

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

~~Your~~ Uncle Samuel's ~~army~~ struck back at the Japanese today, with the most spectacular of all air raids to be recorded so far. At the command of General MacArthur, thirteen American bombers flew all the way from Port Darwin and struck at four enemy positions in the Philippines. Among them were three flying fortresses. And the flight was personally led by Brigadier-General Ralph Royce. The official communique reports that enemy shipping, enemy airfields, enemy docks and aircraft were destroyed and damaged. And all but one of our planes returned safely. Only one bomber, the enemy shot down, and ~~even~~ the crew of ~~that~~ that one was rescued.

Officials describe it as perhaps the most daring attack of the war, certainly the most long distance attack. The longest ever made by the British Royal Air Force were those against northern Italy, a round trip of some fifteen hundred miles. The length of this air raid is not given. But it may have been anywhere from two thousand to three thousand miles. The official report adds that the raid spread not only destruction but dismay.

General Royce's air squadron hit at three of the Philippine Islands. It bombed Nichols Field near Manila, also Bantangos on southern Luzon, an important port for the Japanese. It then dropped bombs on Cebu, the capital of Cebu Island where the Japanese landed twelve thousand soldiers only last Friday, and another most important Japanese base, Davao, on the island of Mindanao.

Who is this General Royce, ~~who~~ <sup>who is</sup> a newcomer ~~in the~~ <sup>to recent</sup> headlines? His official title is Chief of Staff to Lieutenant-General Brett, who is Deputy Supreme Commander of the Air Forces of the Far East. Before he ~~had that~~ <sup>got this</sup> post, ~~he~~ <sup>Gen. Rose</sup> was considered <sup>here</sup> at home, one of the outstanding bomber pilots in Uncle Sam's Air Corps. He was twice in command of Selfridge Field in Michigan. As long ago as Nineteen Seventeen, when only three years out of West Point, ~~he~~ <sup>Royce</sup> commanded the first <sup>United States</sup> aerial squadron sent to France in the last war and won the French Croix de Guerre for bravery. He has been commanding officer of the Seventh Bombardment Group, also Air Officer of the Department of the Philippines at Manila. He is fifty-two years old, or young, as you prefer.

This raid created an even greater sensation in London than ~~it has done at home~~ <sup>over here,</sup> The news became

the topic of conversation everywhere where men had gathered together. In every hotel, bar and pub throughout London, glasses were lifted to <sup>Ralph</sup> Royce and <sup>Yankel</sup> his pilots. A key official in the British Air Ministry used these words about the raid:- "A ~~darned~~ good show that makes us mighty proud of the Americans", and he added, "The American Eagle is beginning to strike."

The results, declared the Britishers, were extraordinary, especially considering the long distance the bombers had to fly from their base in Australia <sup>or north of Australia.</sup>

General Brett, in reporting the news, declared <sup>Gen,</sup> that Royce had volunteered for the command of this important mission. Incidentally, it's interesting to learn that the British call these shows "raids"; <sup>and</sup> the Americans call them "missions." It will be interesting to learn the details when they are made public.

In a later dispatch, we learn that some of

those bombers actually landed in the Philippines and brought back to Australia a number of people evacuated from the islands.

A latter report from General MacArthur tells us that Royce ~~men~~ <sup>and his</sup> men sank or damaged at least eight enemy ships. Besides that, our flyers destroyed hangars, damaged runways, wrecked and damaged aircraft, dispersed troops concentrations, <sup>and</sup> set fire to docks and warehouses.

MacARTHUR

9  
The British in London <sup>say that they are</sup> ~~declare they are~~  
completely mystified by <sup>all</sup> the hubbub ~~that has been~~ raised  
<sup>concerning</sup> ~~over~~ the authority of General MacArthur, the question,  
how complete <sup>that</sup> ~~his~~ authority <sup>is,</sup> ~~was~~ <sup>is,</sup> ~~was~~ A spokesman in London put  
it this way:- "There is no shadow of doubt in our minds  
that General MacArthur is the supreme commander not only  
of the American forces but of all the Allied forces  
in the southwest Pacific." And he added that the  
understanding on the banks of the Thames is that  
MacArthur took over that supreme command immediately  
after Sir Archibald Wavell was shifted back to India.  
We do not know; say the British, whether MacArthur has  
been officially appointed, but so far as the British  
Government is concerned, he is the supreme commander  
in fact.

