

L.T. October 26, 1944, Thursday.

*Standard.  
Sunoco.*

GOOD EVENING, EVERYBODY:

Tonight we have the score in the great naval victory over the Imperial Navy of Japan. As a matter of fact, it's not quite complete, because early this morning our surface warships and aircraft were still attacking the battered remnants of the ~~flaming~~ fleeing Jap fleet. So the final total should be a little higher.

What Admiral Nimitz tells us today makes it more than ever certain that this battle will go down as one of the greatest in all history.

As we know, this was the first time in two years that Nipponese men-of-war even came within range of the guns of American surface vessels. Our capital ships poured broadsides into them, from their great batteries of fourteen and sixteen-inch guns.

It's plain now that the Mikado's high command ventured virtually everything on this one stroke, risking the cream of their navy on an all-out attempt to check MacArthur's invasion of the Philippines.

That decision evidently was a fatal one, for naval observers believe the navy of the Rising Sun will never recover from this battle.

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And now for the score: ten enemy warships definitely sunk, including one twenty-nine *thou-ton* battleship, two aircraft carriers, four cruisers, and at least three destroyers -- perhaps more. It 's

almost certain that a second Japanese battlewagon has been sunk. *and its* It is probable that two more have gone to the bottom, as well as one more large aircraft carrier.

*also* Six other battleships have been seriously damaged,

nine cruisers, and seven destroyers, probably more. In short, our fleets have sunk or damaged a grand total of at least thirty-three of the Mikado's warships, and the total will probably rise to more than fifty. The battle to date finds the Imperial Grand Fleet crippled, ten of its twelve battle ships that we know about are out of action, while the huge Pacific fleet of the United States remains intact, and raring to ~~max~~ go.

Of the damaged battleships the heavy guns of our fleet had hit four, and when they last were seen they were retiring at low speed and trailing oil.

One of the damaged destroyers was left dead in the water. All five were virtually cripples, and should be easy marks for the aircraft of the Mitscher and Halsey fleets that are chasing them.

Last night Nimitz reported a hundred and fifty enemy planes destroyed. The total is now given as more than two hundred.

As for our own losses they are that ten-thousand ton aircraft carrier, the Princeton, possibly one escort carrier as well, and several PT boats. All sunk. And -- several escort carriers and destroyers damaged.

~~Nimitz adds that he will report further details as they become known.~~

One of the big Japanese carriers blew up

The Japanese propaganda machine went on to assert that they had sunk six American carriers, three cruisers and ~~one~~ <sup>also that they had</sup> one destroyer, damaged three of our battleships, six carriers, two heavy cruisers, twenty-six transports and nineteen landing craft. However, Tokyo admitted to having lost ~~one~~ one Japanese battleship, two cruisers, and one destroyer sunk, one battleship damaged. Altogether a trifle confused.

It was revealed today that the Australian Navy also took part in the battle. <sup>TP</sup> As for the fleets themselves that took part, they were Admiral Halsey's Third, the Seventh under Vice Admiral Kincaid, and a carrier task force commanded -----

by Vice Admiral Mark Mitscher.

*also is*

Now here ~~7~~ the total score of Japanese losses in the nine days beginning October Seventeenth.

We have definitely sunk thirty-two ships and sixty-four small craft. We have probably sunk four more.

We have damaged one hundred and twenty-six ships and one hundred and seventy-five small craft. We have destroyed in the air ~~xxx~~ or on the ground four hundred and seventy-eight Japanese airplanes. These are the minimum totals.

ADD LEAD

A story from a correspondent aboard Admiral Kincaid's flagship in the battle <sup>tells how</sup> ~~reports that~~ the Japanese Admirals ~~had~~ tried to draw our fleet off balance. They set a trap for ~~Admiral~~ Kincaid by attacking from the south. Meanwhile the second and larger part of their fleet tried to send in a knockout blow from the north. This might have succeeded but for the counter-strategy of Admiral Kincaid and Rear Admiral Sprague. Kincaid spotted the trap.

