

P.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, Jan. 29, 1942.

HERO

The first war-time Congressional Medal of Honor was presented today, that highest decoration which this nation awards for heroism in battle.

It's granted to Second Lieutenant Alexander Nininger, whom they call <sup>ed</sup> "Sandy." The award is posthumous - for Lieutenant Sandy Nininger, in his deed of heroism, gave his life.

In the Batan peninsula, a swarm of Japanese sharpshooters were stopping an American counter-attack.

Sandy Nininger's outfit was not in the action, but he attached himself to another company that was <sup>heavily</sup> making

<sup>engaged,</sup> ~~the attack,~~ ~~was~~ That's a cardinal factor in today's award

of the Congressional Medal, which is granted for heroism above and beyond the call of duty. ~~Sandy~~

Sandy Nininger, with a rifle and a hand-grenade, fought his way forward and killed several enemy snipers.

46  
When they found him, ~~there were~~ a Japanese officers and two Japanese soldiers <sup>lay</sup> dead beside him.

The War Department announces that the <sup>hon</sup> posthumous medal will be presented to Lieutenant Nininger's father, a motion picture theatre manager in Florida. His sorrowing father and mother said today:- "If it had to happen, it was the way he wanted it to be - we are proud of him."

PHILIPPINES

Tonight's bulletin from the War Department gives us a message from Philippine President Manuel Quezon. He states the enemy now controls not more than one-third of Philippine territory. "In the remaining areas," says <sup>Z</sup>Quezon "constitutional government is still in operation under my authority." <sup>HP</sup> He is somewhere in the islands, location not given-- still carrying on. And Quezon's message as transmitted by General MacArthur reaffirms what it calls:- "The determination of the people of the Philippines to continue fighting side by side with the United States until victory is won."

As for the fighting in the Batan Peninsula -- another Japanese attack beaten off. Infantry assaults, which General MacArthur describes with the vigorous adjective -- "headlong." <sup>these</sup> ~~The headlong attacks~~ were met by American artillery fire, and were repelled. The General's communique reads as follows:- "Headlong enemy infantry assaults on the right and left flanks

47

of our troops in the Batan Peninsula were broken up  
by our artillery fire. Enemy losses were heavy, "so  
it concludes,

## MALAYA

The Japanese enemy is now within thirty miles of Singapore, and is attacking along a line about that distance from the city. Today's bulletin tells how Australians made a violent counter-attack with the bayonet, and drove the Japanese back. But meanwhile, the Australians were outflanked, and had to retire.

The Malayan campaign is coming to a supreme crisis, with the enemy only thirty miles away from the great naval base. And today Prime Minister Churchill spoke of the prospects of their assault on the island of Singapore, which would indicate that he considered an attack on the island itself to be at hand.

In Burma, American and British air forces scored another big success in the sky. They had a

48  
battle with a large formation of Japanese bombers trying to blast Rangoon. It was a wild dogfight high aloft, and the Japanese loss is given as an official total of thirteen planes shot down, and maybe four more. Only one American fighting craft was destroyed - a Texan - the American pilot slightly injured. Rangoon now gives a total of Japanese air losses as a hundred and twelve planes - destroyed during the day-by-day battles of the sky.

On the ground, there's nothing to report. The Japs have been at a standstill for several days now - in the sector east of the City of Moulmein.

## AUSTRALIA

The Australians are still complaining about the British attitude toward the Battle of the Pacific. Today War Minister Ford took issue with something Prime Minister Churchill said the other day - the Churchill statement that a Japanese invasion of Australia was most unlikely. "We cling to our own view of the danger," says the Australian Minister of War, and said that an invasion <sup>a logical</sup> ~~was a likely~~ possibility.

49

Meanwhile, Australian troops have been attacking enemy ships off New Britain, and report that six have been bombed. You can add this to the Japanese losses in that surprising battle of the straits of Macassar - in which the Americans and the Dutch are still slashing at Japanese war vessels and transports. Today American planes sank still another transport out there. London today stated that a total of forty-three enemy vessels have either been sunk or damaged in the continuing victory of Macassar.

## CHURCHILL

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill won a triumphant vote of confidence in the House of Commons today -- almost unanimous, only one vote cast against him.

