


L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, JAN. 27, 1942

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY1

Tonight's thrill from the Philippines is provided by two small boats -- motor torpedo boats. They belong to a squad under General MacArthur's command in the Batan peninsula -- "a suicide squad," as they are called. And tonight, they are once again in the news --



with still another thrill. Two of the motor speedsters got into a battle with a flight of Japanese dive bombers. ^HThe boats were cruising around on the ocean, when they sighted the hostile planes, and the logical thing would have been for them to scurry to cover. But not at all. "Instead," relates today's communique, "they increased their speed, ^{and} placed themselves directly in the line of flight" of the wave of dive bombers and engaged the planes. The fire from the boats," MacArthur's dispatch goes on, "dispersed the hostile aircraft. Two enemy planes were hit, and when ~~the~~ last observed they were smoking and losing altitude rapidly." So says the dispatch from the Philippines, and it's indicated that the two enemy dive bombers were almost certainly shot down.

There's no end of thrills from that embattled Batan peninsula. Here's another. It tells

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of a battle high in the air, when two Curtis P-Forty fighters took-on three Japanese dive bombers. It was a whirling free-for-all, high aloft, and in the end the P-Forties shot down two of the enemy planes and disabled the third one. Neither of our planes was damaged. And this thrill has an added meaning - it signifies that MacArthur still has at least some air power at his command.

Descending to the ground, there's not much to report. After several days of violent enemy attacks, things have quieted down in the Batan peninsula - almost no fighting in the past twenty-four hours. The belief is that the Japs are reorganizing their troops for further assaults.

MALAYA

The Japanese are pushing slowly ahead in Malaya, where the East coast now flares into activity. Enemy transports succeeded in landing new forces of troops for the assault -- though ~~xx~~ they were heavily battered by R.A.F. planes -- a cruiser and transport hit.

The Empire forces are now battling at a point ~~eight miles south of the strategic town of~~ ~~Mersing.~~ Less than fifty miles from Singapore. And that is about their distance from the great naval base all along the line.

From Burma there's word of the most violent kind of air activity -- our air activity. The Japanese forces on the ground were blazed by fleets of planes, -- British bombers escorted by American fighters where they've given the American combat planes that exciting name of -- Fighting Tigers.

The blows from the sky hit hard at huge enemy reinforcements, and on the ground they have been slowed ~~xx~~ to a walk in front of the important

city of Moulmein. The authorities there, however, have placed Moulmein under military control, anticipating an impending crisis of battle.

INDIES

Now The Dutch in Batavia give us a summary of the results of the big sea and air battle in the Strait of Macassar. Batavia refers to it as - "a three-day conflict." Other reports spoke of the engagement ~~xxx~~ as lasting for five days and still going on. But today's official Dutch report says - "three days."

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It states that twenty-eight enemy ships have been either sunk or damaged. These include eleven warships and seventeen transports. And the warships include an aircraft carrier, four cruisers and apparently a battleship. ^{IF} A picture of the ~~battle~~ ^{clash} is now represented as something like this:- A big Japanese convoy ~~streamed~~ down through the Straits of Macassar, and landed troops to seize ~~xxx~~ a rich Dutch oil port in East Borneo. The convoy was attacked in a brilliant sortie by Dutch and American warships, including cruisers and destroyers of ~~xxx~~ Admiral Hart's

Asiatic fleet. And the surface attack was smashingly supported by Dutch and American warplanes. It would appear that the Jap convoy of transports and warships did not have the ~~usual~~ amount of strong air support ~~the amount~~ that they usually have. So they were caught and badly battered.

Tokyo today admits that four of its transports were sunk in the Straits of Macassar on one day alone, January Twenty-Fourth, on Saturday.

~~Batavia thinks that the heavy blow against the invading ship^s may disrupt the Japanese time table.~~
And Batavia ~~says~~ ^{says} ~~adds~~, "This is only the beginning of Allied action necessary to drive back the enemy."

And Australia chimes in, ~~witxxxxx~~ that the victory in the Straits of Macassar justifies the Australian contention that adequate equipment should be

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sent to the Pacific. "Given ships and airplanes to meet the enemy on anything like equal terms, victory will be certain," said an Australian spokesman today.

