

SEA BATTLE

C.L. - Sunoco. Friday, May 8, 1942.

The Battle of the Coral Sea is still being fought - so far as we know. And there is <sup>no word of the</sup> ~~word of the~~ <sup>final outcome of that</sup> ~~issue of the~~ giant conflict on the ocean. We merely know that the warships of the United Nations have struck ~~xxxix~~ swift and telling blows against the Japs, with ~~the~~ a smashing of enemy naval forces and the sinking of ships.

Last night, when we heard about the first phase of the prolonged engagement, the figure was - twelve enemy warships hit heavily, eight of which were sunk. Today the figure rises to seventeen Jap vessels battered by our sea and air forces. The sinkings <sup>of Jap craft</sup> now include <sup>s</sup> a heavy cruiser, a light cruiser, two destroyers, a plane carrier, and various other <sup>s</sup> ~~craft.~~ In the list of the heavily damaged, are a heavy cruiser, a light cruiser, <sup>and</sup> an airplane carrier, ~~and other craft.~~

<sup>on their side</sup>  
The Japs <sup>^</sup> make large claims, stating they have sunk an American battleship of the CALIFORNIA class.

Also - two <sup>of our</sup> airplane carriers <sup>1</sup> of the SARATOGA and YORKTOWN classes, ~~respectively~~. <sup>And</sup> They claim to have heavily damaged or sunk a British battleship of the WARSPITE class; ~~and~~ also to have badly damaged a British heavy cruiser.

<sup>TP</sup> London today immediately denied that any British battleship had been sunk or <sup>hit.</sup> ~~damaged~~. Washington ~~was~~ giving <sup>en</sup> ~~ing~~ out no information about our own American losses - although there must have been some. <sup>TP</sup> As for the Jap claims, it is known that Tokyo has a way of sinking ships on the radio for the purpose of drawing information from our side.

The Battle of ~~The~~ Coral Seas occurs in fabulous waters, bounded by Australia ~~and~~ the Great Barrier Reef on the west, and by strings of islands and archipelagoes on the north and east. So far as we can tell, the Japs were pushing an invasion fleet to seize <sup>more</sup> strategic islands, ~~of~~ ~~the archipelagoes~~, and were intercepted by American and British naval forces. ~~and~~ <sup>Whereupon</sup> the battle was on. ~~It is a~~

A monumental conflict with vast issues at stake. *On the far off Coral Sea.*

Today in Australia, Prime Minister Curtin spoke with grave solemnity, ~~of import of the mighty clash at sea.~~

He indicated the issue had not yet been decided - victory or defeat. "Nobody can tell what the result of this

engagement will be at the moment," said he, *adding: -* "If it should go advantageously we will have cause for great gratitude."

*And he also said*  
~~To which he added,~~ that if the conflict should not go advantageously, Australia will face a stern ordeal.

And he warned his country that a Japanese invasion might occur at any hour.

This statement by the Australian Prime Minister on the radio was one part of the information that we have *about* the Battle of the Coral Sea. His *almost ominous* grave words on one side - and the *stirring news* ~~brilliant flash~~ of the sinking of Japanese warships on the other.

MARBLEHEAD

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A United States naval captain today spoke three emphatic words - "courage, stamina, resourcefulness." He attributed those qualities to his crew - and in a superlative degree. <sup>TP</sup> He is Captain Arthur Robinson of the U.S.S. MARBLEHEAD - the American light cruiser that made a miraculous return. ~~The news of recent days has given us heroics about the MARBLEHEAD - the warship that was frightfully bombed and terribly damaged in the East Indies, yet made its way to safety and all the way back to the United States.~~ A great and memorable voyage to be explained only by the goodness of the ship and the "courage, stamina and resourcefulness" of the crew.

Today Captain Robinson told the story of the bombing of the MARBLEHEAD. The Japs were staging their invasion drives in the Dutch East Indies, and the American cruiser was sent to intercept a large convoy. The ship was attacked by more than fifty enemy bombers,

and took a ferocious pounding.

"We were under air attack for approximately three hours," Captain ~~in~~ Robinson related today. "We suffered a hit, which destroyed our steering apparatus." Thereafter we were able to proceed only in circles - since our rudder was jammed hard over, and every attempt to go ahead resulted only in traveling in a fairly tight circle." So that was the situation, and there is nothing more desperate for a warship - unable to steer, Just going round and round.

But ~~xxxx~~ that was only part of it. Bomb explosions damaged the hull, and the ship was badly flooded - rising water in the compartments, <sup>threatening to sink her. And</sup> and <sup>^</sup> bomb hits on the deck set fire <sup>So</sup> Two fires were blazing fiercely.

