

India

L.T. - Standard. Friday, Jan. 28, 1944.
Sun.

British Ambassador Lord Halifax indicated tonight that after the war India may quit the British empire, if she so desires. "We hope," said he "that India will wish to remain within the British commonwealth. But if after the war," he added, "her people can establish an agree^td constitu^tion and then desire to sever their partnership with us, we have undertaken not to overrule such a decision."

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Atrocities

Secretary of State Cordell Hull declared today that the United States government has protested to the Japs against those hideous atrocities which have just been made public. But what good are protests-when addressed to the ^{se} far eastern fiends who tortured and murdered so many prisoners of war-the men of Batan? Secretary Hull does not think the diplomatic remonstrance will do much good. He says that previous revelations of Jap atrocities were protested by the United States; but, ~~this was~~ ^{to} ~~of~~ little avail.

The Secretary added that the United States government is compiling a list of Japanese officers in the ~~Philippines~~ ^{Philippines}, and this will be used in holding them accountable after the war. The government is investigating all phases of the atrocity situation in the Philippines, with a view to the future punishment of the war criminals.

At the White House, Presidential Secretary Steve Early gave the reason why the brutality of the Japs toward the men of Batan has been made public at this moment-after it had been kept concealed by censorship for a long time. The concealment was in the hope that the Japs might let us send clothing, medical supplies and

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and food to the prisoners of war. But that hope has now vanished.

"The time has come," said Secretary Early, "to release factual, carefully authenticated statements on Japanese atrocities. The government," he added, "can no longer expect to get further relief to american prisoners of war in the hands of the Japanese."

At the same time a criticism was printed today^a criticism of the concealment of the wholesale Jap brutalities practiced against the Americans and filipinos. Palmer Hoyt, former director of the domestic branch of the O.W.I., states that the Japs have, in his words, "brutally murdered most of the fifty thousand prisoners taken at Batan." He indicates that the publication of these horrors was withheld for fear that the Japs would retaliate against the americans they still hold. The former O.W.I. officially says that he does not agree with this, because nothing will deter the cruelty of these oriental sadists.

The response of the american people to the hideous revelation is one of burning anger, and also there is another kind of reaction-as was witnessed vividly today at Maywood, Illinois. In that town hundreds of residents are families of Bataan prisoners.

Note for Mr. Thomas

Insert on P. 3

In the atrocity story kill the paragraph beginning: "At the same time a criticism was printed" and ending "cruelty of those oriental sadists".

The following is to be inserted after the episode of Maywood, the paragraph ending: "The buying of war securities was up by over fifty percent."

And yet some criticism is expressed, as in the case of Dr. V. H. Spensley of Albuquerque, New Mexico. He is the president of the Bataan relief association, and is the father of a soldier who died in a Japanese prison camp. Dr. Spensley stated today that he doubted what he called --the "entire truth" of the official account of Japanese brutality. He spoke of --"propaganda", and asked if this were necessary--to sell war bonds.

And Lieutenant Governor J. B. Jones of New Mexico said he couldn't believe the full account. Lieutenant Governor Jones has a son who was captured at Bataan.

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Soldiers from Maywood, including one entire company, were members of the hundred and ninety-second tank Battalion-which was on the bravely defended peninsula in the Philippines. One woman of Maywood is Mrs. Clara Wermuth, mother of Captain Arthur Wermuth, the Bataan hero who single handed killed a hundred-and-forty-six Japs and won the nickname of -"The one man Army."

This morning at Maywood a long line of people was waiting at the sales office of war bonds and they poured ⁱⁿ ~~into~~ to buy. The bond committee chairman states that the buying of war securities was up by over fifty percent. The families of the victims are expressing their anger with bonds.

Insert goes here.

The ferocious crime at Bataan was no isolated incident.

In London today it was officially stated that the Japs have been doing this same thing elsewhere and all the time. Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, collaborating with the American statement of last night, told the House of Commons of Jap mistreatment of British and Indian war prisoners taken in Burma. They are confined in jungle camps without adequate shelter, clothing, food or medical attention. Thousands

~~thousands of British and Indian prisoners~~

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have died, and the health of all the remaining prisoners is on the down grade.