Premier ~~John~~ Curtin of Australia also announced  
that so far as his Government <sup>Douglas</sup> ~~was~~ concerned, <sup>is,</sup> ~~was~~ MacArthur

*is the*  
~~was~~ boss. And he used these words:- "Cables between  
the Australian Government and the Australian envoy  
in Washington have made it quite clear that Australia  
fully approved MacArthur's *Prime Minister* appointment." ~~and~~ Curtin  
added that he was quite surprised at the statement made  
yesterday by a spokesman for the American Army, *a statement* ~~about~~  
*raising certain*  
~~the~~ doubt concerning MacArthur's position. "I", said  
*Australia's Prime Minister,*  
~~Curtin,~~ "have treated him as the supreme commander."

MIDDLE EAST

The news from the Middle East tonight <sup>tells of</sup> ~~is of~~  
— the dread hub-bub.  
<sup>vast</sup> sandstorms in the Libyan desert. Of course they work

both ways. They prevent any advance on either side.

But, they enable both sides to do a lot of preparing.

The reports from Cairo are that the British believe Nazi Marshal Rommel may be concentrating his forces and building up a new line preparatory to an attack.

There's the greatest ~~x~~ tension all over the Middle East, everybody wondering which way the Nazi cat is going to jump. <sup>I have just been</sup> ~~I had an interesting time~~ discussing that situation in a piece I wrote for LIBERTY Magazine, which <sup>came out</sup> ~~went on the stands~~ today. That same Middle East has been a theatre of crucial wars for at least six thousand years. And it's a subject of never-ending fascination.



FRANCE

To the appointment of Pierre Laval as <sup>virtual ruler</sup> ~~Premier~~  
of France, our Government's first <sup>answer</sup> ~~order~~ is to postpone  
the sailing of two ships with food for the French  
people, together with another, a Red Cross vessel, with  
milk and clothing for French children. Two of the  
ships were to go to North Africa. An agreement was  
made only last week for sending them, and they were  
all ready in New York harbor, fully loaded with  
supplies. The Red Cross <sup>ship</sup> ~~vessel~~ with milk and layettes  
for babies was to go direct to a port in unoccupied  
France.

Assistant Secretary of State Sumner Welles  
declared today that they <sup>ships will</sup> ~~would~~ not be permitted to  
leave the country until the situation has cleared up.  
In his press conference this morning, <sup>Sumner</sup> Welles told  
newspapermen that he had received some preliminary ~~reports~~  
reports from Admiral Leahy, but they were not complete

enough to allow the State Department to make a definite announcement regarding the attitude of our Government.

Naturally, the most feverish kind of rumors were circulating today as a result of the spectacular and disastrous jumping of Laval to supreme power. All the reliable reports that we can get indicate that the people of France are almost at starvation's point.

Henry Raylor, author of TIME RUNS OUT was remarking to me today that although no Nazi officials are supposed to be in unoccupied France, there is a German commission at Marseilles which seizes eighty percent of all the food imported into France from North Africa. And one-half of the rest of it is grabbed by Hitler's officials in occupied France. So in order that Frenchmen may have one ton of dates or one ton of wheat from their African possessions they have to import nine tons to be seized by their conquerors.

Correspondent Henry Taylor says the Germans will now ease up on this, just to curry favor with the French, and get the French Fleet.

They, the Germans, even forced the French railroad men to scrape half of the axle grease out of the grease boxes on French rolling stock, and turn it over to the Germans.

There has been a good deal of doubt around various desks in New York about Laval's title. Some of us have been calling him Vice-Premier and others Premier. A late dispatch from Vichy seems to settle the question. At present the swarthy little man from the Auvergne is neither. He is Premier Designate, and will by the end of the week, be Premier. Tomorrow he will return to Vichy from Paris and tell Petain and Admiral Darlan whom he has chosen for his Cabinet, presumably after conferring with Hitler's man Abetz and receiving *the Hitler-Abetz* ~~his~~ Okay on the appointments.

## RUSSIA

Tonight's reports from Russia claim that the Soviet Armies have smashed through two German defense lines and are fighting for the approaches of a large and strategic city. The Stalin Government rigidly forbade Russian correspondents to mention the name of the city, but outsiders believe it is either Bryansk, two hundred and twenty-five miles southwest of Moscow, or Kharkov, the Pittsburgh of the Ukraine. It was only yesterday that the Red Army announced ~~that~~ it had smashed a line twenty-five miles wide in the defenses around Kharkov.

4  
The Germans are complaining that the torrential rains of the Russian Spring have made the front into a chain of ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ impassible bogs. The Germans admit that many tractors are being lost in the mud and even horse-drawn vehicles are of little use.

Tractors, they add, can be used only for the most important supplies.

