

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1942

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Tonight we have another victory in the East Indies to console us, a victory second only to the Battle of the Macassar Strait. Twenty Japanese vessels of all categories, destroyed -- Jap warships, including three of the Mikado's cruisers, merchant ships and transports. It is believed the total of the Allied bag may go as high as thirty-three.

Which is indeed something to cheer about. But against that there is the dogged fact that in spite of the destruction of the invasion fleet, the Japanese still appear to have the Island of Bali, one mile from Java. As one observer has pointed out, these invasions are calculated by the Japanese High Command as bound to be more or less costly. A general staff, in planning an

attack, figures beforehand that it must lose at least so many ships, at least so many thousands of soldiers, at least so much materiel destroyed. But they go ahead

— go ahead
nevertheless, [^] with the full realization that you can't

win victories without losing ^{men.} ~~lives.~~ The Battle of

Macassar Strait was a splendid victory for the air

forces of the United Nations, but the Japanese

nevertheless have Borneo and most of Celebes *on either side of the strait. They achieved their objective.*

[^] Only one Japanese vessel escaped from the rain of Allied bombs off Bali, and that one fled from the

scene of action. The Japanese, having seized the Bali

airdrome, from there [^] ~~promptly~~ ^{apparently} overran the island, and

now we hear that our aircraft and those of the Dutch

are bombing the airdrome of all other Japanese

[^] entrenchments. The Dutch high command claims that the

conquest of Bali was a Pyrrhic victory for the Japanese,

because the land forces of the Netherlands that fought a delaying action before evacuating, succeeded in destroying all installations. At present the Japanese expeditionary force on Bali is without naval support, and is exposed to the attack of high level dive bombers of the Allied air forces.

But those bombings so far have not been sufficient to prevent the Japanese from using the Denpasar airdrome on Bali for attacks on the air bases in Java, also the great naval base at Soerabaija.

Almost every dispatch from the East Indies carries with it a plea for more and more aircraft.

One thousand American airplanes would turn the tide, they say, and some officers go as far as to declare that even three hundred would do the trick.

From Burma the news today has been pretty slim. Today's official communique from Rangoon tells us that heavy fighting is in progress between the Bilin and Sittang Rivers.

And it says further that British planes acted in support of land troops and attacked enemy columns between the Bilin and the mouth of the Sittang. Four of the enemy shot down.

The concensus of reports from various points is that the situation in Burma remains unchanged. News about the same from Rangoon to Mandalay, and on to Bhamo and from Prome to Yenenyoung and on to Maymyo and Lashio.

The War Department in Washington tonight gives us a summary of what our own army air force has done out East since January First. Uncle Sam's Army bombers have damaged one Jap battleship, twelve cruisers, eight transports, one Nipponese aircraft carrier, two destroyers. They have sunk six of the "Son of Heaven's" transports, two tankers, and one destroyer. In addition to that, they have shot down or destroyed on the ground thirteen Japanese bombers and done away with thirty-five fighters.

In the attacks on the Bali airdrome today, our flying fortresses made several direct hits and it is believed they destroyed six medium Jap bombers on the ground, plus damage to the runways.

The Australian air force was busy today also. Its bombers made an attack on the Japanese airdromes on New Britain, and also attacked enemy shipping. The weather was so bad it was impossible to tell how well they aimed.

ARMY COMMUNIQUE

Just by way of a change, a couple of
Generals in the Philippines got decorated. ^{So} Evidently
they ^{are} ~~are~~ nothing like that celebrated general in
Mademoiselle from Armentieres, the gentleman "who won
the Croix de Guerre although the" -- well, you know--
"was never there."

Major General Sutherland, Chief of Staff to
General MacArthur, and Brigadier-General Marshall,
Deputy Chief of Staff, have been decorated with the
Distinguished Service Star, the highest military
decoration in the gift of the Philippine Commonwealth.
The decoration were awarded by President Manuel Quezon,
at the request of General MacArthur himself. The
citation says:- "These two officers, who are now ~~xxxxxx~~
occupying key posts in the epic defense of Batan,
served as members of the American Military Mission
which devised the original plans and methods for the

defense of the Philippines." That mission planned the creation of the army that is now striking such heavy blows on the battlefield. The citations point to the outstanding service of those two officers as ~~xxxxx~~ principal assistants to the Commanding General of the United States Army forces of the Far East.