The most interesting part of the Churchill declarations today concerned American forces sent to North Ireland. People are asking \* "WHY? What are they doing in North Ireland?" Churchill gave several points of explanation. He said, for example, that the powerful American force in Ulster will tend to keep Hitler from trying an invasion of Britain. Churchill said that such an invasion was Hitler's last remaining hope of victory, and he'd scarcely try it now -- with the Americans in North Ireland.

Churchill's comment on the protest made by Dublin Prime Minister deValera is this:- He said the Americans in Ireland cannot, in his words, "do deValera any harm, and might do him good -- as it offers a measure of protection for southern Ireland.". In other words, the Americans are there, if the Nazis should try to invade Ireland.



## LIBYA

The latest report from Libya places the German panzer divisions sixteen miles southeast of Benghazi. Cairo explains this by saying that General Rommel made a lightning shift of his attack, swung to the north, and struck at the Benghazi area. The Nazi North Africa Corps was heavily bombed by the Royal Air Force, but it kept going.

A British spokesman stated today that Rommel might be able to cut the communications of the British units in Benghazi, and thereby create another Tobruk -- with the British in Benghazi under siege. However, Berlin and Rome today claimed the capture of Benghazi, and that would seem to indicate that it's no case of the British being trapped for a siege. In London, British quarters said they had no information to confirm the Axis claim of the capture of Benghazi.

RUSSIA

In Russia, the Red Army has launched a big offensive on the southern front - the Ukraine. They are striking in the neighborhood of Kharkov, and state that they have smashed the Nazi lines for a big break-through at the town of Kursk. <sup>And</sup> They <sup>are</sup> trying to re-take the important city of Kharkov by a flanking operation, <sup>The Russians</sup> and announce an advance of ninety-five miles.

## PEARL HARBOR

There will be no investigation by the House of Representatives in the Pearl Harbor attack. That was decided by the House Naval Affairs Committee today -- the vote was fourteen to six. This was a victory for the administration leaders, who worked to head off an inquiry into the facts presented by the Roberts Report.

It would appear that the Committee decision against an inquiry was influenced by a revelation that the Secretary of War made today. Secretary Stimson disclosed that unity of command has already been established among some of the most important forces of the Army, Navy and Air Corps. He revealed for example, that unity of direction has been established in Hawaii. The Roberts Report showed a lack of cooperation between the Admiral and the General, but now Hawaii is under the command of Admiral Nimitz, and the Army Commander, General Emmons, is subordinate to him.

President Roosevelt is discussing F.B.I. affairs with Director J. Edgar Hoover. They're talking over ways to broaden the war-time powers of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Presidential Secretary Steve Early said today that the President has noted with much interest the big part Japanese espionage played in the sudden blow of December Seventh -- Hawaii a beehive of Japanese spies. Had there been enough counter-espionage, the enemy surprise plan might have been detected. There are reports that J. Edgar Hoover's men had a good deal of suspicion, but lacked the authority to do anything much about it.

All of which has led President Roosevelt to summon Director J. Edgar Hoover to the White House for the purpose of talking over -- more power to the F.B.I. White House Secretary Early said that one point of the discussion concerns -- wire tapping. At present the F.B.I.'s authority to listen in on telephone calls is severely limited.

Secretary Early summarized it all in the following words:- "The President's feeling," said he, "is that the handcuffs ought to be taken off the F.B.I. -- and put somewhere else." Put the handcuffs on the spies -- in other words.

SUBMARINES

Once again we have an intimation that the Navy has been making successful attacks against Nazi subs. The destruction of U-boats is a military secret. That's for the psychological effect that secrecy is calculated to have on the enemy. A week ago, however, a Navy spokesman stated that some of the submarines that have been sinking ships off our coast would never enjoy the return voyage home - indicating that we had sunk or captured some. <sup>AP</sup> And that's followed today by further word to the same effect. Members of the Naval Appropriations sub-committee of the Senate told of things revealed to them by Secretary of the Navy Knox. They gave no details, but stated that, ~~in his words:~~ in his words: - American warships are "getting a number of enemy submarines."

557

The late Navy bulletin tonight chimes in

SUBMARINES - 2

by describing United States action against the off-shore U-boats as -- "increasingly effective."

