

P. 17 - Sunoco. Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1942.

SINGAPORE

46

About the only bright point of the Singapore news is that the Japanese enemy did not succeed in taking the world famous fortress on February Eleventh. No doubt they were straining every nerve to do so, as they flung themselves against the outnumbered island defenders - regardless of losses. For today was Japan's great national holiday - patriotic and religious. <sup>It</sup> ~~It~~ <sup>The day</sup> commemorates a fantastic legend, which is the mythical basis of their national megalomania - their belief, rooted in strange superstition, that they are the chosen people of the gods. <sup>It</sup> Their national cult tells them that two thousand odd years ago today, the Japanese people originated out of the celestial magic of the sun goddess. - Therefore they as a people are divine! And so ~~hence they're divine. So,~~ above all things, they would have wanted to take Singapore on this

SINGAPORE - 2

*In fact*  
anniversary. - <sup>^</sup> they had announced that they would.

However, the best accounts would indicate that the hard-pressed and savagely bombed city was still holding out ~~xxxxx~~ when the day ended in the orient.

The British admitted, *today* ~~however~~, that the enemy was at the western outskirts of Singapore, and no hope was offered that resistance could continue for

long. All day ~~long~~, there was ~~x~~ heroic work of evacuation - women and children leaving, taken away by British and Dutch boats under a rain of bombs.

And Singapore indicated that during the night they might be able to evacuate some portion of the garrison - under ~~the~~ cover of darkness.

The defenders are fighting to the last ditch, as they were ordered to do and vowed they would.

The Japanese enemy admits this. They're telling of severe resistance during the day - especially on the

central part of the island.

The Imperial forces, <sup>of course</sup> ~~are moreover,~~ are blowing up everything that might be useful to the enemy - the vast improvements, installations and equipment of the four hundred million dollar naval base. Singapore today saw huge columns of smoke, smoke of the scorched earth - probably the greatest amount of scorching <sup>TP</sup> ever done. So it doesn't appear as if the enemy will find much of a naval base to use - except of course the natural facilities of the harbor, the anchorage. <sup>TP</sup> And maybe even that won't be so useful. On this particular point I've just received a telegram from Carveth Wells, the author and lecturer who knows Singapore so well. He predicts a Corridor situation. "Regarding Singapore," he wires, "the large island named Blakangmati situated off the

48

southern tip of Singapore is garrisoned and heavily fortified and may easily turn out to be another Corregidor. Blakangmati and several similarly fortified islands will have to be subdued before Japan can really claim the total subjugation of Singapore."

The latest -- the Japanese have just demanded the unconditional surrender of Singapore. The demand was refused.

## BURMA

In Burma, the Japs have captured the strategic town of Martaban. This means that they forced a crossing of the Salween River, which was the major line of British defense. Martaban is near the mouth of the river, and is situated near the head of a gulf. The enemy will have to drive around the head of that gulf to get at Rangoon, the capital of Burma and its principal harbor. The land route that way is a hundred and sixty miles, with a railroad and a good highways.

This may be expected to be the next line of attack, and it's likely to be a hard step for the Japs to negotiate, with the British concentrated for the defense of the coastline. They were joined today by Chinese troops, the first of Chiang Kai-shek's soldiers to go into action in Burma.

PHILIPPINES

Tonight's late bulletin from General MacArthur tells us something to make us angry. The Japanese are using against us equipment that we sent to them for earthquake relief back in Nineteen Twenty-Three. That was when a terrific shock and devastating fires ravaged Japan. We rushed supplies ~~and equipment~~ of all sorts to them, <sup>and</sup> and now they ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> using <sup>these</sup> ~~this~~ against us! General MacArthur's dispatch mentions "lifesaving and other equipment." It was marked "United States Army transport Merritt." This was the army vessel used for relief work in Japan.

50  
We know about this because the equipment was captured on the west coast of Batan. The Japs <sup>attempted</sup> ~~admitted~~ landings. These were beaten off, and our men seized their barges.

<sup>Which</sup> ~~This~~ of course represents a new success <sup>for</sup> of the hard pressed American and Filipino forces.

PHILIPPINES - 2

They've been beating off those landing attempts one after another as well as the frontal attacks against their defense lines.

