

WAKE ISLAND

P.T. - Sunoco Friday, Dec. 12, 1941.

Wake Island is still holding out. ^{This} ~~That~~ was stated today by President Roosevelt. The little force of marines is continuing its magnificent job of withstanding Japanese attacks out there in the lonliest part of the Pacific. The enemy is still assaulting the garrison ^{which} ~~and~~ right now is making a last stand as brave as any you'll find in the history of war ^{another Alamo or Thermoplae, this one in the Far Pacific.}

The Navy announces that a thousand American workers were captured and taken prisoner at Midway Island and Guam. The Navy tells this to the American Federation of Labor, because the workers taken out on Pacific construction jobs were members of the Building Trades Union of the A.F. of L. There were seven hundred at Wake Island, and four hundred at Guam, where they were engaged in building military structures. They were there when the Japanese attacked, and they've been made prisoners.

This would seem to indicate that both Midway Island and Guam ~~were~~ were in Japanese hands. However, here's a late Navy bulletin which states that Midway is still held by American forces, ~~and~~ as for Guam, the Navy bulletin says, "There is no confirmation of the alleged occupation of Guam by the Japanese."

HEROES

By now, everybody knows about our first hero in the war of the Pacific. All day long, newspaper stories and radio broadcasts have been hailing the name of Colin Kelly, who sank the Japanese battleship HARUNA. ~~All day long~~ the story of his exploit has been coming through with more and more detail; and now we can sketch the full picture of the deed of heroism in which Colin Kelly served his country and gave his life.

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The great Japanese battleship was under American air attack - ~~forxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ everyone of its anti-aircraft guns blazing ~~incessantly~~ at United States bombers in the sky. At the controls of a single-seater dive bomber was Captain Colin Kelly, Jr., of the Army Air Corps. His duty it was to make a dive-bombing attack on the powerful ship of war far below, and one can surmise the spirit of battle that flamed in ~~Colin~~ Kelly. He was Irish - and it is characteristic, perhaps,

that/our first hero in this war should bear the typical fighting Irish name of Kelly. He was a native of Florida, had gone through college and then to West Point. He had always wanted to fly - and to fight. Today his father said mournfully yet proudly, "He always wanted to be a soldier, ever since he was about twelve years old. He always talked about aviation." And Kelly ^{Senior} ~~Junior~~ added, "Sometimes I thought he was too crazy about flying."

~~Was~~ So there you have a picture of young America - so air minded, eager for exploits in the sky. And ^{Yesterday} ~~now~~ Colin Kelly was at the controls of his dive bomber, high in the sky over the Philippines. And down there on the ocean was the Japanese battleship HARUNA.

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The ~~was~~ vision now is one of flashing swiftness;
and the dizzy plunge of the dive bomber. Colin Kelly dove straight at the mark. He was going to hit it -

take no chance of missing. With that flaming determination he closed the distance, down and down - the shorter the distance, the surer the hit. He plunged almost into the mouths of the blazing Japanese guns, it seemed - before he released his stick of bombs.

^{Then} and Colin Kelly, plane and all, vanished in the tremendous explosion that made an end to the Japanese battleship. Perhaps the anti-aircraft fire got him at the last moment, or perhaps the explosion of his own bomb hits disabled his plane. All we know is, that he vanished in the shattering blast that set the Japanese giant afire, and finally sank it.

^{Then} The outstanding feature in today's news was the ^{a number of} them^e of flying heroism in the Philippines. ^{Five} [^]aviators are cited by the American command for deeds of magnificent daring. Two are Filipinos, members of ^a ~~the~~ [^]Philippine air squadron. They shot down two of the

eleven Japanese planes destroyed today.

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Another Hero is Lieutenant Boyd Wagner of Philadelphia. Single-handed he engaged ^(a number of) ~~a dozen~~ ~~a~~ ~~passing~~ enemy aircraft in a fierce dogfight, in the course of which he streaked across a Japanese flying field and wrecked a dozen planes on the ground.

also There's a picturesque tale to tell about Lieutenant C.A. Keller of the Navy Air Force. He's the hero of the bombing and disabling of the Japanese battleship KONGO - the second enemy sea giant to be hit by American bombs. ~~in two days~~ [^] [^] Kelly of the HARUNA ~~yesterday~~ - and Keller of the KONGO, ~~today~~.