(~~And he added, "The battle of Macassar Strait was complete vindication of the capacity of the Allied forces to stand firmly against Japan."~~)

Australia ~~meanwhile,~~ is mobilizing all of its industrial and labor resources. Prime Minister Curtin announced that every man and woman engaged in non-essential work will be transferred to ~~xi~~ war production. Australian militiamen who were given leave to harvest the crops were called back to the colors today - as the great southern dominion musters all its forces for the battle that ^{has} ~~is~~ extended to its own waters.

And in the Australian Parliament today, the demand was made for the recall of all Australian air ~~force~~

force units and air equipment, from Europe and from

Africa. An M.P. in the Land Down Under ^{stated} ~~declared~~ that

Australian air power must be brought back for the

defense of the southern dominion. "The battle of the

Pacific," said he, "is vastly more important to us

than the battle of the Atlantic."

5) And China chimes in with
a call for all possible
help in the Battle for Malaya
and the Indies.

ROOSEVELT
A. E. F.

President Roosevelt was queried today about the meaning of the new A.E.F. in Northern Ireland. This was after British Prime Minister Churchill~~ix~~ in London had stated that the American forces over there ~~will be~~ ^{U. S.} ~~had been~~ increased -- and that ~~United States~~ war planes would join the R.A.F. in bombing Germany.

^{TP} In response to news conference questions the President replied with broad and sweeping generalities that the placing of American troops in North Ireland was part of the business of winning the war. Then the President said he questioned the use of the term A.E.F. Because, said he, there ^{now} are six or eight or ten similar forces outside of the United States -- scattered around the world. ~~He said we could take~~ ^{TP} ~~our choice and name them what we pleased.~~ He was asked whether any of these forces, A.E.F. or not A.E.F. had been sent to the island battle south of Asia. The President replied that this came under the heading of confidential military information -- whether we actually have sent units of troops to the Dutch East

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Indies or Malaya. He did confirm the fact, however,
that we have sent military aid of one sort or *another?*
All possible aid!
~~another~~ And the President suggested a new name for
the battlefield of the Southwestern Pacific. He
proposed that we use the *initials names!* - ~~names of the~~ Americans,
British, Dutch and Australians -- making a new word --
ABDA -- ~~for~~ fighting for ABDA.

Roosevelt today
Reverting to Ireland, the President expressed
amazement at the attitude taken today by Prime
Minister de Valera of the Dublin Government.

IRELAND

For the arrival of American troops in north Ireland was protested today -- by Irish Prime Minister deValera. Dublin issued a formal complaint because of the landing of an A.E.F. in Ulster.

Nationalist Ireland has always claimed that the six counties of Protestant Ulster should be incorporated along with the other counties into one nation. They've always resented the separation of the six counties -- these retaining their full allegiance to the British Empire. The deValera Government claims to represent all of Ireland, including the six counties -- as a matter of abstract right. United States troops went into Ulster without the consent of the Dublin government, and this would seem to affirm the fact that the six counties are really separate from the rest of Ireland -- that's the way deValera reasons.

In other words, the Dublin Prime Minister is using the new A.E.F. in north Ireland as an occasion of reasserting the Irish complaint against the

separation of the six counties -- partition. And one might surmise that he would like to use the issues of war as a way of uniting Ulster to the rest of Ireland. One of those issues of war is, for example, the British-American use of west Irish ports as bases in the war of the Atlantic, fighting the Nazi U-boat campaign. Which would entail the entrance of Ireland in the conflict as an ally of Great Britain and the United States.

Meanwhile, the new A.E.F. is making itself comfortable in North Ireland, and today had news of its new Commander. He is Major General James E. Chaney, a veteran air officer. The appointment of General Chaney was announced by the War Department today.

BARHAM

The London announcement of the sinking of British Battleship BARHAM is a pointed illustration of a thing about which we've been hearing a good deal - the policy of holding something a secret for the purpose of keeping the enemy guessing. H.M.S. BARHAM, giant battleship of the British Mediterranean fleet, was torpedoed and sunk by a U-boat on November Twenty-Fifth, more than two months ago. Yet the London Admiralty admits the sinking only today - and the following explanation is given: "Loss of the ship," says London, "was not announced earlier - since it was clear at the time that the enemy did not know that she had been sunk."

