

SUBSTITUTE LEAD

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Sumaco

On this evening of Navy Day, we have a jubilant account of one phase of the great naval victory off the Philippines -- and a puzzling phase it's been all along. Even a layman could wonder -- why did the Japs try anything so rash as pushing through a narrow strait in the face of the American fleet on the other side?

TP Our story tonight is from Admiral Oldendorf who commanded the American warships that encountered the Japs as they emerged from the Strait of Surigao. The Admiral can only surmise: ^{says he.} "apparently they thought they could catch us asleep," To which the Admiral adds, "If the Japs were sucker enough to come through the Straits, I wasn't going to give them a chance". TP "If the Japs thought they were catching the American Command by surprise, they were much mistaken." Their warships were reported to be coming through and Admiral Oldendorf massed his own forces on the end of Surigao Strait through which they would emerge. Then the American squadron waited and the Japs appeared, coming out of the narrow water ^{and} the battle opened with a blast.

^{began}
TP The action ~~opened~~ with American torpedo attacks, and then Oldendorf gave the order to fire. There was a semi-circle of flame ^{in the night} from the warships lined across the entrance of Surigao Strait. American guns from the giant sixteen inches ^{re} on down were trained on Japanese warships. "All the first salvos landed right on the target." And he adds, "it was amazing!" ^{TP} The enemy was caught in a semi-circle of gun fire. "Two of their ships were on fire," relates Admiral Oldendorf. "We caught one battleship crippled," gave him another salvo and he started burning. Then we got another big ship ---- probably a cruiser." And ^{the} Admiral ~~Oldendorf~~ exclaims, "It was the kind of naval battle you dream about. ~~We~~ We had them under cross fire, and were able to hit them with guns and torpedos at the same time."

The Admiral says ~~that~~ he believes that the enemy forces coming out of Surigao Strait consisted of three battleships, five cruisers, and six or eight destroyers. And to this he adds the following significant words:
~~xxxxxx~~ "I couldn't find any evidence that a single

one got away".

This of course, concerns only one of the three Japanese squadrons that were beaten up in the great naval engagement. The other two were likewise hit hard. And tonight we have a new summary of the losses.

~~The Japs made a candid admission etc.~~

NAVAL BATTLE

~~GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:~~

~~Today, Navy Day, there is more word on the losses in the sea battle of the Philippines where our Navy won so great a victory. As is usually the case in naval engagements, an accurate tally of ships damaged or sunk takes time to reckon.~~ The Japs today made a candid admission that their fleet had taken a heavy blow. Tokyo concedes that one Japanese battleship was sunk. Also, one aircraft carrier, two cruisers and two destroyers. Tokyo adds that one Japanese battleship was damaged, also a carrier - and a hundred and twenty-six planes destroyed. This is the heaviest naval loss that the Japanese have ever admitted, and ~~it's greater~~ actually it's greater.

Our commanders at Pearl Harbor now estimate that upwards of thirty-five Japanese warships were sunk or damaged badly enough to be put out of action.

Today's revised U. S. Navy list is one Japanese

battleship sunk, one battleship almost certainly sunk, two battleships probably sunk, and six damaged. Two aircraft carriers sunk and one probably sunk. Four cruisers sunk and about ten damaged. Several destroyers sunk and about seven damaged - not counting Japanese naval cargo vessels.

The sum of it all is that the bulk of the Japanese Navy has been put out of action - for the time being, at least. This takes account of the ships sunk and the time needed to repair the damaged vessels, which include the greater part of the battlefleet strength of Japan.

Now, as for our own losses, which were disclosed today. Six American warships were sent to the bottom ^{as well as} ~~in addition to~~ several P.T. boats. In addition to the aircraft carrier PRINCETON, the destruction of which was previously announced, we lost

two escort carriers, two destroyers, and one destroyer escort -- which the Navy considers a light price to pay for so great a victory.

Today the aftermath of the great sea victory continued, with American planes still chasing Japanese warships limping back to their bases. American land planes, flying from Chinese fields, joining in the pursuit, and sending a number of Jap cargo vessels to the bottom.