The medals, ~~xxxx~~ we learn, were presented to General Sutherland and General Marshall by General MacArthur in ^{the} field today. ~~That was one way in which~~ ^{and thus it was that} our army in the Philippines celebrated Washington's Birthday. In handing over the medals, General MacArthur used these words:- "These are two of the finest officers who have ever served under my command. Cool and resourceful, courageous and determined, they are deserving of this immediate award of these well-earned decorations, ^{said he,} for tomorrow they might well be casualties, too late to know the nation's military honor to them.

51

SUBMARINES

The sinkings by submarines in the Atlantic that were reported today give a graphic picture of the wide range of Hitler's U-boats. ~~From Iceland to the Caribbean they are roaming the ocean, prowling and destroying.~~ In the waters off Iceland, one of them ~~torpedoed~~ ^{torpedoed} ~~got~~ Uncle Sam's Coast Guard Cutter ALEXANDER HAMILTON. She was ~~damaged,~~ still afloat, ~~and~~ being towed ~~into~~ port when she capsized. To prevent her from being a menace to shipping, they had to sink her with gunfire. Apparently not many lives were lost aboard her, for the naval communique said the casualties were moderate. She carried two hundred and two men. ~~Incidentally,~~ ⁷⁷ She was the first ship that the Navy has lost in the Atlantic since the end of October, when the U-boats got the destroyer REUBEN JAMES with a heavy loss of life.

One other submarine action is reported from the

Caribbean, again off the Island of Arubs. A U-boat or boats got a tanker, flying the Panamanian flag, of some nine thousand tons.

To offset that, the American freighter DEL PLATA is thought to have bagged a submarine and perhaps even two -- by gunfire before she herself went down. The DEL PLATA opened fire the minute she was attacked. The gun crew were not certain whether they had hit the U-boat. But after leaving the freighter they saw that she had not sunk so they returned to see how much damage had been done. While they were doing that, another submarine hove in sight and the gun crew again opened fire. They let go with three shots, and the fact that the submarine did not answer made them assume they had hit the second U-boat.

HOLIDAY

A considerable section of the American people celebrated George Washington's Birthday just as he undoubtedly would have urged ~~himself~~ ^{that we do --} - by working. ^{Meaning for the most part those} ~~This means, of course, that part of the~~ people engaged in war work. So the plea ^{made} ~~put out~~ by War Production Chief Nelson was not without effect. As a matter of fact, even before he had suggested that a full day's work would be the best way of honoring Washington's memory, ^{factories} a good many had already made plans to do it. Others joined in after his request was published.

Nelson practiced what he preached. ~~He~~ and his ^{were on the job} whole staff at the W.P.B. office ~~worked~~ today.

Soviet Russia also celebrated, ~~today, celebrated~~ with a renewed attack on the Nazi lines around Leningrad. It wasn't George Washington's Birthday that the Soviets were celebrating, however, ^{There} "it was the ⁷⁷ ~~There was a~~ Twenty-Fourth Anniversary of the Red Army.

A strong bombardment ^{unleashed} by the heavy guns of Kronstadt fortress in the Gulf of Finland, and ^{by} ~~the~~ Russian battleships in those waters. On land, the Red cavalry delivered an assault on the Germans.

A later dispatch from Moscow tells of an attack on a large scale against another sector of the Nazi front. Under cover of a heavy artillery barrage, Red infantry ^{pushed ahead, and on} ~~attacked heavily~~ ^{to} ~~and~~ ^{on} the flanks, large columns of tanks advanced ^{to} ~~and~~ wiped out German machinegun emplacements.

54
All this went on while Premier Dictator ~~Stalin~~ Stalin's order of the day was being broadcast over the radio, promising that the invaders would be driven from Russian soil. The dispatches also talked about an attack on the southwestern front, a battle for the possession of a town described in the dispatches only as "Point P." That fight evidently has been going on for days,

ROOSEVELT FOLLOW HOLIDAY

President Roosevelt also passed the day at work, getting ready for his important job tonight, the Fireside Chat at ten o'clock. That ^{is,} ~~means, of course,~~ ten ~~o'clock~~ Eastern War Time.

Secretary Steve Early said the enemy have also been at work today on that same subject, trying to smear the President's broadcast before it is even delivered. Radio Tokyo, said ~~Steve~~ Early, is putting on its biggest propaganda campaign for the purpose of tearing down the President's broadcast in advance. Mr. Roosevelt, for his part, was exceedingly pleased that virtually all the newspapers have published maps on which ^{we} ~~they~~ can follow what the President has to say.