A couple of years ago, the Greek Government decorated Lieutenant ~~C.A.~~ Keller of the United States Navy - because of an exploit he performed in the rescue of some Greek sailors. Their ship was wrecked off the

Virginia Capes, and the sailors were struggling in the water. They were in the worst plight that ^{a nautical} ~~a sailor's~~

imagination can conceive. Around them sharks were

swarming. In the air ^π ~~air~~ above, a United States Navy

plane appeared, and the pilot spotted the men in the

water - also the sharks. It looked as though the Greek

sailors were about to be eaten. The Navy pilot, ^{this}

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~~G. A.~~ ^{same lad,}

~~G. A.~~ Keller, kept the sharks away from the men by

zooming low, skimming the water and driving them off.

In that way he ^{maintained} ~~kept~~ a sort of shark patrol around the

sailors until rescue came.

Yesterday - it was rather different. Keller

spotted not sharks, but a Japanese battleship. He was

in a scout plane, and his part of the exploit of war

was to keep the vessel shadowed, until Navy bombers

came. He held his position of observation in the sky

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in spite of the heavy anti-aircraft fire, shells bursting all around him. Then the bombing squadron arrived, and scored hits that heavily damaged the Mikado's battleship - KONGO.

One Curiosity of the air war in the Philippines comes in a Manila dispatch which tells how a Japanese war plane was shot down - with the Jap aviators coming through alive. "The plane fell in the mountains," says the dispatch. "Some time later a group of mountain natives brought in three Japanese aviators trussed up like captured animals." There are some pretty wild natives in some of those Philippine mountains, just the kind to ^(tie up) ~~XXXXXX~~ a Japanese prisoner the way they would a captured wild boar.

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PHILIPPINES

From the embattled Philippines comes -
a weather report. And this is a thing of much military
significance. Manila ~~reports~~^{tells of} rain and storm - and you
know how the skies can open in the tropics, with a
drenching ~~downpour~~^{flood} which makes it seem as if the ocean
were coming down. Rain and storm came to the Philippines
this afternoon - and checked military operations.
Manila reports that the wet and windy tempest is
handicapping the Japanese attack. Previously, the
Army had reported that the enemy invaders were making
an assault^s which the Army described as [—]"concentric."
That is, they were punching at the Island of Luzon,
from various sides, north, east and west.

In the extreme north of Luzon, the Japs are
maintaining their foothold on the coast. That's at
Aparri, which is an area ringed by mountains. ~~An~~
A drive south there
~~attack~~ would have trouble getting through the local

ranges and an advance doesn't seem to be likely ~~there~~.

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14 The supposition is that the Japanese want to hold Aparri to establish an aviation base to support landing operations elsewhere.

There are attacks at Legaspi, on the east coast of the Island, and at one point on the western shore of Luzon. It isn't clear what progress these thrusts have made - if any. The news from Luzon indicates that the American and Philippine forces are resisting strongly in a difficult situation. They are none too numerous, and Luzon is a hard place to defend. However, they ^{are} ~~are~~ _^ *holding their own,* ~~resisting strongly~~ and this afternoon the elements came to the aid of the defense - the drenching downpour of a tropical rainstorm.

Today, Philippine President Manuel Quezon sent a message to President Roosevelt, proclaiming the loyalty of the Philippine people. President Quezon

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said he had just returned from an automobile trip through Luzon, now under attack, and he summarized his findings in these words: "Everywhere the people are loyal to America and are determined to stand by her!"

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The enemy is continuing to attack Hong Kong, and the British defenders report some Japanese

advances. These have occurred on the mainland section of the Crown colony, with the Japanese getting through some of the outer defenses. ~~However, they still appear to be outside of the principal lines of resistance.~~

In Malaya, the British seem to be holding the Japanese in check - with staunch resistance. At places where the Japanese have made landings, they are reported as achieving little progress. Singapore says it's ^{largely} ~~likely~~ a case of patrol activity in the land of jungles, with the enemy trying to make new thrusts

by land across the border of Siam. The tone of Singapore is one of optimism.

PEARL HARBOR

When are we to get more information about Pearl Harbor? President Roosevelt stated today that we would have to wait until the return of Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. He's in Honolulu now, inspecting the damage wrought by the Japanese sneak punch on Sunday. The President said that nothing should be published about Pearl Harbor losses until Secretary of the Navy Knox has returned and reported.

He was asked - What about quoting statements *that* *are made* in Congress? The President replied that Congressional statements could not be ignored. (But he added that they ~~are~~ *are* not always in accordance with the facts. He denied things ~~that~~ were said yesterday by one particular Senator, and declared that this Senator had made statements about Pearl Harbor without knowing anything concerning the situation there. This referred to Senator Tobey, *of New Hampshire,* who yesterday declared that the

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Japanese attack had been a disaster for us, and he
charged that the defenses of Pearl Harbor were
unprepared.

