

L.T. SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1942

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I'm broadcasting from Michigan tonight. So far most of my time has been spent in Detroit and Battle Creek and right now I am in the studios of Station W-E-L-L. Well - Well - Now

Stories have been pouring in from Down Under in such volume all day that this could easily be made into an all-Australia broadcast. The arrival of General MacArthur and a formidable A.E.F. in the Antipodes has aroused that whole continent to a high pitch of enthusiasm and excitement. A little too high, in fact, so that military officers have thought it advisable to utter a note of warning. The gist of which is: don't expect too much too soon from General MacArthur and the American army in Australia. Remember the Japanese have still a great preponderance of power

in the Pacific and their lines of communication are short while General MacArthur's are long.

But those words of caution were quickly downed by the news of a victory over the Japanese fleet north of New Guinea, which more than took revenge for our losses in the battle of the Java Sea three weeks ago. In that Java Sea defeat the Allies lost twelve warships including the HOUSTON and the destroyer POPE. But the Navy announced today that American and Australian fliers caught an enemy fleet somewhere in the Northern approaches to Australia and bombed the daylight out of it. No fewer than twenty-three Japanese vessels either sunk or damaged; twelve of them were warships.

Our losses? One plane -- just one. The Americans and Australians flew to the attack from bases on an island, which island we are not told. They swooped down upon a Japanese fleet and land installations in and near Salamaua and Lae in New Guinea. And they are believed to have sunk two enemy heavy cruisers,

heavily damaged and probably sunk a light cruiser, damaged a fourth cruiser also, one destroyer probably sunk, two destroyers possibly sunk. One large destroyer damaged. Five transports or cargo ships either sunk or gutted by fire and run aground. One heavy bomb hit on each of the two transports, on troopship damaged and left burning, three other transports damaged. One aircraft tender heavily damaged, two gunboats damaged, one of them left burning and believed to have sunk. One mine sweeper left in flames and probably sunk. Besides that, three seaplanes were shot down, many small boats demolished. Furthermore, considerable damage done to enemy shore installations aircraft runways and anti-aircraft batteries.

As for the news from Australia proper. The Allied armies in Australia are becoming larger all the time. American fighting men and machines are arriving to join MacArthur's army in constantly growing numbers. The newest and fastest fighters and bombers from the

United States are being put into action to join in the air patrol over the Approaches to Australia. In addition to that battle off New Guinea, there was a bombing attack by Australian and American planes on the base that the Japanese hold on the Island of Timor.

American dollars are now legal tender in any part of the Commonwealth of Australia. American officers also draw cheers for the way they cut through red tape. If they need supplies in a hurry, they don't wait on formalities or hand around idly until orders are signed and counter-signed in triplicate. They have even gone so far as to enter stories that were closed, unscrew the door from its hinges, take what they wanted and leave the cash behind on the counter.

At one place our bomber pilots reported that their landings at a certain airdrome were hazardous because a large tree and a house, were in the way right at the edge. The Australians intimated something might

done about it in a few days. The American commanding officer told his aide to go down and see what the fellow wanted for his house and, said the American officer, "pay him what he wants and tear the house and tree down. Both the tree and the house were down that afternoon.

Here's another instance -- five American army officers needed staff cars. They saw nineteen automobiles on the floor of an agency so they just walked in and said, "Wrap 'em up" within half an hour the nineteen cars were being driven away and the salesman was gazing in astonishment at the money in his hand. It was the quickest and biggest sale he had ever made.

An another town, the Americans needed a telephone for staff headquarters, needed it right away. They were told it would take two days. So a lineman walked into a telephone booth in a store jerked the telephone off the wall and in five minutes he had all the copper wire he wanted, and in thirty minutes the headquarters telephone was in service.

To all of which the comment of the Australians is, "you Americans certainly get things done."

In Washington the military experts were prophesying that General MacArthur will take quick and vigorous action to defend Australia. ~~But~~ But there there are warnings against raising false hopes.

