

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY. DEC. 22, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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The Battle of Lingayen Gulf, <sup>is now raging!</sup> a hundred and fifty miles north of Manila, <sup>And this our</sup> ~~is now raging.~~ It's a ~~milestone in our history, the first great land battle~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~of~~ our war with Japan. Early today, we learned that a mighty Japanese transport fleet of eighty ships had hove-to in Lingayen Gulf. It wasn't unexpected because, <sup>that gulf is</sup> as we learn in the reports from Manila, ~~it's~~ an ideal <sup>for from there</sup> landing place for an invading force ~~with~~ a network of good highways leading <sup>(Philippine)</sup> to the capital. But, there are no permanent defenses on the shores of that gulf.

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Army Communique Number Two reports it in these words:- "In the Philippine theatre, heavy fighting is in progress on the Lingayen Gulf where the Japanese are attempting a landing in force." The communique continues:- "Under a strong naval and air escort, the

fleet appeared on the west coast of the Island of Luzon, and soon after a large number of barges, each carrying a hundred and fifty men, entered Lingayen Gulf, ~~xxxxxxixid~~ attempting landings in the vicinity of Agoo. Some of them," adds the communiqué, "succeeded in getting ashore."

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The Japanese force is estimated at eighty thousand to a hundred thousand men, from six to eight divisions. But the army does not tell us how many of those eighty or a hundred thousand landed. The attempted invasion, adds the communiqué, is being <sup>met with</sup> ~~made by~~ fierce resistance by American and Filipino troops. Fighting continues near Davao on the Island of Mindanao.

From that <sup>wide</sup> ~~capacious~~ gulf, the invaders have only ~~a wide and~~ relatively flat <sup>country all the</sup> ~~stretch of land between~~ <sup>way to</sup> ~~them and~~ Manila. There are some streams; but this is the dry season, so <sup>they wouldn't</sup> ~~there won't~~ be serious obstacles.

A later report from General MacArthur tells us that at one point Japanese destroyers and transports were driven off by our heavy guns and a landing was prevented. Nevertheless, Japanese troops were put ashore, even tanks. <sup>Which</sup> ~~They~~ were met by tanks of our own, thus making our first tank engagement, though American <sup>—under British crews—</sup> tanks have been fighting in Africa. <sup>^</sup> We have no further details, but the army communique, bald as it is, makes no attempt to disguise the scope and seriousness of the battle. ( General MacArthur admits that the enemy is pushing his attack in great force. The Jap transports were protected by a flotilla of destroyers with the support of numerous Japanese bombers in the air.

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## AWARDS

A stout, burly young <sup>officer</sup> ~~soldier~~ from Ohio <sup>came</sup> ~~stood~~ in front of his General at Manila today and was ~~decorated~~ decorated with a gleaming new medal. Twenty-five year old Lieutenant Jack Dale of Uncle Sam's Army Air Corps stood before General MacArthur and <sup>his</sup> ~~a small~~ staff <sup>to</sup> ~~any~~ become the first man in this war to <sup>have</sup> ~~receive~~ the distinguished service cross <sup>pinned on this tunic.</sup> General MacArthur bestowed the same medal on a man who was not there to <sup>receive</sup> ~~have~~ it, ~~pinned on him~~ the late Captain Colin Kelly, ~~the~~ <sup>flyer</sup> ~~great~~ aviator who destroyed the first Japanese battleship and lost his life in <sup>doing it.</sup> ~~the process.~~

<sup>Young</sup> Second-Lieutenant Jack Dale, ~~you will remember,~~ is the <sup>lad who</sup> ~~man who bust~~ <sup>smashed</sup> up the Japanese attempt at a landing near Vigan on December Tenth, when he led his flight in wave after wave of attacks on twenty enemy warships.

Still another <sup>who today</sup> ~~gallant~~ officer received that distinguished service cross from General MacArthur. That was Captain Jesus Villamor of the Philippine Air <sup>Haycocks</sup> ~~Coms~~ Corps.

## SUBMARINES

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In more than one part of the Pacific, our merchant ships are <sup>now</sup> running the guantlet of Japanese submarines. The latest to be heard of so far was ~~an~~ <sup>the</sup> oil tanker that ran into an undersea boat two miles off Point Arguello, California. That was this morning. Just ~~That's~~ a hundred and seventy-five miles north of Los Angles. The sub fired at her with a deck gun, but the tanker escaped.

The Navy also announced today that a steamship had been sunk by an enemy submarine near the Island of Maui in the Hawaiian group, on December Eleventh. And on the night of December Twentieth another <sup>the Samoa,</sup> steamship was attacked with gunfire, followed by a torpedo, but the enemy missed the SAMOA.

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And, tonight we have later details on the sinking of the tanker EMIDIO, twenty miles off the California coast near Eureka. The captain of the EMIDIO reports that five of his men are still missing



and unaccounted for. Several of the survivors of the EMIDIO <sup>say</sup> ~~declare that~~ the Japanese ~~had~~ shelled the lifeboats after they were launched. That's how some of the men came by their injuries, one of them seriously wounded.