CONFERENCE

The word from Rio is -- homeward bound, the hemisphere delegates on their way back to their various countries. And another theme is -- United States war materials for Brazil.

This, of course, follows Brazil's dramatic action -- breaking diplomatic relations with the Axis just as the conference came to an end. Throughout the hemisphere deliberations, the fear was expressed that the enemy nations might try some sort of revenge against the Latin-American republics that lined up with the United States. So they'd need the means of defending themselves, armament. <sup>Well,</sup> Brazil is going to get the defense equipment -- and naturally it has to come from the United States.

56  
Brazil's break with the Axis leaves only two Latin-American republics still maintaining normal diplomatic contacts with <sup>our</sup> the war enemies <sup>these are Argentina</sup> ~~of the United States and Chile~~. At the conference Argentina led in the dissent to the general agreement to line up with the United States. It was at the insistence of Buenos Aires that



the Rio resolution was limited to a mere recommendation of an all-western hemisphere break with the Axis.

And today, right to the end, Argentina continued to be out of step -- though not in the same fashion. This time by way of ~~way~~ ~~This time~~ an aviation accident. When an airplane takes a plunge into a bay, that's being out of step in an entirely different fashion.

The Buenos Aires delegate, Dr. Guinazu, started for home in a big Argentine passenger plane, but he didn't get very far. As the liner was taking off, it suddenly did a nose dive into the sea, and ducked under. Luckily, some cadets of a Brazilian naval school were nearby, and they did good work in pulling out the twelve passengers in the plane -- including Dr. Guinazu, <sup>who</sup> ~~he~~ was bruised a bit, and other persons aboard were injured, but no lives were lost.

## BIRTHDAY

57

The Senate adjourned today, taking a recess until Monday. The final deliberations before calling it a day, concerned a birthday - the President's Sixtieth. Democratic and Republican leaders joined in offering their felicitations. Senator Barkley of Kentucky said: "No man in the history of the country has ever reached the age of sixty with greater responsibility resting on his shoulders."

Republican leader/Senator McNarry of Oregon expressed his congratulations in these words:- "I wish him good health and happiness, now and in the years to come - and may he reign uninterruptedly until January, NineteenForty-Five." To which the echo murmurs -

Are you so sure, Senator, about <sup>only until</sup> Nineteen Forty-Five?

~~But, anyway,~~ <sup>So</sup> even during war-time and on birthdays, we can't forget our politics. And no good Republican can be quite unconscious of the next presidential

election - with the pious hope that it will be a little different from NineteenThirty-Two, Nineteen Thirty-Six, and Nineteen Forty.

But back to birthdays - I am told that this ~~year~~ year's national celebration will be the biggest ever.

I learned this <sup>today from</sup> ~~from the office of~~ Keith Morgan,

National Chairman of the President's Birthday Ball

Committee. He tells me that this year more people will

dance, thousands more; and, more coins are rolling

along <sup>in</sup> ~~to~~ the March of Dimes, millions more. <sup>Chairman</sup> Keith

Morgan says that the nation is paying honor to its

war-time leader by increasing its allegiance to his

favorite charity - the fight against infantile

paralysis.

And now about still another birthday -

Washington's. It's mentioned in the news announcing

the next presidential fireside chat. White House

58

58 1/2  
Secretary Early stated today that many requests are coming in, asking the President to give the country another statement about the war. - "To dissipate ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ poisonous, troublesome rumors," said Steve Early, "and to, in so far as possible, give the country a clear and better understanding of the war and all that it involves." Those are Steve's words, and I hope you noted the split infinitive. ~~It's a wonder!~~ I don't know that I've ever heard an infinitive split so far apart as in those words - "to, in so far as possible, give." I hope we can split the Axis in as large and violent a way, Steve!

59  
The President ~~feels the justice of the~~  
~~a request for a statement, but,~~ thinks that right now a fireside chat ~~along those lines~~ would not be timed right. F.D.R. is great for timing, and the birthday of the Founder of American Liberty will certainly be an appropriate occasion for ~~a presidential radio report on~~

BIRTHDAY - 4

appropriate occasion for a presidential radio report  
on the war.

And a report of  
great importance from

59 1/2 Hughes