BURMA

In Burma the long expected battle for Mandalay has begun. The Japanese legions marching to the attack have clashed with the vanguard of the defending British and Chinese. Headquarters of the Imperial Burma-India command doesn't give us any denials except that the Japanese are advancing along the valley of the Sittang River toward Toungoo, the defense base where the British have dug in two hundred miles to the south of Mandalay and one hundred and fifty miles north of Rangoon. The Japanese evidently have plenty of tanks and are concentrating heavily along the railroad from Rangoon to Prome. They are also advancing up the Irrawaddi in boats.

The American Flying Tigers pulled off ^a surprise attacks on Japanese airdromes at Moulmein and other places in southern Burma early today, setting fire to nine enemy pursuit planes, four bombers and two transports and damaging two other planes with machine gun fire.

RUSSIA

A dispatch from Moscow this afternoon reports that the Reds are actually in the suburbs of Kharkov, the fourth largest city in Russia and one of the biggest industrial centers in the Soviet Union.

The Reds are attacking all along the line. But the Nazis are counter-attacking and bringing up heavy reinforcements. Both sides are beginning to bring heavier guns and tanks into action.

DETROIT

So far on my trip West I am glad to say I haven't run into any strikes. In fact, to the contrary, Part of today I spent going through converted General Motors plants in Detroit. At breakfast on the train this morning I ran into Colonel E. S. Evans who back in about Nineteen Twenty-Six got a thrill by breaking the record for going around the world. He and Finton Wells made it in twenty-six days.

Well, the Colonel prophesied that I would get a thrill in Detroit today; and I did. Also I nearly got fallen arches. Mr. Charles Wilson, President of General Motors, had told me that their plants include some sixty-five million square feet of floor space, unequalled by any other concern on Earth. And after a few hours this morning I began to think I had covered all sixty-five million feet with my own feet!

Then I found out that I had only visited four General Motors plants, and that there are ninety of them. President Charles Wilson informed me that

eighty-seven of the ninety have now been converted to all-out War work, and that the remaining three also will be, within a week or two.

At the giant Cadillac Plant for instance, how many new Cadillac cars did I see? One! One lone handsome car in all its chromium splendor. Perhaps kept there in the vast Cadillac plant showroom to remind the employees of the days when we lived in a world that hadn't gone completely mad.

But what I started out to say a moment ago, was, that everywhere I went today I saw only men hard at work. No labor trouble. One reason may be that nearly all of them by now have brothers, cousins, pals, or sons in the army, navy or air corps, the Coast Guard or the Marines. And every day men are taken from right beside you in these plants, taken by the selective service, for the army. In one plant manager's office, on the ^{boss'} ~~xxxxxx~~ desk I saw a picture of a boy in khaki. His son. In the Air Corps. And that plant is turning

out parts ~~nx~~ for airplanes. And you can bet they are being turned out fast and that they are the best that can be made.

The speed with which they have changed over at General Motors, from making automobiles to making planes, guns and tanks with which to beat Hitler and the Japs, is startling. The transformation is already complete in many plants with War production ahead of schedule. And what I saw at General Motors also goes for Ford, Dhrysler, Packard and other vast ~~pxx~~ plants that I hope to visit later on.

But as Douglas MacArthur himself said in a speech at Manial several yeras ago: "Where are the great nations of yesterday? Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Carthage, Rome, Byzantium? They all fell, never to rise again, annihilated at the hands of amore warlike and aggressive people; their cultrue memories, their cities ruins."

And in that same speech Douglas MacArthur said:

"Wealth is no protection against aggression. It is no more an augury of military strength in a nation than it is an indication of health in an individual."

In a Detroit Evening newspaper, a moment ago, I read the following headlines:- "Java's Fall Laid to Air Weakness," "Yanks To Fight Battle of Australia." "Londonders Feel MacArthur Will Do The Job." and "MacArthur Ready For Showdown."