<sup>big</sup> The show began on the morning of October Twenty-fifth. PT boats in the Surigao Straits spotted an enemy force of two battleships, three cruisers, and six destroyers, which had sneaked through in the darkness. The speed boats immediately flashed the news to the American battleship squadron under Rear Admiral Oldendorf. So when the enemy force reached the place where the passage was only twelve miles wide, Oldendorf

with his battleships was waiting for them. He let them steam twenty-two miles until he opened up on them. And, <sup>here's something</sup> ~~it's mighty~~ interesting: ~~that~~ some of his battleships had been sunk at Pearl Harbor, raised, and rebuilt. <sup>TR</sup> Oldendorf's destroyers began the attack with torpedoes, then the great sixteen-inch, eight-inch, and six-inch guns of the American fleet let loose. ~~at the Japanese.~~ The shells as they burst lit the skies and turned night into day. Forty minutes after the firing began, the Japanese <sup>S</sup> ~~ran away~~. The whole battle lasted only <sup>an hour</sup> ~~one~~ and a half, ~~hours~~.

Then big enemy forces were reported north of Leyte. They had come through the San Bernadino Straits, trying to drive a wedge between Kincaid's light carrier force and Admiral Halsey's big fast carriers. The Japanese opened the <sup>show</sup> ~~way~~ and our light ~~fighters~~ flat-tops, which were no match for the enemy fleet, steamed away.

Then Admiral Sprague sent an airmada of hundreds of Wildcats and Avengers against the Japanese.

By noon the enemy had enough, and the Mikado's warships ~~begun~~ began to retreat north. <sup>Whereupon</sup> ~~They~~ the

American Admirals brought up carrier reinforcements one after another and made the route even faster.

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We are warned not to indulge in our customary optimism, ~~That~~ <sup>if</sup> victory does not mean we have Japan in our hands. But experts in Washington estimate that ~~the~~ flight of the Mikado's fleet means his high command has decided to give up hopes of reinforcing ~~the~~ defenders of the Philippines. Also, American control of Philippine waters will hasten the liberation of those islands, because it will make it easy to send reinforcements to MacArthur. <sup>TP</sup> Another fruit of the victory should be American control of the South China seas. The position of the Japanese garrisons



in their mandated islands is now hopeless, and we now present a direct threat to the Bonin Islands in the Mikado's front yard.

A dispatch from General MacArthur's headquarters brings <sup>definite</sup> word that he has accomplished a landing on the island of Samar, north of Leyte;

~~His troops have seized the~~ <sup>on the</sup> ~~southern~~ coast of the island, which is the last barrier to be overcome before we attack Luzon, ~~the~~ biggest of them all, the island on which Manila is situated.

The Japanese Fleet ~~which~~ made the attack in the Strait of Surigao have been running northward along the western coast of Leyte. This morning it steamed into the Sea of Camotes trying to join the main body of the Mikado's Navy which ~~first~~ fled westward through the Strait of San Bernadino after the tragic licking it took off Samar. Originally there were fifteen ships in the southern Japanese fleet. They are now down to one heavy cruiser and five destroyers. ~~But~~ By noon today, our carrier based planes had damaged ~~that~~ <sup>so</sup> cruiser severely ~~so~~ she was down at the stern with her steering gear damaged. <sup>and</sup> One destroyer was down at the bow.

Admiral Kincaid admitted today that the situation <sup>for us</sup> could have been desperate. If the Japanese fleet had succeeded in getting into the Gulf of Leyte ~~the~~ <sup>it</sup> ~~Japanese~~ could have destroyed all of our ships and shelled MacArthur's land forces.

Kincaid went on to say that the work of the carriers under his command was unbelievable. They

held the Japanese Fleet off Samar all ~~the~~ morning until help arrived, and ~~the~~ thus enabled the heavy cruisers and the battleships to arrive in time to throw the knockout ~~fixxi~~ blow at the enemy.

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Tonight the Navy releases information ~~that~~ about our Navy in the Pacific. Out of twenty-three battleships that we now have, at least seventeen are in the Pacific. Furthermore, two brand new super-cruisers are in commission, the Alaska and the Guam. They<sup>re</sup> are virtually battle cruisers, more than seven ~~and~~ hundred and fifty feet long with nine twelve inch guns, but having the speed of a cruiser.

H, ~~what's~~ the word from  
St. A' Cal?

CHINA

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Chungking today published the claim that Chinese armies in the province of Kwangsi have won a major victory. They say ~~that~~ a Japanese column trying to reach Kweilin, marched into a trap. A Chinese army was lying in wait for the enemy. They first cut the Japanese line of retreat. Then they attacked from three other sides and wiped out the entire Japanese column. The Chinese further claim that all the enemy divisions trying to capture Kweilin and cut China into two have been stopped and are unable to advance any further. If all this is true, it is quite encouraging.