As evidence of this, we have the fact that dispatches from Berlin and Rome on several occasions claimed that the BARHAM had been destroyed - or damaged. Apparently they weren't sure which. Then finally, on

January Thirteenth, the official Nazi news agency stated that the British battleship had been torpedoed and sent to the bottom off the coast of Egypt in November. Still later -- today, in fact -- Berlin gave the official detail that the BARHAM had been hit by three torpedoes, and the German bulletin announced the decoration of the commander of the U-boat that scored the hits.

With this latest, the British Navy has now lost five capital ships since the beginning of the war - battleships and cruisers being regarded as capital.

RUSSIA

In the battle of Russia -- German reserves have been thrown into the fighting. The latest Red Army communique tells of Nazi counter attacks. These, says Moscow, have been repelled -- with the Red Armies scoring further advances in various places.

APPROPRIATION

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We're getting used to Washington record breakers in the way of appropriations ^{of} ~~in~~ money. Every new bill is bigger than any ever before. And once again that's the case. -- ~~To~~ the tune of twenty billion dollars. ~~The~~ The House of Representatives passed and sent to the Senate the largest appropriation bill in history. -- ~~M~~ money for the Navy, funds to finance our stupendous program of sea power. Twenty billion dollars worth of sea power voted today.

PRESIDENT

Everybody knows, of course, that on Friday, all over the nation people will dance for charity -- the President's Birthday Ball in behalf of his favorite benevolence, the drive against infantile paralysis. The President himself on his birthday, is going to get in a full day's work.

As he approaches sixty, the labors of his presidency are greater than ever -- doubled and redoubled in wartime.

Most people are of the impression that he is showing his years. This because they see him in the newsreels -- and the motion picture camera can play its tricks. Newsreel film tends to show more grey hair than the President really has. And it exaggerates the dark circles under the eyes and the wrinkles in his face. The heavily shaded patches under the eyes are a family characteristic -- the President's branch of the Roosevelts are inclined to those dark circles.

And as for the wrinkles -- they're exaggerated by the lighting used for newsreel pictures. When the President speaks for sound cameras, the lights shine down, and that accentuates the shadows. So he seems to have more lines and wrinkles than are evident to plain eyesight in normal light.

All of which gives a false impression -- and a newsreel cameraman in Washington was conscious of this. What to do about it? The answer was obvious. He asked a member of the presidential staff to suggest -- some make-up while being filmed, a la Hollywood. The staff member at the White House responded in alarm: - "Tell him yourself." But the cameraman never mustered the courage -- never ventured to suggest to the President that he wear make-up like a Hollywood actor. So, on the screen the wrinkles and dark circles are there.

SLOGAN

The War Department today put its okay on a slogan, and is considering it for adoption in war production plants working on army orders. The slogan was submitted by Ambrose Harle, a munitions handler at Savanna, Illinois. He designed it to spur the workers in armament factories.

It goes like this - "The man who relaxes is helping the Axis.

MONSTER

Not even the greatest of wars can put a
quietus on that ancient institution - the sea serpent.
^{for years}
Scotland has one of the most famous - the sea serpent
of Loch Ness. ^{We've had many} ~~Time after time, for many years, we've~~
~~had~~ stories of that cintter, so wonderful and weird.

58 1/2 And today we have some more. ~~about it.~~

From Deepdale Holm in the Orkney Islands,
off northern Scotland, comes the following remarkable
story: ^{That} An oceanic monster has been washed up on a
beach, and there it lies in all its tall-story-glory.
The monster is described as being twenty-five feet
long, and a ton or two in weight. ~~It has a~~ Head like
a cow, a hairy body like a bear, and fins like a
fish. The monster has been lying there for some time,
and they say it has a smell something like that ^{of the}
familiar American animal, famous for its ^{woodsy} fragrance.

The people of Deepdale Holm in the Orkney Islands, believe that the astonishing freak of nature is the sea serpent of Loch Ness, and say they're going to ship it to the zoologists in London - as scientific proof that the Scottish tales of the sea serpent were not exaggerated. For no Scotchman ever lies! Much.

And s-l-u-t-m!

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