Well, for the Yanks to fight the battle of Australia, half way round the world from home is a large assignment. We of course are proud that London has faith in MacArthur. But, we all know that he can't possibly be ready for a showdown with Japan's superbly trained, onrushing veteran hordes. And we know that MacArthur and his men can only win if these workmen in Detroit and throughout the country continue to turn out the stuff at a higher and higher speed; and if Washington will inspire the nation by working just as hard and just as efficiently. And if Washington

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will tell us what is happening to our men who are now fighting all the way round the globe -- just tell us as quickly as the same information is known to the enemy1

DESERT WARFARE

A large body of Uncle Sam's troops is to be trained for fighting in the desert. We have plenty of them, plenty of deserts to afford the proper sort of experience; and the army chiefs have already picked a site somewhere out west for this particular kind of fighting.

Motorized and mechanized equipment, as well as troops will be sent there soon, says Lieutenant General McNear, the Commander of Uncle Sam's ground forces.

The army will probably not hold any large scale maneuvers of the usual sort this year. It will all be specific training for particular and various kinds of warfare, rather than exercises with entire field armies.

KNOX

The Navy has worked out a special system for protecting harbor installations throughout the United States. Navy Secretary Knox says that Uncle Sam's Coast Guard will look after this. The Coast Guard to be increased from thirty-five thousand men to sixty thousand because of this.

The Navy Secretary tells us another interesting and reassuring fact. That more than a thousand ships have sailed out of New York for Southern ports -- keeping to certain safety lanes which the Navy has established for their protection. And says Secretary Knox out of those more than a thousand which obeyed the regulations only five have been sunk. Admiral Andrews commander of the Atlantic sea frontier, reports that most of the submarine torpedoings have occurred outside those lanes. Secretary Knox states that in the future ship masters who sail outside those lanes will lose their licenses.

INSURANCE

You are going to be able to get war insurance from Uncle Sam -- and before long. Senators and Congressmen today passed a bill to provide protection for everybody, against damage from the enemy. This to cover farms, houses, buildings, factories and so on. The war insurance will treat war losses as a National responsibility. And there will be no discrimination against anybody whose property is in a part of the country more likely to be damaged than others, more accessible to air raids, for instance, near the coast, or next door to a munitions plant.

Senator Maloney of Connecticut, who is chairman of the conference committee, says Congressmen are agreed that a factory or a barn or a house near San Francisco or New York should be insurable at the same rate as a house in Keokuk, Kokomo, or Kalamazoo.

Not only property in the continental United States, but also in the Island possessions and Alaska.

DRAFT

Two men in New York drew number three four eight five in the draft. One is a cook of Greek descent, who had fought in the Spanish war with the Loncoln Brigade on the side of the Spanish Loyalists.

The other number three four eight five in New York is Chin Fong Ho, by profession a waiter. When hē heard the news he was juggling a pile of dishes. He promptly put them down, walked over to the boss and said, "I'm through, I'm working now for MacArthur instead of for you." The legend goes that Chin passed the rest of the evening celebrating in that agreeable way known as "on the house."

WAACS

Two bills have now been introduced into Congress for mobilization of the ladies. It looks as though we would shortly have not only WAACS but WRENS in this country. Just as they have in Britain. WAACS of course meaning Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and WRENS for the Navy. The House passed a bill last night creating the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Today Congressman Maas of Minnesota introduced an act creating a similar corps for the Navy, and Congressman Baldwin of New York has a bill to compel all women between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five to register.

The women will wear uniforms similar to the men's, and will get the same rate of pay, and have the same ranks -- corporal, seargeant, captain, colonel, General. What's going to happen to the happy home when Dad is a mere copporal and the little woman is a Colonel? Oh well, I've always been a corporal, and my wife a general. So I guess it'll seem about the same.

How about you, Corporal Hugh?