And the foreign secretary went on to cite specific instances-a list to be added to the story of devilish outrage that has been revealed by the government of the United States. Eden told of a British municipal officer at Shanghai, who incurred the anger of the Japs, and was taken away to another part of the city for a while. "When he returned," the foreign secretary related, "he was practically out of his mind. His arms and feet were infected, by ropes that left deep scars. And he had lost forty pounds in weight. He died within a day or two of his release," Eden added.

~~Then there was a captured British officer in Burma," After being clubbed across the face with a sword," the foreign secretary told the House of Commons, " he was tied to a stick and a rope was fastened around his neck. Only by raising his body could he get enough air to keep him alive." This, described by the British foreign secretary, was certainly the acme of fiendish torture. The officer lived to tell the tale, and give the evidence. Because, as Anthony Eden~~

said today," an allied attack developed, and the Japanese fled. *And*
~~that~~ officer was rescued by a British patrol."

The foreign secretary made a statement about postal cards and letters that have been received in England, indicating that the prisoners were not being treated so badly. He said they were being compelled to write that way. And he told of communications from prisoners which were, as he said-"in terms dictated by the Japanese authorities." In other words, they have got to gloss over their sufferings-or they would be brutalized all the more.

~~and Atrocities~~

Russia

The Russians have cut another German escape railroad on the Leningrad front, by striking a forward blow at a point a hundred miles south of the former Capital of the Czars. In terms of railroads, so important in the wide spaces of Russia, the Red Army has now recaptured nearly all of the main line from Leningrad to Moscow. Only a brief distance of track is still in German hands, and it appears that before long the Russians will have opened up the Leningrad-Moscow main line for military traffic. And that will be a success of the largest importance.

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Air War

Day followed night in the air war, the day part of it being an assault by American heavy bombers launched against German military targets in northern France.

As for the night-Berlin was smashed again in the hours of darkness. Last night a force of Lancaster bombers of the RAF hit the German capital another big blow. "A very strong force," the London air ministry communique calls the raiding sky fleet. Then -an hour after the big Lancasters dropped their high explosive, those medium bombers, the nimble mosquitoes, went over the target to smash it up some more-and they saw large areas of Berlin swept by flames as the result of the previous attack. Thirty-four British planes were lost in last night's raid against Hitler's big town and other targets, while fifteen hundred tons of block busters and incendiaries were hurled upon the Nazi metropolis.

This figure raises the total weight of explosives heaped on Berlin to between eighteen thousand and nineteen thousand tons --in the past two months. Air experts figure that to wipe the city out completely as a war center will take thirty thousand tons. According to these figures, Berlin is now about two-thirds knocked out.

~~End Air War~~

Italy

In Italy, in front of Cassino, new advances have been made; though nothing very large. American and French troops driving under heavy fire, today pushed into the German defense line-from which the Nazis have been rushing troops to the battlefield near Rome. The town of ^SCasino still remains deserted, abandoned by the enemy, and our forces have not moved in, except for quick thrusts by adventurous patrols.

~~Today's dispatch tells of the famous monastery of Monte Cassino, which is on a mountain near the town-the Benedictine monastery which was the ^{very} ~~first~~ ^{monastery} in Europe. The monks are believed to be there-at their usual prayers and tasks, according to the Benedictine rule. Americans believe that the Germans are using the hills as an artillery observation post, and some of our spotters claim to have seen enemy troops walking around the monastery buildings. The hill, however, has not been shelled once by allied guns. They are not destroying that historic building-the first benedictine monastery.~~

On the Rome front, the Germans have been hitting back, after their feeble fighting thus far. A counter-attack led by tanks drove at the americans, but they repelled the assault, and then they pushed on and captured an important road junction-less than thirty miles from the Eternal city.

Another story, given by the Cairo radio, states that the allies have cut an important railroad line leading south from Rome, and now hold a section of the track.

The fighting there is featured by the most extensive air action, with allied planes making fourteen hundred sorties in one day, sorties in which they shot down fifty Nazi planes, while we lost seven. One outfit ^{that} distinguished itself ^{was} as the ninety-ninth squadron, consisting of american negroes. Their fighter pilots making a first appearance in combat, and they shot down eight enemy fighters.