There are also favorable reports from Burma. A unit of British troops is advancing east from Imphal. The Indian division which drove the Japanese out of Tiddim is pushing them still further east, and the army commanded by our own General Stilwell is progressing in the direction of the Irrawady River.

See map

WESTERN FRONT

~~So exciting and interesting is that naval  
victory that I have not much time left for the other  
theatres of war.~~  
*What news from Europe?*

In the estuary of the Scheldt, Eisenhower has landed amphibious forces on the islands where the Nazis are still holding out and dominating the ship channel ~~xx~~ to Antwerp, This we learn from Berlin. Also Canadian troops have advanced nine miles up ~~xx~~ the causeway connecting these islands with the Dutch mainland. If this is true, the German garrisons there are trapped, eleven thousand of them.

Scottish divisions have captured Tilburg further east, and now threaten to cut off the German retreat from southern Holland.

~~xxxxxxxx~~  
Elsewhere along the Western Front there is not much doing.

## ITALY

Dispatches from Italy report that German resistance has broken down along the entire front in the valley of the Po River. British and Canadian troops of the Eighth Army are advancing rapidly along the Emilian Way and are only three miles from Forli, an important road junction.

But the Nazis defending Bologna are still resisting fiercely. The American troops of the Fifth Army are now in the thick ~~and are fighting~~ <sup>of</sup> a tough battle, with no sign of a let-up on the German side.

## SPAIN

Reports from southern France indicate more strongly than ever that ~~Francisco~~ Franco is going to have a fight on his hands. The trained forces of the Spanish Maquis massed along the frontier between France and Spain now amount to almost four divisions. French Maquis have joined up with them. One dispatch reports that these Maquis constitute one of the best armed, best organized and best led of the French forces of the Interior.

In diplomatic circles there are rumors that Franco is ready to restore a monarchy in Spain in the hope of avoiding another civil war.

## RUSSIA

The Red armies are now twenty-six miles inside East Prussia. And that news comes from the Germans themselves. The Russians are only twelve miles away from Insterburg, a vital important railway junction. They are at the west bank of the Angerapp River, the last line of natural defense for Insterburg.

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In Hungary, Soviet divisions are now only fifty miles from Budapest.

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And in Czechoslovakia the Fourth Ukranian army, driving toward the Hungarian border from the north, has captured <sup>(Moo-ka-chay-vo)</sup> Mukacevo -- a strategic center of communications. [They also have captured sixty towns and settlements in the process, and the advance guard of that army has joined up with the advance guard of the Second Ukranian army.]

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As for the news from the war in the Far North. The Red army there has captured a stock of Nazi supplies in Lapland large enough to last a whole year. The Soviet forces there trapped the Germans in a combined operation by sea and land. The Nazis had to run in such a hurry that they neither had time to take their stores with them nor destroy them.

King Haakon broadcast to his people from London today that the Russian drive into Norway is the beginning of the country's liberation after more than four years of Nazi and Quisling rule. He announced that Norwegian troops trained on Allied soil will soon join in operations with the Red army under General Meritskof.

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ATROCITIES FOLLOW RUSSIA

Today we have further testimony on the subject of atrocities ~~committed~~ committed by the Germans on the Eastern Front. The stories have not and cannot be exaggerated says Averill Harriman U.S. Ambassador to Moscow.

The atrocities that have been committed on the Eastern Front are on an entirely different scale from their cruelties ~~in~~ in the West. There they shot hundreds of hostages. But in the East, *he*

*says* they have ruthlessly *and in* ~~committed~~ coldblooded ~~acts~~ massacred Poles, Russians, and Jews by the hundred

thousand. In fact, the Soviet and Polish authorities estimate that in one *German human* slaughter house alone *the Germans* ~~which the Germans operated,~~ they have killed

as many as ~~the one~~ *a* million and a half civilians -- men, women and children!

TRUMAN

There's been much excitement today over Senator Harry Truman, Democratic candidate for Vice President. He himself started the ball rolling with an indignant denial that he had ever been ~~xxx~~ a member of the Klu Klux Klan. He said it was a lie.

Then up spake a former Cyclops of the Klu Klux Klan in Kansas City, who declared categorically that Truman joined the Klan in Nineteen Twenty-two and spoke at a big rally near Independence, Missouri, to a large crowd. Truman was then running for county judge.

8 1/2 A professor of Political Science at the University of Kansas City said he had twenty affidavits that Truman had been a Klansman.

Well, that's all the politics for now. For here's Hugh.