~~You would certainly give up a ship like that for lost. And, in fact,~~ The Japs reported the MARBLEHEAD sunk. Maybe they thought they had sufficient reason to

<sup>her</sup>  
consider ~~it~~ a total loss. But the crew had the courage  
X  
never to give in, the stamina to take the inferno of  
bombing and carry on - and they had the resourcefulness  
to make repairs that enabled the MARBLEHEAD to navigate,  
limping to safety. They put the fires out, kept the  
rising water in the hull from sinking the ship, and  
patched up the shattered rudder well enough to steer  
after a fashion. And so to an Allied port, and <sup>around</sup> ~~then~~  
~~the world - home,~~  
~~across the Pacific. The MARBLEHEAD is being repaired,~~  
~~and in due time will be in action again.~~

QUEZON

Today a man landed in San Francisco and said, "I am proud." He was Manuel Quezon, President of the Philippine Commonwealth - his country conquered - but not its pride.

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He has had quite a few thrills of late - this President of the Philippines. "We traveled on the sea, under the sea, and in the air - to get to the United States," he said today. There seems to be a tip-off in the phrase - "under the sea". It would seem to mean that Quezon, in his adventurous journey from beleaguered Corregidor to Australia, went by submarine - at least part of the way. There would be no point in undersea voyaging on the trip from Australia to San Francisco.

President Quezon is on his way to Washington to talk things over with our own President. Until he has had a conference at the White House, he will make no formal statement. Today he said:- "Since the war I have

had only one policy, and that was to keep my mouth shut - except to say that the Philippines would stand by the United States to the bitter end." To this ~~ix~~ he added:- "Thank God, the facts prove that I was right."

*F* He was asked to comment on the heroism of the fighting Filipinos on Batan and Corregidor, and responded with *those* three words - "I am proud."



## BURMA

The Chinese have inflicted a sharp defeat on the Japs, who from Burma have pushed across the border into the Province of Yunnan. The battle is the one we heard about yesterday - twenty-four miles north of the frontier. The spearhead of the enemy offensive was shattered by Chinese counter-attacks - one incident of which was the trapping of four hundred Japs in the rocky gorge of the river.

As for enemy claims of having pushed from Burma <sup>in</sup> to India, London says that the Japs have probably occupied the northern Burmese port of Akyab, and it may be that a few Japs have reached the border of India. London has no word of any such thing, but a spokesman said:- "It is possible that very small parties of Japanese have reached and even reconnoitered the Indian frontier."

EDEN

There was a British appeal today to the people of Germany - bidding them to toss out Hitler and the Nazis, and set up a government based on respectful law and rights. This <sup>plea</sup> was made by British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, who went on to warn the Germans that they will get more and more bombing, and the only way to avoid it is to oust Hitler and the Nazis.

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This is accompanied by a dire promise to the Germans - uttered by Air Minister Sir Archibald Sinclair. He said that during the coming months, American bombing squadrons will fly alongside the R.A.F., and will give Germany what he called - "a terrible summer." The violent air offensive already under way is to be continued with a rising tempo. "We must hammer Germany out of shape," said the Air Minister. "Then," he added, "will come invasion!"

RUSSIA

Soviet Russia reports the beating off of an enemy attempt to destroy Murmansk by air bombing. German and Finnish aviation forces tried to smash <sup>Russia's only</sup> ~~at that northern~~ northern ice-free port through which American and British supplies are being landed for the Red Army. Soviet fliers, reinforced by British and American fighting planes, have shot down sixty-four hostile aircraft over Murmansk during the past two days. And the Communist Party newspaper, PRAVDA, states that the Allied air forces are now on the offensive against the Axis in the far north.

TAXES

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The tax experts of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives have put forward their suggestions for an increase of individual income taxes. The Treasury is proposing that four billion and three hundred million dollars be raised by <sup>increasing the taxes on the</sup> ~~taxing~~ incomes of individual persons. The Committee's experts want to cut that figure to less than half - one billion and nine hundred million.

Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau came out yesterday for a reduction in income tax exemptions. The proposal suggested today would leave the exemptions as they are - fifteen hundred dollars for a married couple, seven hundred and fifty for a single person, and four hundred for each dependent. ~~According to yesterday's Treasury plan, a married man earning ten thousand dollars a year would pay nearly three thousand dollars in income taxes. According to the ideas of the Ways and Means~~

GASOLINE

Here is a pertinent question - How far can you drive on two gallons of gasoline, maybe three? <sup>For</sup> that is what ~~you~~ East coast motorists are going to get - according to Price Administrator Leon Henderson. Asked how much gas the non-essential civilian automobile driver ~~is~~ <sup>will</sup> ~~going to get~~ <sup>be allowed</sup> under rationing, he replied:- "Somewhere between two and three gallons a week, probably nearer two, with no prospect of getting above three."