~~We are told that the allied beachhead near Rome is now a fan-shaped area radiating from the town of Anzio. The base of the fan is twelve miles along the shore, and the beachhead sweeps inland ~~for~~ about the same distance-a dozen miles.~~

end Italy

Follow ~~xxx~~ Italy

From the Fifth Army near Rome, we get a military summation of the puzzle of those landings. The story points out what an obvious place for an invasion the coast near Rome really was. ~~Ancient Laticulum~~ ~~Laticulum~~ — ~~Laticulum~~ — ~~one of the few large stretches of level land in mountainous Italy, flat, open terrain extending twenty miles inland, magnificent highways everything wide open all the way to Rome. Even a school boy might well have selected the beaches at the mouth of the Tiber as an invasion point the more so as the landings immediately threatened the communications of the German army to the south.~~

Yet this inviting area was left almost entirely undefended.

There was not one gun defending the beach where the landing began.

~~Along whole stretches of the shore there were no land mines, such as the Germans are so adept at laying. The defending soldiers along ten miles of beach numbered three companies, not more than two hundred men. Along six miles of shore only two machine guns were manned. One American regiment marched eight miles inland without seeing a German.~~

And what few enemy troops there were on the scene didn't seem to be serious about the whole thing. They acted as if they were there for a rest cure. They ^{had taken} ~~took~~ over the best villas and ^{had} ~~settled~~

down to have a good time. The villas were stocked with luxury foods, piled up by the Germans, fine chocolate, gorgonzola cheeses, and plenty of butter. The Nazis were relaxing and two of their artillery observers were sound asleep when the Americans landed. At another place the Nazis had been having a party, and four were caught dead drunk-driving away in their automobile.

Yet the German commanders knew amply well that an allied landing was likely to come and that an almost inevitable place for it was along the beaches near Rome. Why then didn't they make some sort of preparation to meet it-as they did at Salerno where they put up a thundering fight?

~~Various guesses have been made, and today's story of~~

Some military opinion *is that* ~~on the war front repeats a surmise that has been made before.~~ The Germans did expect a landing on the Roman beaches, but they were convinced that it would come further north-the northern part of the Latin plain, instead of the southern, where the invasion actually struck. They had this fixed in mind, had their forces up there, and were taken utterly by surprise when the allied push was made at the southern end of the plain, instead of the northern.

They were just thick about it, and hence committed what was apparently a military blunder of the first magnitude.

SPAIN

In London the opinion is expressed that the halting of oil shipments to Spain is a strong hint to Franco, a hint that it is time for Spain to break with Nazi Germany. In other words, Franco must make up his mind. The suspension of oil shipments as ordered by the United States is based on several facts that the Allies do not like: One--Spain continues to intern some Italian warships and merchant vessels which should come over to the Allied side, according to the Badoglio declaration of war against Nazi Germany. And then--Spain continues to export vital war materials to Germany, such as the metal Wolfram. And then--Axis agents are active in Spanish territory. In addition to which--the Spanish Blue Division still seems to be fighting against Soviet Russia.

Spain needs oil badly, because the havoc to the Spanish railroads in the civil war has made truck transportation along the highways absolutely necessary. So, the stopping of oil shipments sounds like effective pressure on Franco.

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Argentina

Argentina

~~Here's a late one from Argentina.~~ President Ramirez today suspended

all commercial and financial operations with the Axis enemy. Relations having already been broken between Argentina and Nazi Germany and Japan, business connections now are cut. This decree is along the line of the recommendations of the inter-american conference at Washington in nineteen forty-two, and is in logical sequence to the severing of relations.

End

Follow Argentina

Political shake-ups of one sort or another seem to be ^{the} Argentine accompaniment to the policy of turning against the Axis. Tonight we hear that all the members of the Argentine cabinet have submitted their resignations to permit President Ramirez to reorganize his government. And Ramirez is expected to eliminate the more fanatically nationalistic of the ministers. We hear that a number of Argentine military leaders were opposed to the break with Germany and Japan, and some ^{of these} are said to have been arrested.

