

L.T. SUNOCO. Tuesday, March 24, 1942
(SUN VALLEY)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am still in Idaho tonight. Still at Sun Valley. Leaving for Utah in the morning. The most important news that has come ~~xix~~ in over my special wire from New York seems to be the story from the Philippines!

There's surprise news from the Philippines. A Japanese motor column attacked near Zamboanga, a city on the island of Mindanao, which has rather been lost to the world in the sweep of Japanese conquest. Today, however, makes it clear that we still have fighting forces in operation on Mindanao. Tonight's War Department bulletin, in telling of the attack on the enemy motor column, states that the blow was struck by Philippine forces, which scored a brilliant success. They inflicted heavy loss on

the enemy and lost only one man of their own.

From ~~that other big Philippine Island,~~
Luzon, the word is that the Japs have been bombing
the Batan Peninsula and the fortress of Corregidor
with heavy assaults. Fifty-four enemy planes did
the air raiding, and they are described as being of
a new type. Three of them were shot down, and turned
out to be heavy bombers of a type that has not
hitherto been seen;

NEW GUINEA

The Japs today struck heavily at Port Moresby, key point on the southern coast of New Guinea. Dropping twenty tons of bombs, in two days, they hit Port Moresby with three hundred ponderous missiles of high explosives. Yet the explosives have not caused a single casualty. Accurate air raid fire is said to be responsible for the inaccuracy of the enemy aim. In today's raid by eighteen planes, at least one was shot down.

Our side has been hitting back with the same weapons - war planes and bombs. Tonight's army communique gives us details of a raid by American-Australian planes against the Japs on the North Coast of New Guinea. They blasted an airfield and destroyed three Jap bombers. Ten fighters and two other aircraft. A direct hit was scored on an ammunition dump. Two American planes lost.

OFFENSIVE

Today we have a curious unanimity of opinion on both sides of the war fence -- Australian and Japanese. From the land down under -- brave and heartening ~~xxxxxx~~ words. Australian Prime Minister John Curtin declares that the war has now reached a stage where the future holds for Japan - "increasing disappointment and retreat." This pronouncement follows weekend conferences between the Australian Prime Minister and General MacArthur.

Another high Australian official puts it this way - "We shall seek out the enemy and shower on him our heaviest blows." And these attitudes have a Chinese echo -- China's vice-Foreign Minister Stating that the Japs have now reached the peak of their military glory, while the United Nations are rising in power for a great counter offensive.

You would hardly expect the Japs to agree with these sentiments, but they do more or less. "Japan is now on the defensive, and the

the Anglo-American powers are on the offensive." This opinion comes from the German radio and is attributed to a Japanese naval spokesman who goes on to say that the sea power of the United Nations is due to increase greatly during Nineteen Forty - Two. And, the Japanese spokesman adds: "The enemy will then be sure to attempt attacks launched from Hawaii, New Zealand, Samoa and other points."

The Japanese spokesman next turns to a discussion of the belief that the Japanese conquest of the Indies has put the immense wealth in those areas at Tokyo's disposal, and that the Japanese Empire is now therefore invincible. That, he says, is a great mistake. He explains that Japan does indeed possess the natural resources of the Indies but is not yet able to develop them in a practical way.

All of which is subduing and rather pessimistic talk -- and we wonder what kind of propaganda it is. Maybe the Japs intend to consolidate

OFFENSIVE- 3

the conquests they have made, No new invasions.

Maybe they are preparing Japanese
public opinion for that kind of policy -- defensively.

INDIA

Out in India the Englishman with a long lean face has begun as momentous a series of conversations as have ever been held. Sir Stafford Cripps has begun his conferences with Indian leaders. We have what seems like a sound hint that Cripps is authorized to offer Indian independence along the lines of the British agreement with Egypt. Meaning, internal autonomy with British control of foreign affairs.

SOVIETS

Soviet Russia reports what may possibly be a preliminary of the Nazi spring drive.

Unofficial reports at Moscow stated today that the German command has thrown into the fighting along the Russian front more than thirty-eight divisions - about a half a million men. With these new great forces, the Nazis are starting what are called - large scale counter-attacks. This follows a new outbreak of violent air battles during the past several days.

BRITAIN

The British are still concerned about the possibility of a Nazi invasion -- and London today tells of defense plans if the blitzkrieg should succeed in forcing a landing on the Isle of Britain.

The home guards would operate as guerrilla bands -- like the Soviet guerrillas in Russia. A campaign is on urging all Britons to join the home guard.