The President ^{also} sent a message to Prime Minister Frazer of New Zealand today. It was the first message to go out over the new direct radio telegraph circuit

between New Zealand and this country. (Among other

things, Mr. Roosevelt said to Mr. Frazer that we shall

leave nothing undone to achieve our common objective. ^{and}

the New Zealand Prime Minister said to our President
~~and Mr. Frazer said to Mr. Roosevelt~~ that he wished him

all ~~the~~ good fortune in the days of stress that lie

ahead.



~~And~~ Here's another bit of news from the

White House. The President is going to consolidate

all the federal housing agencies. There are sixteen

of them, including the U.S. Housing Administration,

the Federal Housing Authority, the Home Owners Land

Corporation, and the Defense Housing Administration.

There'll be an executive order tomorrow placing them

all under one single head.

C.C.C. follow ROOSEVELT

56
No sooner had the White House made this announcement than bills were introduced in the Senate to consolidate all those housing agencies. Senator McKellar of Tennessee was the sponsor. He wants all Federal Housing business to be run by a National Housing Agency. It would also, if McKellar's bill were passed, administer the Electric Home and Farm Authority, the Federal National Mortgage Association, the Federal Savings and Loan Corporation, and so forth.

Senator McKellar put in another bill to do away with the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration. He proposes that they go out of existence on December Thirty-First of this year.

DRAFT

There is a loud howl all over the country from farmers because they can't get men to work for them, and you can hardly blame them. The charge was made that it was the Government's fault because farm workers have been snapped up in the draft. So, the House Committee on Agriculture ^{today} called for an explanation from Brigadier-General ~~Hershey~~ ^{Hershey}, Director of Selective Service.

^{Gen.} Hershey admitted that the local draft boards, especially in places where they are particularly patriotic, have been rather severe in their ~~excessive~~ classifications, which caused farmers to lose their help. But, added Hershey, we must not blame ~~this~~ all on the draft. As a matter of fact, it only accounts for fifteen per cent of the men ~~that~~ ^{have} the farmers lost.

The other eighty-five per cent went into the cities

to get the ^{higher} ~~highest~~ wages paid in factories. ^R It's an old story, and the only thing to do about it is a process distasteful to democratic thought. That is, government control over the placement of men. Employment must be stabilized and manpower regulated, call it freezing if you want to, said ^{Gen.} Hershey. You're going to have to stabilize, he added, and not let the various agencies reach over into the supplies of other people. The farm problem, ^{he,} ~~he~~ said, is one of the most serious that the draft officials have to tackle.

A prominent union leader expressed himself even more drastically than the Brigadier-General. Frank P. Fenton, Director of Organization for the American Federation of Labor, declared that what the country needs is one single administrative head to mobilize the manpower of the country, ^{with a} ~~A single integrated~~ ~~administration with a~~ single and definite policy, ~~is~~

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt today said her last word on the stormy subject of O.C.D. ^{and} It was a kind word for that section of Civilian Defense, whose leadership she resigned last week, the section ~~that was~~ called Civilian Mobilization. ^{It has now been} ~~and is now~~ named Division of Volunteer Participation. She prophesied that this division under Jonathan Daniels, the son of Josephus Daniels, will become a source of ever-increasing strength in our war effort, until victory has been won and a just peace obtained.

^{Mrs. Roosevelt} ~~she~~ took much pains over that prediction, ^{That is she} put it down on paper in a mimeographed statement, ^{a thing she} ~~which she~~ has done only three or four times in nine years.

This Volunteer Participation Division, she explained, ^{will have} ~~the~~ the job of training men and lads to take the places of workers who are needed for essential war services.

It will help communities all over the country solve the

^(created by) ^(it will)
 problems ~~throughout~~ the war, ^{(mobilize workers for the farms,} and, carry on programs
 for public health and safety. ~~And~~ That, she added, is
 that. So far as she is concerned, it closes the subject
 of O.C.D.

A reporter at the press conference asked her
 how it felt to be back in private life. And she replied,
 "Very pleasant, thank you," because she had been able
 to read more in the last two days than she had in the
 previous two months. The First Lady is ~~g~~ making plans
 to grow a great many vegetables in her gardens at

And,

Hyde Park. She will shortly make public some new recipes
 — [^]special salads
 for salads ~~that have been~~ invented by the kitchen staff
 of the White House to cut down the use of sugar.

Now Hugh ~~will you~~ dish ~~bow~~
 about ~~me out~~ a little verbal salad from
 You?

59

59 1/2