RUSSIA

The Soviets report a huge victory - the Red Army driving the Nazis back for long distances on the Moscow front. The story as pictured by the latest Soviet bulletin, is one of rout and defeat. On the other hand, of course, it may be that the Red Army ~~unexpectedly~~ advance ^{can} ~~may~~ be partly explained by a German withdrawal ^a to winter lines - which ~~xxxx~~ Berlin reported early this week.

London announces important negotiations between the British Government and the Soviets. Conferences will be held for the purpose of coordinating British and Russian efforts to defeat Hitler. The rumor is that they ~~will~~ ^{will} discuss the possibility of turning over one section of the Soviet front to British troops. And another question will be - the attitude of the Soviets toward Japan.

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The first Soviet reaction to the American-Japanese War is the Moscow newspaper prediction that Japan will be defeated.

LIBYA

The British are scoring successes in Libya; *Where*
They are battling with the main Axis forces west of
Tobruk, *W*hich means they've driven past that much
besieged fortress. It would appear that they have
succeeded once again in encircling heavy ^{*columns*} ~~forces~~ of
German panzers, and this time the Empire forces are
confident that the enemy will not succeed in breaking
out. (London looks for prompt and thorough success
in the battle of the desert, which had been fought
so long and so bitterly.

BRITISH SUPPLIES

President Roosevelt today disclosed that the British have offered the United States the output of three shell plants in Canada - if the United States should need the production of these plants immediately. The offer was made by British Prime Minister Churchill, who also offered other war materials that might be needed to relieve urgent shortages in this country - shortages that have developed with the sudden coming of war.

APPROPRIATIONS

An appropriation for ten billion dollars was placed before the Senate today - ten billions for *War.* ~~more national defense.~~ The Appropriations Committee drafted the bill and sent it to the floor of the Senate for consideration. It's the first ~~an~~ appropriation designed to provide supplies for our military forces in actual combat. At the request of the Army, one item of a billion and a half for lend-lease aid, was struck out. That is - the billion and a half was removed from the lend-lease category and placed under the control of the War Department.

Late this afternoon a bill was introduced in the Senate to increase the size of the Navy by thirty *— that much increase over the 2-ocean* per cent, Chairman Walsh of the Naval Affairs Committee presented the measure, and said that under ~~the plan~~ ^{it} the

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Navy would acquire seven or eight battleships in

Navy plan

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addition to all sorts of cruisers, destroyers and submarines.

With ^{all of this of course} ~~this giant war appropriation~~ goes the closely related ideas of taxes. Chairman Doughton of the House Ways and Means Committee said today that there'll be a new tax ^{bill} to raise - "several billion dollars." ~~XXXX~~ The Committee will begin hearings on January Fifteenth, hearings that will prepare the way for more and heavier taxes.

BONDS

The sale of defense bonds is skyrocketing. The outbreak of war has more than doubled the sales of securities for national defense. The first three days of this war week brought a sale of five and a half million dollars' worth. During the corresponding three days last week, less than two and a half million dollars' worth of defense bonds were sold, ^{so it means} an increase of a hundred and twenty-six per cent.

DRAFT

It's likely that Selective Service will be

expanded to include all men from eighteen to sixty-four -
that is they will
~~they'll~~ have to register. ^{But} Only those between nineteen
^ ^

8 and forty-five will be liable for military service.

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Lads of eighteen and oldsters from forty-five to
sixty-five will be used for other defense purposes.

This proposal was today sent by the War Department to

Congress, with a ^{request} request for legislation. Selective
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Service officials say that there's no intention of

registering women.

EXPLOSION

There was a terrific explosion at Burlington, Iowa today, when one building of a shell loading plant blew up. At least eight lives were lost and perhaps ten. Fifty men were employed in ^a~~the~~ three story structure, where they were working with T.M.T.-- fixing it to be loaded into shells. What caused the explosion is not known, -- ^{But} _^ it's being investigated, with suspicions of sabotage.

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FRENCH SHIPS

members of the
Today, United States Coast Guard marched

aboard the second largest ship in the world - the
French liner NORMANDIE. Other French vessels were
taken over elsewhere. But the prize of them all was
the eighty thousand ton, ~~and~~ sixty-five million dollar
NORMANDIE. The explanation of the seizure is that

it's a precautionary measure, ~~But~~ the supposition is

that the Navy will transform the NORMANDIE into an

— or troop ship.
aircraft carrier, They say that France built the vessel

with the idea that she might be turned into a ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~

mother ship for planes. And ~~they say~~ *that* the transformation

could ~~can~~ be readily accomplished. As an aircraft carrier, the

NORMANDIE would be the largest ~~and biggest~~ ship of that

class in the world.

*And now, just a suggestion
From Hugh.*

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