolulu, Tatsunosuke Kobayashi was one of the most prominent of the Japanese who live so numerously in Hawaii. Under the Government of the United States, he had ~~xxxxx~~ risen in the world and prospered richly. At the age of sixty-four, TAT-SUN-O-SUKE KO-BAY-ASHI Tatsunosuke Kobayashi was President of the Union Supply Company.

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Yesterday, this Japanese man of business died by his own act. He had poisoned himself. And today they found a suicide note that he had left. The message reads as follows:- "My acts up to now have been a mistake," it says. "The things I have done up to now have all ben according to my will -- and others have not known of them. Now, at the same time that I beg forgiveness of the American Government and the community, I shall commit suicide. " So reads the suicide note, and it concludes with an

injunction to other Japanese. "From now on," it says, "obey American laws and please strive earnestly for the American Government and American society."

From this it is all too evident that the sixty-four year old Japanese businessman of Honolulu had been engaged in secret doings and connivings against the United States -- plotting in some fashion to aid the country of his birth against the nation under whose rule he had lived and flourished. He felt he owed a debt of loyalty to America -- and this loyalty he had secretly betrayed. Then, with war between Japan and the United States, he took the dark way out -- begging the forgiveness of America.

PHILIPPINES

(1)

From the Philippines, the war news tonight tells of violent bombing. The Japs are smashing at Corregidor, with torrents of high explosive. General Wainwright reports that the enemy air raids are on a twenty-four hour schedule. The island fortress had a climax of six thundering hours today. Yet the damage is described as comparatively light. This is because the Jap bombers flew so high - twenty thousand feet and up. This great altitude was, in turn, because of the accuracy of the American anti-aircraft fire. And this accuracy has brought down nine, and possibly fourteen, bombers in the last forty-eight hours. So, no wonder the Japs are having to fly high, with consequent inaccurate bombing.

BURMA

The presence of Japanese warships in the Bay of Bengal was only to be expected after the enemy seizure of the Andaman Islands. A glance at the map will show how the string of islands reach northward from Japanese -occupied Sumatra for a long distance toward Rangoon, also in enemy hands. London admits that the possession of this series of strategic points gives the Japanese Navy control of the Bay of Bengal.

The enemy force cruising in that area is described as a heavy cruiser and a few destroyers.

In Burma, the land gateway to India, the latest tells of a successful counter-stroke by the Chinese forces trapped at Toungoo. They are said to have annihilated one of the Japanese units that cut to the north of Toungoo to effect an encirclement. The defeated Japanese detachment was in possession of an airfield, as the Chinese recaptured it.

PRIZE FIGHT

(1)

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Tonight the Army is trying to outdo the Navy -- in the matter of gate receipts. A couple of weeks ago the big show for the benefit of the Navy Relief Society at Madison Square Garden, New York scored an enormous success. And tonight the army wants to do even better with the championship bout between Joe Louis and Abe Simon. The heavyweight champion, Private Joe Louis is donating his share of the purse. And the big fracas is expected to produce a large pot of gold for the Army Relief Society.

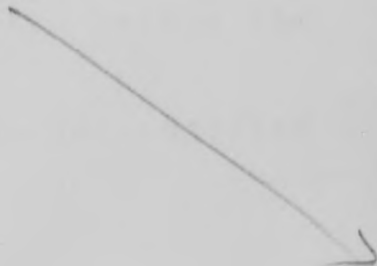
SUBMARINE CAMPAIGN

Washington announces a new and important move to defeat the U-boat campaign on this side of the Atlantic. It is agreed everywhere that German submarines have been having an exceedingly dangerous amount of success in their attacks on shipping in the waters of the Western Hemisphere.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Winston Churchill spoke ominously of the menacing turn the Nazi sea campaign has taken -- a large increase in the sinking of ships. And today a spokesman of the British government elaborated with the following comment: "Our end of the battle of the Atlantic," said the London official, "is going pretty well -- but the United States end is not so hot."

On this side of the ocean, there has been some sharp criticism. Governor Broughton of North Carolina sent telegrams of protest to Secretary of War Stimson and Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. The North Carolina Governor stated that the defenses

against submarine attack along our east coast were inadequate and unskillful, "frequently inept," said he. And, for a reason, he cited a lack of cooperation between the various branches of defense.



53 The new anti-submarine defense move announced in Washington today might seem to be in answer to the North Carolina protest. However, Navy officials tell us that the decision was made several days before the Governor issued his blast. That decision is - unified command.