On Leyte Island, American troops today beat off Japanese suicide attacks. The desperate reaction of the enemy is based on the fact that the American advance is pushing them back into wild hill and jungle country, where they ^{will} ~~would~~ be isolated. To avert this, the Japs lunged forward, and the news pictures them in the light of a half moon ^{dashing at} ~~on~~ an American-controlled airport, with yells of "Bonzai!" They were met by machine gun fire that cut them down. The news dispatch tells of the enemy being well armed with cannon and light weapons, but American tanks and flame-throwers are clearing them out.

MacArthur announces that his troops have now gained complete control of the eastern coast of Leyte, a forty mile stretch. This results from the juncture of two invasion forces, which linked up their beachheads. And MacArthur's troops also are completing

their control of the strait between Leyte and Samar,
on which latter island invading Americans are pushing
on - after beating back ^a ~~the~~ minor enemy counter-attack.

ADD PHILIPPINES

Here's the latest:- General MacArthur announces that the Japs have lost more than fourteen thousand killed or wounded in the first week of fighting in Leyte. MacArthur adds that the enemy is showing signs of complete disintegration throughout the Philippines. Americans to date have lost five hundred and eighteen killed, a hundred and thirty-nine missing, fifteen hundred and three wounded.

FOLLOW PHILIPPINES

Today witnessed a great event on Leyte Island. The first American fighter planes landed on ~~the~~ airfield captured from the Japs. Ground crews have been working feverishly to put it ^{them} ~~in~~ useable condition and today ^k ~~spect~~s appeared in the sky. American soldiers gazed with apprehension --- for they had been bombed frequently by the Japs of late, ~~but~~ soon the sharp eyed were able to detect the outline of American fighters. Instead of Japs coming to bomb, it was Americans arriving to put an end to the bombing. All of which marked an important turn in the invasion, ~~of the Philippines~~ -- American land-based planes operating from flying fields in the Philippines.

From the battlefield on Leyte Island, we have another one of those incredible incidents - a soldier hit on the head by an air bomb. And he lives to tell the tale! Here's how he tells it.

"I was standing on a little knoll above the beach, when Japanese planes came over. I looked up," he relates, "and saw the bombs come out of the planes' bellies, and then I got sort of paralyzed, I just couldn't move."

You can't blame him for that; *And* then something happened to paralyze him still further. A five hundred pound air bomb came down directly at him, hit him on the head, struck his helmet - bounced off and ^{*burst*}~~exploded~~ a hundred yards away. The explosion killed three men and injured five. The impact of the projectile tore off the helmet and a bit of the scalp of the only man alive who has had an air bomb bounce off his head.

PHILIPPINE RESISTANCE

On Tuesday evening, I recited a story as flashed by General MacArthur, of how the patriots of the Philippine Islands had formed an immense underground army of resistance. I said the commander of the *island partisans* ~~resistance movement~~ was a fifty-five year old Philippine Colonel and that his second in command was a former P. T. boat officer, whose identity was not disclosed.

Today we have his identity, and also his story--- and it's one of those great adventures. He is Major Iliss David Richardson, of Maywood, California, who as a P. T. officer served with Bulkeley.

Early in the war
The Buckeley Expendables had the task of taking General MacArthur and a group of his top staff officers from Batan, in accordance with presidential orders. The General himself traveled in Bulkeley's boat, while in another boat went Rear Admiral Francis Rockwell and some other officers. The two boats stole their way to the southern Philippines, where the General and his

companions continued their journey by submarine and airplane to Australia.

Whereupon the two boats carried on against the Japs in the southern Philippines. Off the island of Cebu they performed their final great exploit, sinking a Jap cruiser. Bulkeley's boat got away, but ^{the other} ran onto a reef, stuck. It was commanded by Lieutenant Commander Robert Kelly, and Richardson was his executive officer. Richardson went ashore to get help, and there he saw the boat, with Kelly in command, fight its last battle.

Attacked by Japanese planes, the American gunners shot down one and damaged another - but the PT boat was sunk. Kelly and several survivors got ashore, and joined up with Richardson. ^{Later they} ~~They~~ became separated. Kelly and his companions finally got away to Australia, while Richardson tried to make his own escape.