When the EMIDIO was attacked, the radio operator contrived to get in a call for help just before the tanker sank. The report says that it couldn't have been ten minutes after the call when two American bombing planes came roaring off the coast. <sup>The members of the tanker</sup> ~~The~~ crew were in the lifeboats then. The <sup>by</sup> submarine saw or heard them coming, for it submerged rapidly. The planes flew in circles where the sub had been, and one dropped a depth charge. Subsequently, another dept charged was dropped. A huge column of water arose from the sea, but the survivors couldn't tell whether ~~it had hit~~ the submarine <sup>got away or not.</sup>

# MALAYA

In the news from Singapore, there's one hopeful  
*(It's a rumor that)* ~~are rumored to~~  
note tonight. *but, it isn't official.* British reinforcements have been landed

in Malaya; Nevertheless, the well informed people ~~on~~  
*Singapore Island*  
~~the fortress~~ look upon the situation on the northern

*- near Penang - as*  
front ~~as well as~~ critical. The British Imperial

forces have fallen back again to hold a line across

the isthmus about three hundred miles north of Singapore.

*1* *2* *A* It is rumored in Singapore that the first real pitched  
battle of that Malayan campaign will soon be fought.

Sir Robert Brook-Popham, the Imperial Commander-in-Chief,  
admits that the British Imperial army has lost a large  
part of northern Malaya, but that, he adds, is only  
temporary.

~~There's no official news, by the way, about~~  
~~these reinforcements.~~ *reported* The Japanese are advancing

steadily, ~~and if they keep on as they are going, they~~

~~will soon be in command of good communications to the south.~~

The British Commander-in-Chief announced today that the success of the Japanese in northern Malaya was due to another piece of treachery. Numerous Jap soldiers had filtered into Malaya, disguised as harmless natives. They were lightly equipped and wore clothes quite unlike uniforms, with the result that British soldiers came in contact with them but did not identify them. Being able to live in the country with a minimum of supplies, they infiltrated successfully and took the British by surprise.



## RUSSIA

Word comes today that the general staff of the Red Armies is now concerned principally with <sup>checking</sup> ~~preventing~~ the German retreat. Don't let them get away, is the order of the day, <sup>— catch the Nazis!</sup> a continued retreat by the Nazi Army must be prevented at all costs, German troops <sup>as the Russians. Destroy the</sup> ~~destroyed~~ <sup>right where they are!</sup> ~~where they stand.~~ "Surround and destroy," is the latest Soviet slogan.

PRAVDA, the official newspaper, says magniloquently "The tremendous battle of Moscow has been won." <sup>1</sup> <sup>H</sup> The Reds announce the destruction of several German forces, one tank division, and two infantry divisions, in the Volokolamsk area; two infantry divisions and two regiments of another division on the Finnish front, with numerous tanks, field guns, and assorted other material. <sup>H Nevertheless the</sup> ~~At the same time, it is noticeable that the~~ Nazis are still holding territory around the Sea of Azov, <sup>in the South. They are not running</sup> ~~in that sector.~~

*tells how*  
A later broadcast from Leningrad ~~announced that~~  
the Red Army in the north has cleaned the German <sup>s</sup>~~troops~~  
*from* *line*  
~~out of~~ the railroad leading east from Leningrad. The ~~re~~  
German retreat, they said, has become a disorderly rout.

# HITLER

Adolf Hitler once more has the world guessing.

Where will he strike, now that he has fired his

*professional*

~~xxxxxxx~~ Commander-in-Chief and taken over the

leadership of the Army himself? We have to remember

that for all the German casualties reported by the

Soviets, even if they are accurate, those Nazi hordes

are still like the sands of the desert - almost beyond

number. They still constitute the most formidable

military machine of all time.

Through a story from London, we learn that

there should be no wishful thinking about Hitler's

latest piece of drama. The story reports that in London

nobody has been fooled into believing that the Nazi

Fuehrer's decision means a German collapse or anything

like it. London <sup>*feels*</sup> ~~believes~~ that so far from being an omen

of a slackening of German effort, it portends a lashing

out of Nazi power in a fresh direction.

The British experts concede that the dismissal of von Brauchitsch may be interpreted as blaming the Field Marshall because the campaign in Russia fell short of Hitler's promise -- Christmas in Moscow. That Hitler's ~~xxx~~ assumption of the supreme command is intended as a coup to offset all the German disappointment and the grim and dismal feelings which must have been provoked by Goebbels's proclamation of the day before, the proclamation which called for the German civilians to give up every last bit of woolen - winter clothing for the use of the Army. The object of Hitler's move therefore would be to inculcate a spirit that might be expressed as follows: "that the Fuehrer now has command himself, therefore everything will be different." I wonder if the German people will believe that?

At any rate, London expects a strong attack in Africa. In the British capital it is admitted that the Germans and Italians have been able to land war

materials and reinforcements in North Africa even including tanks. But the London theory is that Libya won't be the main point of attack. The British revert to their previous expectation, of an onslaught through Spain, which, the Germans hope, would be promptly followed by the collaboration of the French in North Africa, now that Nazi intrigues have succeeded in procuring the downfall of General Weygand.