There are reports from Stockholm that, in spite of the thaw and the rains, the Russians have been making use of *Russian cavalry* Cossacks to harass the Germans along the whole front.

## SUBMARINE

A hundred and fifty more submarines for Uncle Sam's Navy! That's the decision of the Naval Affairs Committee of the House. The Committee was considering the bill to add a hundred and seventy thousand tons to our underwater fleet; but, the Committee increased that tonnage from a hundred and seventy thousand to two hundred thousand, after hearing the evidence of some of the Navy's experts.

UNION

The War Labor Board has ordered the International Harvester Company to sign a contract ~~with the Unions~~, which will virtually compel everybody who works for the Company to join a union. There has to be a referendum election in each factory of the Company to decide whether a majority of those who are already Union members want such a provision enforced. <sup>We are told there</sup> ~~of course there~~

can be no doubt which way such an election will go. The ~~obvious~~ <sup>observers see in this</sup> implication is that the War Labor Board is determined to enforce compulsory union membership in every factory over which it has jurisdiction, ~~which~~ <sup>meaning,</sup> ~~course~~ every factory in the land.

This is the second such action by the War Labor Board. The workers at a shipyard in New Jersey have also been ~~forcibly~~ <sup>in like manner. And</sup> unionized, ~~this~~ order means that union membership has to be enforced by the employing company. No union card, no job.

BYRD

Senator Harry Byrd of Virginia <sup>today put on record</sup> ~~brought to~~

~~light~~ a startling statement about war production.

It was contained in a report of the Navy Department, and it declared that slow-downs at the command of labor leaders and inefficient management had cut down the turn-out of war materials anywhere from twenty-five to ninety per cent in eight highly important factories.

In publishing this report, Senator Byrd used these words:- "If anything is more reprehensible than a complete halt of work on war production, it is a deliberate slow-down." Among the cases he cited was that of an aircraft corporation at Long Island City. According to the Navy Department's report, this, during the week ending April Eleventh, was operating at only forty per cent ~~of~~ capacity, due to the demand of labor leaders for a slow-down, and also <sup>because of</sup> ~~for~~ inefficient management." The report went on to say that in several



sections of that plant all of the workers, including  
the foremen, are enemy aliens.

NORMANDIE

Here's the first official report on the burning of the NORMANDIE. The Naval Affairs Committee of the House says, "The conclusion is inescapable that it was bad judgment to issue orders for the sailing of the ship as early as February Fourteenth," and it adds, "The evidence is also conclusive that competent naval officers recommended against the sailing of the ship and that <sup>their</sup> ~~the~~ recommendations were overruled."

5-7  
4  
that <sup>if</sup> We are told ~~also~~ that there was no evidence of sabotage in the burning of the NORMANDIE, although the opportunities <sup>for</sup> ~~it~~ were abundant. <sup>That</sup> ~~and~~ the only reason why there was none <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~ that the time wasn't ripe. The Committee uses the words:- "carelessness, lack of proper supervision, divided authority, lack of unified command." The consequence was divided responsibility, confusion, lack of coordination. The Committee was

even unable to find out who had issued the order that the NORMANDIE should sail February Fourteenth.

*And that sounds like a fine bottle of fish.*

In conclusion, the Committee recommends that

the control of the merchant marine ~~should~~ be immediately

turned over to the Navy. *Tonight the word has* ~~and it is believed that~~

*gone out that*

^ President Roosevelt already has an executive order

to that effect all drawn up and ready to sign.

GUNNER

8

What are the feelings of the crew of a bomber that is attacking the enemy? Here's one answer from a young turret gunner, a Minneapolis lad. After his first battle with the Japs, he used this expression:-

"My stomach was all knotted up inside." And he added: "that he felt "scared <sup>stiff</sup> ~~as hell.~~"

A reporter asked whether it was tougher on the way to the target or on the way back. One flyer replied:

"When you <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ going there you <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ all keyed up and anxious, <sup>of course,</sup> ~~Coming back you're all bubbly inside."~~

8 1/2

The Minneapolis gunner said that on the way back from the mission his bomber suddenly was attacked by two Japanese navy Zero fighters. While he was pouring bullets at them, a third Zero appeared on his tail. He let one of them come up close before he opened fire, then his tracers ripped into the Japanese, and there was a spurt of flame and a cloud of smoke. "He just

*said the gunner,*  
dropped out of the sky, " " smoke streaming from his  
engine, and when I looked around for the other two  
Zeros they had disappeared." Then he added these  
words:- "When I saw that Japanese plane going down  
in flames I had sort of a funny feeling. I took out  
a photo of my wife and looked at it."

9 *And now, Hugh James*