General MacArthur reports that the Jap assaults were not so heavy today - they slackened a bit, But once against MacArthur warns us that it's only a lull, the enemy with <sup>his</sup> ~~its~~ overwhelming numbers is mustering for a new drive - and we wonder how our men out there can continue their implacable resistance against an enemy who is trying relentlessly to wear them down, and who has so much material for so doing.

INDIES

The enemy advance in the Dutch East Indies continues, ~~is~~ pushing southward toward Java. This advance is ~~down along the~~ <sup>along those same</sup> Straits of Macassar, where the Japs sustained such heavy blows a couple of weeks ago. ~~They~~ <sup>The japs</sup> are pushing ~~along~~ <sup>down</sup> the coasts that border the strait - the coasts of Borneo and the island of Celebes. Their latest landings are on the southern part of Celebes, where the key point is the ~~town~~ <sup>city</sup> of Macassar.

This push to the south along the Strait is obviously an increasing menace to Java, which is now the key position of the united nations in the oceanisland war. The enemy is still striking through the air at the great Javanese naval base, Surabaya. Today's bulletin from the Dutch tells how they attacked and drove off a powerful Japanese air fleet.

~~One curiosity from that area tells how~~



ADMIRAL

The new Commander for the united nations <sup>in</sup> the southwest Pacific is a veteran sea dog of those waters. Admiral Helfrich of the Dutch East Indies Navy is a fifty-five year old veteran, described as a round-faced Dutchman. He was born in Java, learned naval science in Holland, and returned to the Indies - where he rose to the command of the Dutch navy there. For years he has been in and out of the intricate waters of that vast and complex archipelago. He knows every inch of it, and today a navy spokesman in Washington made the following statement: "Admiral Helfrich is one of the best informed men in the Dutch East Indies."

52

He succeeds our own Admiral Hart, who retires at his own request - because of ill health.

It was only last Saturday that Admiral Hart officially

ADMIRAL - 2

was appointed to be naval chief for the united nations in the southwest Pacific - although he had been actually exercising command for more than a month. He directed the brilliant operation of the combined Dutch and American forces, when they smashed <sup>to</sup>~~the~~ victory against the Japs in the Straits of Macassar.

The immediate command of the United States Asiatic fleet, now based on Java, passes to American Vice-Admiral Glassford. As boss of our own ships, he serves under the naval orders of Netherlands Admiral Helfrich, who in turn is under the Far Eastern command of British General Wavell.

## PACIFIC RUMORS

London states the belief that Japan is trying to get a base for operations in Madagascar. That huge island off the coast of southeast Africa is a French possession, and London thinks that Tokyo is trying to persuade the Vichy Government to permit the Japs to get a foothold there. In any such thing of course Tokyo would have the support of Nazi Berlin, which is always putting one kind of pressure or other on the Vichy government.

If the Japs were able to reach out to Madagascar, it would be serious indeed. The island is on the opposite side of the Indian Ocean, forty-five hundred miles across from Singapore.. And a Madagascar-Singapore line would dominate the Indian Ocean and cut the sea lanes of the British in India.

SHIP

Another ship has been torpedoed off our Atlantic coast, and once again it's an oil tanker. The Navy announced late this afternoon that the ship had been hit, but did not say it had actually been sunk, -- the tanker ~~XX~~ W.L.Steed<sup>TP</sup>. This makes a total of thirty vessels attacked by u-boats off our Atlantic coast since mid-January.

## RED CROSS

At Oyster Bay, New York, the local chapter of the Red Cross had a patriotic occasion arranged. They had! But it's all off now. They planned to raise money by staging a barbecue with highly patriotic ceremonies. It was to be a fiery affair, in which they would burn three individuals in effigy. What individuals? Why, Hitler, Mussolini and the Jap Emperor Hirohito. They had a remarkable lifelike image made of Hitler.

But they've had to call it off. Why? Because the National Red Cross says No. It seems odd -- but here's the answer. The Red Cross, the world's premier organization for charity and mercy has a rule that it will not accept money raised by any entertainment that degrades a human being. That's one point of the lofty idealism of the Red Cross. The burning in effigy of Hitler, Mussolini, and Hirohito represents a degradation, and after all they are human beings - unfortunately perhaps.

O.C.D.