"I bought a sailboat," he relates, "and with several soldiers tried to reach Australia. All I had for navigation was ~~my~~ a plane compass and a Philippine

school map of the southwestern Pacific. After sailing about a hundred miles," he goes on, "we capsized during a storm off the east coast of Mindanao. I was in the water for thirteen hours before reaching shore." Some of the soldiers got ashore with him, and ^{then} they wandered about among the Filipinos.

"We spent a year on the east coast of Mindanao, without money, medicine or clothes," Richardson relates. "Then I went to Leyte, where I joined the guerrillas," says he.

Richardson had hitherto been a naval officer, but now, as a member of the guerrilla land forces, he went army. He rose to Chief-of-Staff of the patriot army - with the rank of Major.

"We drove the Japs out of the southern part of Leyte," he relates, "and I am certain the guerrillas killed or wounded well over a thousand enemy soldiers. "The Japs," he goes on, "were unable to hold permanently any more than their seacoast garrisons. On the Eighth of December of last year," he says, "the Japs sent five

thousand more soldiers ashore on Leyte, as a re-invasion drive to eliminate the guerrillas. But they^u were soon forced to withdraw ^{— back} from the interior.

"I helped to organize a civilian government," he says, "and we even printed guerrilla money."

So there he was when MacArthur's forces landed ^{the other day —} Richardson of the PT boats of the Navy, now a Major of the army of Philippine guerrillas, their chief-of-staff!

now H — your mess — from
St. of Cal.

WESTERN FRONT

The war news of the Western Front centers tonight in a fight to open up the great port of Antwerp. That historic harbor fell to the Allies weeks ago, but it has been bottled up by the Germans. Antwerp is situated up river, some distance from the mouth of the Schelde. The ~~seacoast~~ thereabouts presents an intricate pattern of arms of land and inlets of the sea, with a maze of islands to make things still more complicated. And, as a result of the geographical factors, the Nazis have been able to hold the mouth of the Schelde long after the capture of Antwerp, ~~and~~ *have been* blocking it as a harbor.

~~Now~~ British and Canadian troops are thrusting to get the enemy out of strong positions along the twisting maze ~~that is the~~ ^{of} coast, and the latest is a dramatic night invasion of an island at the mouth of the Schelde. - ~~British troops stealing~~

SUBSTITUTE ARGENTINA

Argentina is trying to do something about ~~that~~
a bad situation which that South American republic
has gotten into --- on the outs with the United States
and all the rest of Pan-America, because of the
sympathetic Argentine attitude toward the Nazis and the
Japs. Tonight Argentina asks for a conference of the
foreign ministers of the American republics. Argentina
takes action ^{through} the Pan-American union in a effort to
get on better terms with other countries of the Americas

ADD ROOSEVELT

In ^{his Philadelphia} speech tonight, President Roosevelt

concentrated on the Dewey charge that the Administration failed to prepare the country for the war that was coming. Also --- he again contradicted the accusation that the Administration intends to keep the servicemen in uniform longer than is necessary.

DEWEY

Governor Dewey of New York has just called a special session of the state legislature to consider the question of extending voting hours ~~for~~^{on} election day. There has been a demand that the voting hours be lengthened, and now the Republican candidate will put before the special session a proposal to extend the voting time for two hours.

RADIO

~~And now, how about a bit of radio entertainment?~~
~~This, from a news program on N.B.C., with all its~~
~~magnificent radio entertainment - might indeed suggest~~
~~the old wheeze about "carrying coals to Newcastle."~~

~~However~~ Radio entertainment is in the news tonight,
a German program, a Nazi presentation of songs and
jokes and a playlet.

Hitler propaganda ^{has got} ~~which makes a point of~~
~~blaring away with radio arguments directed at the~~
~~American Army in the Battle of Germany, has now got~~
^{American} around to the notion that the ^AG.I.'s like laughs and
jokes, hot music, and reminiscences of home. And the
result is a program supposed to be a replica of the
big music and comedy broadcasts that are featured on
the American radio - the kind you can hear on N.B.C.
most any time during the evening.