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The Price Administrator estimated, however, that the term "non-essential" does not cover as much ground as one might think. He said that only about a third of all car owners in the rationed areas will come under the category of "not necessary." Two-thirds of the auto~~r~~s are considered essential, as in the case of workers going to their place of employment. Leon Henderson defined "non-essential" in these words -  
"automobiles not used for vocational or necessary

purposes." And he added, "We will furnish enough gasoline to get the worker to and from his job. Meaning, that two-thirds of <sup>all</sup> the car owners will get more than the two or three gallons a week.

And now, what will the ration figure mean in terms of mileage? In Detroit, automotive experts have been investigating the problem. And here are some of their conclusions:- You can drive as many as forty-five miles on two gallons of gas. That is - if you are extremely careful. The figure was arrived at by tests with low or medium priced cars. If you have a heavy car, you get less mileage - especially if you have wasteful driving habits. <sup>It</sup> You get the maximum mileage by starting your car slowly and staying under twenty miles an hour. The mileage drops as the speed increases, and the motorist who, at traffic signals, ~~a~~ tries to beat the other cars in the get-away, will be lucky if he drives 20 miles on his weekly 2 gallons.

## SUGAR RATIONING

At Tonawanda, New York a housewife set out to get her rationing card for sugar. The cards were being distributed at a school. Presently she found herself waiting in line. When her turn came she was shown into an adjoining room, where they took her arm, and extracted a pint of blood. The Red Cross attendant explained to her that this was a war-time blood donation for soldiers and sailors. When it was all over, she said, "and now I would like to have my sugar rationing card." Whereupon they gaped at her in amazement.

She had gone to the wrong school -- the blood-donation headquarters instead of the sugar rationing headquarters. And all the time she thought she was giving a pint of life's blood in exchange for a rationing card.

GUIANA

I have a telegram from Bill Dowdell, news editor of Station W.L.W., Cincinnati - a wire asking me to make a mention aimed at far off South America. The message is meant for Roy Huckleberry of Salem, Indiana, who is now Civilian Administrator of the United States Naval Base in British Guiana. Bill says Roy tunes in to this program regularly, and may be listening in tonight.

The telegram states the following facts:-  
That Roy Huckleberry has won the Democratic nomination as Congressman for the Ninth Indiana District, and does not yet know his good fortune. A cable has been sent to him, but is not expected to reach its destination for ~~at~~ several days.

So there is the message for the Civilian Administrator of the United States Naval Base down in British Guiana. Roy -- you are running for Congress.



AWARD

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And This evening I have been asked to mention something <sup>else;</sup> and as I do so I feel as if my larynx were emitting a harsh and raucous noise, with a sour twang of the tonsils. It is so uncomfortable that I wouldn't talk about this at all, if I had not been informed that some thousands of youngsters are listening in tonight to hear it. They are school children far and wide - members of the Pleasant Speech Institute sponsored by the school magazine called "Everyday Reading."

It seems that they held a poll of school classes in twenty states on the subject of agreeable vocal chords. The young <sup>folks</sup> ~~people~~ voted to make a selection among people of the radio and motion pictures and decide which one, in their opinion, has <sup>d</sup> the most pleasant voice. <sup>And now</sup> I am required to announce the result - tell the one they picked. And that is what makes me feel as if my larynx were a fog horn, with a creaking

of tonsils. <sup>H</sup> In the most pleasant voice competition, the school classes voted for the hollering<sup>ow</sup> and quavering<sub>^</sub> accent<sup>s</sup> of the news voice of Blue Sunoco. And all my life I have been wanting to talk with the stern hard growl that you associate with masterful characters. I dreamed~~ed~~ of going home <sup>at</sup> ~~some~~ night and expressing myself with a harsh and predominant bellow, ~~and here come the youngsters giving me the nod for vocal chords that are pleasant. I suppose that along about now, I must be gargling.~~

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To express the way I feel, let me relate a bit of news that came in on the wire today, <sup>That's</sup> ~~which is~~ about the only way I can ever express myself - by telling a news item. At Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, the local post of the American Legion is arranging a celebration on Memorial Day. They are inviting speakers, and one of these is a town councilman - Harry Davenport. Today ~~he~~

Councilman Davenport

^ got his invitation, and here is the way it reads:-

"You are invited to be one of the speakers at our Memorial Day meeting. The program, <sup>it</sup> ~~the~~ continues, ~~the invitation,~~ "will include a talk by the Mayor, a recitation of the Lincoln Gettysburg Speech by a high school pupil, your talk - and then the firing squad."

The feelings of Councilman Harry Davenport were somewhat mixed when he read that. <sup>an</sup> ~~The~~ American Legion squad firing a solemn volley of commemoration is a patriotic institution. But there is a touch of fascination in that phrase, "your talk, and then the firing squad!"

So that is how I feel, <sup>as I acknowledge</sup> ~~in announcing the~~ <sup>with humble gratitude, and</sup> the Pleasant Speech Award, <sup>in fact,</sup> here comes Hugh James, leading the firing squad.