The anti-submarine activities of both the Army and the Navy are now placed under one single control. There will be no more independent operations by the Army and the Navy. They'll have one single direction as they battle against the U-boats. Who's in command? The Navy. Practical steps have already been taken. The Army defense commanders along our coast have allocated army air units to serve under the naval commanders. Along the Atlantic coast, where the enemy submarine activity is the most dangerous, the commander is Rear Admiral Adolphus Andrews.

R.A.F.

Spring is the season when the birds appear.

In Europe it's the season for the war birds. Longer days and brighter skies have brought a great increase of the war in the air. Today's accounts from London tell of the R.A.F. smashing at the Germans in Ostend.

54 Last night, they bombed and blasted the industrial valley of the Ruhr. Today they struck at Nazi port installations in Belgium. It was an afternoon raid, the bombers escorted by fighter planes. Heavy damage was done, and only one R.A.F. plane was shot down.

On the Axis side, heavy blows against Malta.

~~London gives us the startling figure of sixteen hundred~~

↑ Squadrons of planes bombing the island today. The raid continued for

six hours - the heaviest that Malta has yet endured.

JUGOSLAVIA

A young King today issued a proclamation celebrating an anniversary - King Peter of Yugoslavia. Just one year after the Jugoslav nation revolted against submission to Nazi Germany, and then soon was plunged into war. In London, the exiled monarch called upon his people to rally to the leadership of General *ME-HIGH-LOW-VICH* Mihailovich, the Commander who is leading an unrelenting guerrilla campaign against ~~the~~ the Nazis. The proclamation sounds this slogan:- "Stand by, in order to march against the enemy."

FRANCE

55 Vice-Premier Francois Darlan conferred today with Pierre Laval. It is reported that they conferred for two hours on the question of Laval's return to the Government. Laval lives in a very handsome country ~~xxx~~ place, Castle Chateldon, a few miles outside of Vichy. The conference between Darlan ^{the} ~~xxx~~ Vice Premier of France, and Laval took ~~xxx~~ place there. At the same time Count Rene de Chambrun, who is well known in the United States, conferred in Paris on the same proposal with ^{GER-NAND} Gernand de ^{BRIN-ON} Brinon, the Vichy Government delegate to Paris. It is the feeling in Europe that Laval's return to power may be expected shortly. Some even say within forty-eight hours. *I believe that Lowell Thomas would agree with me* This is the most far-reaching news tonight, and highlights a question surrounding one of the fundamentals in the European diplomatic, economic, and political problem. The Germans

56 have been operating what the British would call a ^{"bare"} ~~bare~~ point against unoccupied France. That is to say, ^{the Nazis} ~~they~~ have been needlessly depressing living conditions throughout unoccupied France, applying unnecessarily stringent food restrictions, ration systems and other measures, presumably making it harder for the French to live and to eat and to move in unoccupied France than would otherwise ~~xxx~~ be the case in an area which under any circumstance would be depressed.

Now the Germans perform this operation through the person of Otto Abetz the Nazi Ambassador in Paris. It is a conditioning operation. Everyone in the Vichy government knows this. And knows why the Germans are doing it. They are doing it because it means that at any time, overnight, they can set up a new government in Paris, lift the artificial restrictions on the people of unoccupied France and gain support for the new government in Paris by making living conditions

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better than they ever were under the Vichy regime. Whether Laval would head this new government or not makes very little difference. ~~Rx~~ Personally, I would be surprised if it were Laval. Certainly the Germans don't trust him and of course Petain fired him. Laval was badly hurt in the attempted assassination in Paris which you may recall took ~~xxxxx~~ place about a year ago and when I was in Vichy this winter he had a blood transfusion.

Information from France suggesting that Laval will come back as king pin in the French government is news from Washington which would be very paradoxical. This is the news that our relations with Vichy have improved. The Washington outline points to four main items of ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ dissatisfaction with the Vichy ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ activities. And expresses Vichy's definite committments in relation to these.

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One, to keep Axis submarines, war planes and surface vessels out of French island ports

58 1/2 in the western hemisphere. Two, to refrain from giving any food or trucks to Italian forces in Libya, three, to keep the French fleet and not to transfer to the French military stocks to the Axis forces in Libya. These are important commitments by Vichy France, and extremely helpful ones to the cause of the United Nations. It would be very strange and very shocking if, at this moment, the whole matter should be kicked overboard by the liquidation of the entire Vichy position and the assumption of authority ~~in~~ under Laval in Paris.

59 Goodnight. Good luck to all of us. God bless every man and woman who fights our cause tonight.