~~And General Arturo Rawson has resigned as Argentine Ambassador to Brazil. The significance of this isn't any too clear, but General Rawson was the first president, after the revolt that put in the new regime at Buenos Aires. He wasn't president for long.~~

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Southwestern Pacific

The story from the Southwestern Pacific tonight is one of bombs all over the place. One hundred and twenty three tons of high explosive hit the Japs on the Admiralty Islands, causing large fires and explosions. And Rabul was blasted ^{again,} to the accompaniment of an air battle in which twenty-two Jap fighters were shot down.

In the Central pacific, Nauru Island was bombed; and once again the Japs on the Marshalls. ~~were raked with high explosives from above.~~

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With a hasty glance at this next bit of news you might suppose that aircraft workers ~~out here~~ in California had suddenly become high brow and literary -- thousands of them subscribing to the Book of the Month Club. However, when you look closer there's a slight difference of spelling. It's --

Buck of the Month. *Not book, bucks,*

~~And, as we all know, a buck is not a book. It is not something that you read but something that you spend -- or, ^{that you} donate to a patriotic war-time cause.~~

At the Lockheed plant, ^{near} Los Angeles, a huge lot of aircraft workers felt the duty of contributing to a whole lot of things like Red Cross, U S O, community chests, and hospital funds. It was all a

bit confusing and they decided to simplify it. ~~That is~~ ~~the employees did. PA~~ ~~the employees~~ ~~employees on~~ their own initiative ^{got} together and

formed -- the Buck of the Month Club. According to

this voluntary plan, each contributes twenty-five cents a week, a dollar a month. Nobody feels that particularly; ~~but the dollar amounts to a nice fat sum of money each month -- which is divided among various war-time causes. For example --~~ The Buck of the Month Club has been functioning for ^{some} eighteen months and in that period has donated more than One Hundred and Twelve Thousand Dollars to the Red Cross, Sixty Thousand to Community Chests, Thirty-five Thousand to United Nations War Relief, more than Thirty-four thousand to the U.S.O., and so on, with contributions to a whole string of organizations -- making a grand total of nearly Six Hundred Thousand Dollars.

that particular group of
That's what ~~the~~ war-time aircraft workers
at Lockheed
are doing with that Buck of the Month Club. *Surely an* ~~excellent~~

excellent plan for other armament plants to imitate.

They can do a lot of good with a Buck of the Month

Club and it has this advantage over the Book of the

Month Club -- they don't have to read ~~those~~ books ~~that~~

~~Pearl Buck, Johnny Kieran and their~~

~~wise - or not so wise - colleagues~~

~~hand picks.~~ So here's to the Bucks

o' the Month Club! And s-l-u-Monday.

Non-Essentials.

RETAKE

Today from Washington we have three new rulings on the subject of wearing apparel-such items as involve the use of strategic materials.

Ruling number one: Manufacturers are permitted to turn out a new supply of nose rings for bulls. A few miles of copper tubing have been allocated for the production of the copper rings by which those mean critters are kept tethered in the pasture.

Ruling number two: The authorities are permitting a new supply of horse collars to be made. Leather manufacturers are instructed to fill the demand for dobbin's neckwear.

Ruling number three is negative. There will be no further manufacture of rubber girdles for the ladies. The rubber director explains that the synthetic rubber available must be used for making amphibious war equipment. ^{And hardly} ~~and would you say that a nice stretchy~~ girdle comes under the heading of amphibious war equipment.

^{To} ~~So we find that the bulls get their nose rings, and the nags get their horse collars, but there's no concession to the ladies. And this might seem like unfair discrimination. Of course, the girls might try wearing the nose rings or the horse collars, but I don't think they'd like that not any better than the bull or the horse would want to put on a girdle.~~

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Lowell Thomas

~~Statler Hotel Boston~~

Drunk--

Today at Los Angeles a man was arrested for driving while drunk and he was promptly asked : "Are you going to vote for your brother?" Which might seem like one of those nonsensical moron lines; but, the question was smartly to the point.

For The man arrested for drunken driving was C.Oliver Watson, ~~and~~ ~~his~~ brother of Claude Watson, ~~the~~ prohibition candidate for President.

So-was he going to vote for brother Claude and the bone dry platform?

Ah, well, let's see. if Hugh has some
~~His reply was hardly illuminating. Hugh no speak English?~~
sobriety and appropriate advice for all ^{of} us
 for the weekend. And now Hugh; and so long
 until Monday.