News of a reorganization of the Office of Civilian Defense inevitably brings up several questions. New York's Mayor LaGuardia has resigned; and O.C.D. Director James M. Landis, who is in full control, announced today that he is planning to reorganize the O.C.D. from top to bottom.

He was asked about Mrs. Roosevelt. Would she follow the example of Mayor LaGuardia in quitting the O.C.D.? Director Landis revealed that the First Lady is now conducting a reorganization of the civilian participation division, of which she is the head. Would she stay on the job after she completes the reorganization? He replied that this is a matter which only Mrs. Roosevelt could decide. Then the query was put to him - Suppose that the First Lady should decide to retain her civilian defense post, would he take any action?

Director Landis put that query aside - refrained from going into the matter.

## TIRES

The rationing of retreaded and recapped automobile tires will begin on February Nineteenth. This was announced today by Price Administrator Leon Henderson. He stated that the rubber on hand is only enough to retrea<sup>d</sup> tires for the vehicles that are now eligible to obtained new tires. (Each month a certain amount of "camel-back," the rubber compound ~~xx~~ used for retreading, will be made available - for the tires of trucks. None will be released for passenger cars during February, and perhaps none during March either. In other words, retreaded tires will not only be rationed, they'll be rationed sparingly.)

54

## PENSION

Today the following question ~~XXXX~~ was answered:-  
Is President Roosevelt going to apply for a pension under the new law passed by Congress? That recent statute, which has provoked a lot of ridicule, permits the legislators to acquire pensions under the Civil Service system. And it would also permit the President of the United States to do the same. Yesterday, at a White House news conference, President Roosevelt made the remark that under the new law he was eligible for a pension of thirty-seven thousand ~~and~~ five hundred dollars a year. He added that he could qualify for this by merely paying a few dollars during the next few years. F.D.R. spoke <sup>jobingly</sup> ~~facetiously~~ about it, <sup>But</sup> ~~and~~ the supposition was raised that he might take advantage of the pension opportunity.

Inquiries today, however, brought a negative response - No. White House Secretary Steve Early



stated that the President yesterday spoke in a vein  
entirely facetious <sup>— that</sup> - he has no intention of seeking  
the pension.

57  
I don't know that one should entirely agree  
with President Roosevelt in this. It seems to me quite  
proper that the President of the United States should  
have an opportunity to qualify for a pension under  
Civil Service, <sup>and</sup> that he should accept the opportunity.  
It's commonplace American history that the presidential  
salary this nation pays permits little if any chance ~~for~~  
for saving - the gentleman at the White House usually  
has to pay out more than he gets. So, unless the  
chief executive has considerable means of his own to  
begin with, he is likely to be in a perplexing  
condition financially when he retires from office.  
Thomas Jefferson and General Grant were examples of

this. It would have been an excellent thing in the past , if the Presidents had been able to qualify for pensions, and it's likely to be a good thing in the future.

EDISON

These are news days when we hardly have time to talk about anniversaries of this or that. Yet we may well take time out from the war news and tell of a commemoration. <sup>TP</sup> These are times of darkness for the world, and today they observed the Ninety-Fifth Anniversary of the birth of the inventor of the electric light - Edison. <sup>TP</sup> A proclamation by President Roosevelt called our attention to the occasion, and foremost in the anniversary celebration was the widow of the inventor and their son, Governor Edison of New Jersey. They took part in the opening of a new exhibit of Edison mementos, at the New York Museum of Science and Industry, an exhibit called by the ~~melodious~~ melodious name of "Edisoniana." It sounds like some fancy kind of flower, but it means such things as phonograph, motion pictures, and electric light.

8  
7/

58 1/2

## ALERT

Down in Texas, along the Trinity River, they've solved the problem of an air raid siren.

There they wanted to sound an air raid signal. capable of being heard all over Anderson County - which is oil field country, derricks here and there. The sound of the regulation type of siren was lost across the spaces of the Texas prairie. So what solution have they found? It's a real Texas answer - houn' dogs, the baying of the good old houn' dog of the South.

They had an experiment at night. They mustered all the noise-making devices available on Texas farms -- farmers hammering on plow shares and ringing old plantation bells, and the houn' dogs baying and howling. And of all the noise-making devices, those old houn dogs were heard the farthest; fifteen miles down the wind. A howling success!

And now Hugh, with a few words about a success!