The Teutonic version, as described in a

dispatch from the front lines today, is excruciating. The jokes vary from the stalest kind of corn to the peculiar vagaries of the German sense of comedy.

P's Here an example: Last night the Nazi radio program regaled G.I. Joe with a supposed to be humorous skit that had the following astonishing name. It was called "The Petrified Spongecake." The plot, as ^{ex}acted, was that some time during the previous World War, a fond-hearted girl sent a spongecake to a soldier at the war front, Somehow or other - and it wasn't explained why - the spongecake arrived at the fighting line during this war. Whereupon a soldier tried to eat a slice, and broke a tooth - the spongecake having turned into stone.

This would-be rib-tickler followed by something intended to make the Americans feel a great longing for home. A band struck up - "The Wabash Blues." ~~xxxxxx~~

And the band played okay, Germany always having good musicians. The whole thing went sour, however, when, to make things really homesick for the Americans, the last line of the song was sung by the German musician^s. The line - "Gee, I got those Wabash Blues." The way it came out was something like this: "Chee, I gott dose Vibish Blooss."

The war correspondent reporting the story, says that's about the way they pronounced it - "Vibish Blooss."

And now, Hugh, which do you prefer - the petrified spongecake or the Vibish Blooss?

CHURCHILL

Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated today that he hopes for another American-British-Russian conference within the next couple of months. He spoke of a meeting of the heads of the governments of the three countries - in deference, no doubt, to the approaching election in the United States. Churchill stated: "I am sure that no *final* results can be achieved until the heads of the three governments have met again together, and I earnestly trust they may do this before the year is at an end."

Churchill ~~stated this~~ in a report to the House of Commons on his recent talks with Stalin in Moscow, and ~~intimated that the meeting was necessary to iron out certain questions that are in abeyance.~~ Of these, he devoted the most attention to the ^{Russian-}Polish ~~dispute~~, which was discussed in Moscow by himself, Stalin, and the Premier of the Polish government-in-exile. "I wish,"

said he to the Commons, "that I could tell the House that we had reached a solution of these problems.

It was certainly not for the want of trying," he added.

Churchill expressed the hope that the Polish government-in-exile would be recognized by the Soviet, which has been supporting the Polish Committee formed in Moscow. He said he wanted to see the Polish government now in exile reestablished on the soil of its own country - Polish territory that the Russians have occupied. Churchill thought the Soviets might agree to this, save for the big stumbling block - that same Soviet demand for pre-war Polish territory, about half of Poland as it existed before Hitler and Stalin divided up the country.

Churchill gave a warning to the Poles to come to terms. He said, ~~these~~ "These are critical days, and it would be a great pity if time were wasted in

indecisions or protracted negotiations." (And ~~Churchill~~
reproached the Poles for not taking the advice of
Great Britain early this year - the advice to accept
the Soviet terms.

In London, Polish circles tonight are
interpreting the Churchill statements today as meaning
that Britain is backing Stalin - in the Soviet demand
for pre-war Polish territory.

10/27

President Roosevelt was in Philadelphia today, where the weather was raw and damp. Things were not as bad as during the Roosevelt tour of New York in a downpour, but chilly, raw winds swept the streets of the William Penn city -- where tens of thousands turned out to greet the President campaigning for a Fourth Term.

There was a tragic incident, when at the Philadelphia Navy Yard a Colonel of the Marines collapsed and died. He was waiting to be presented to the President, Colonel A. E. Randall, sixty-two. Standing with other officers, when he collapsed from a heart attack.

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Here's another case of heart attack today, the famous American, General Walter Weaver -- a casualty of the war. General Weaver, one of the top figures in American aviation, was the man who played the dominant role in the training of the hundreds of thousands, yes millions, in the United States Army Air Forces.

First, at the request of General Arnold, he set up the Air Corps Training Command in the East, took over the great hotels that became the Air Force Schools. It was recorded that he accomplished a virtual miracle, all in four days. Afterward he was in charge of all technical training in the Army Air Forces. General Weaver worked night and day, until his health gave way.