And here's a significant later dispatch from the Spanish capital. The German Ambassador to Spain has just left Madrid for Berlin. And a Spanish newspaper carries a dispatch from Hitler's capital announcing that important military surprises may be expected soon. All of which may point a finger at a Nazi thrust through Spain.



## LIBYA

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An adventure book story comes out of Libya today. For weeks a mechanized British column had been roving around in the swirling sand of the desert and was reported lost. Today it turns out that this lost column found itself with a vengeance. Instead of being lost, it advanced far beyond the front lines of the British Imperial Army and made its way a hundred and fifty miles over the border into Tripolitania. On the way it captured a couple of oases held by the Axis, and then disappeared from the ken of men.

The first to become aware that it wasn't lost was a <sup>stream</sup>~~column~~ of Italians and Germans hustling in a headlong retreat down the coast of Cyrenaica toward Tripoli.

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The lost British column swooped down out of a dust storm and blocked the way of the retreating Axis forces, going west from Benghazi. And the officers of that lost column reported that from what they could see,

the enemy appears to be trying to get its equipment away from Benghazi.

The latest reports from Cairo are that the British outposts are only twenty-five miles away from Benghazi, the modern capital of Cyrenaica.

The <sup>center</sup>~~thick~~ of that battle is now <sup>somewhere</sup>~~being fought~~

along shores that have considerable historical meaning to us. In the first few years of the last century, United States marines were landed on that coast, fighting the corsairs of Tripoli, under Commodore Preble, and the unforgettable Stephen Decatur. In that war, <sup>which</sup>~~that~~ lasted from Eighteen One to Eighteen Five, the principal landing of the marines was at Derna, which the British were supposed to have captured last week, and that's what the marines mean when they sing their song:

"From the halls of Montezuma, to the shore<sup>s</sup> of Tripoli."

## NAVAL STRENGTH

Congress is gradually preparing for the day  
when we <sup>are to</sup> ~~shall~~ have <sup>that</sup> a two-ocean Navy. It's quite a while  
off yet - Nineteen Forty-Seven is the date now set for  
the completion of that super-<sup>- combination</sup> ~~collection~~ of fleets.  
<sup>Meaning</sup> ~~That means~~ more sailors, <sup>and</sup> ~~also~~ more marines. At present  
the Navy is not supposed to have more than three  
hundred thousand enlisted men, and the Marine Corps  
sixty thousand. The Senate today passed a bill which  
will raise the enlisted strength to five hundred thousand  
gobs, and a hundred and four <sup>thousand</sup> leathernecks. The bill <sup>was</sup> ~~is~~  
passed unanimously, with no debate, and is now up to the  
House, which has already passed a similar measure.

PRESS AGENT

Another announcement made by the Navy today was the appointment of a new press relations officer. That job in future will be done by Lieutenant-Commander Paul C. Smith of the United States Naval Reserve.

*fiery, red-headed*  
To take that office, <sup>^</sup>Commander Smith obtained leave of absence from his job in civil life, which is being ~~xxx~~ editor and general manager of the SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE. In other words, a highly qualified and capable newspaperman is to have the duty of keeping contact with the newspapers on behalf of the Navy; *which seems like an altogether sensible idea.*

## FIRING

8 Heavy explosions were heard off the shore of Delaware this afternoon. ~~They were~~ heard by officers and sentries at a fort somewhere along the shore. The commanding officer of the fort reported that the sounds were very clear though there were no visible indications of gunfire.



## CHRISTMAS

There will be no Roosevelt grandchildren at the White House for Christmas, and consequently no Christmas party for children. Also, for the first time, there will be no stockings hanging from the President's mantelpiece. For this is a wartime Christmas. The only youngster present will be little Diana Hopkins, the ten year old daughter of Harry Hopkins, the Lend-Lease Administrator. Her stocking will be hung from the mantelpiece in the room occupied by her father., and she will celebrate with him.

On the night before Christmas, there was the time hallowed custom of Mr. Roosevelt reading Dickens' Christmas Carol to the entire family assembled. The First Lady said today that even that will probably be omitted this year.

But one custom will be followed as usual: on Christmas morning the President, Mrs. Roosevelt, and all the guests, will go to church. And there will be the usual family dinner on Thursday evening. The

family Christmas tree will be in the upstairs corridor.

A tree presented by Senator Brewster of Maine on behalf of his state.

Now Hugh!.

## CHURCHILL

Here's a real surprise. A bare few minutes ago, the wires from Washington brought us the news that British Prime Minister Winston Churchill is in this country, conferring with President Roosevelt. The news took even the most alert civilian observers by surprise, though presumably it was not unexpected by the President and other high officials of the government.

The Prime Minister naturally is a guest at the White House tonight, and for as long as he will remain in the United States.

The dispatch from Washington reads as follows -  
I'll give it to you word for word:

(Dispatch read)