The authorities are telling the people they should not clog the roads, if the Nazis should come. They should not reproduce the refugee handicap of Belgium and France -- streams of refugees blocking the roads to military traffic.

In the event of invasion -- will England scorch the earth? Will the British burn and wreck everything in the path of the invader, as the Soviets have done so relentlessly in Russia? The answer is -- no. Today in the House of Commons,

Sir John Anderson, Lord President of the Council, made the statement that if the Germans should land, the British government would not invoke a general policy of scorched earth.

But the British are not thinking entirely about the defense of their island. This is indicated in a London dispatch announcing the establishment of a general staff on war production. A control board is being appointed to coordinate all British war production -- turn out more armament! Headed by an economist of international fame -- Sir Walter Leyton. The reason is given by a London spokesman in the following words: "We are about to see new campaigns started, and we must play our part."

And here comes the British Army announcing something new -- the formation of a British Army Air Corps. Hitherto, John Bull's power in the sky has been signified by those three familiar initials - R.A.F. True, the King's Navy has had a force of

its own, a naval air army. But except for that, all has been R.A.F. Warplane support for the British army has hitherto been provided by the Royal Air Force.

However, in previous campaigns there have been complaints that the R.A.F. has not adequately supported the ground forces -- in Belgium and Crete. And now they are to have a flying force of their own for closer cooperation.

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The British Army is planning air brone invasions, forming large units of sky troops ~~xx~~ -- to be landed by parachute, transport plane and glider. The British say they are organizing air invasions that will eclipse the German sky descent on Crete.

All of which adds a larger meaning to another bit of news -- more Canadian in Britain.

ITALIAN BATTLESHIP

London announces the torpedoing of an Italian battleship and confirms yesterday's rumor of a big naval fight in the Mediterranean that went on for several days. This same engagement has been reported by Rome -- with the claim that a British cruiser and two other ships have been sunk by Italian torpedo attacks.

The conflict at sea began with a powerful British convoy trying to force a passage to Malta. Supplies for that island so near the Italian coast. Tonight's British communique, in terse military language, gives a vigorous account of action at sea. "Details have not yet been received", the London story then goes on, "but it is known that the enemy was driven off without damage to our ships."

SUN VALLEY

It's not yet five o'clock mountain time, out here at Sun Valley. And the sun is still pouring down on these completely snow-covered Sawtooth Mountains. I can see a dozen snowy peaks right outside the window. And it's difficult to keep my eyes off of them. Sitting beside me are three of the top flight ski jumpers of the world, Torger Tokle and Alf Engen, both Norwegian-Americans; and Art Devlin of Lake Placid, a young American who is sure going places through the air on the flying skis these days. Torger Tokle is the lad who has our eyes popping with his leaps of nearly three hundred feet. And Alf Engen and Art Devlin are right behind him. They have just arrived to take part in one of the great ski events of the year, this weekend, for the Harriman Cup.

INTRO TO GOV. CLARK

The Governor of Idaho, Governor Chase Clark -- and his lady -- have driven all the way over from Boise , the state capitol, to be with me during tonight's broadcast. This country, in several ways reminds me of Australia. The people are so open-hearted and expansive, and so is the country. To drive a couple of hundred miles just to say "Howdy" is ~~just~~ the natural thing for Idahoans to do.

The moment I saw the Governor I knew he must be the Governor or at least a United States Senator. He has the manner, and the leonine hair. Something like Senator Borah whom we all used to admire ~~so much~~ years ago.

How are things out here in your state, Governor? Has the war affected Idaho much?

GOV. CLARK:- It sure has, Lowell. As you mentioned on the air last night we have been training bomber pilots, near Boise, for some time. And now

we are building another big air training base in the Coeur d'Alene. And we are getting ready to build a big plant for the relining of those big naval guns.

L.T.:- Governor, when you mention the Coeur d'Alene that reminds me of things that happened a long time ago. When I was a youngster upin the Cripple Creek mining district in Colorado, one morning somebody touched off a lot of dynamite under the Independence Depot, and my dad who wasa mining surgeon in that gold camp, went up the mountain to pick up the pieces. A man named Harry Orchard was charged with that appalling crime. Later, as you know so well, he was charged with murdering one of your predecessors, Governor Steuremberg of Idaho. Young William A. Borah was the prosecutor of that famous trial in the Coeur d'Alene, and young Clarence Darrow defended Harry Orchard. The case made both Borah and Darrow famous. Darrow won, as I recall. But Harry Orchard

FINALLY WENT TO PRISON. Whatever became of Harry Orchard, anyhow?

GOV. CLARK:- He's right here in the State Penitentiary. He's still there. And he's running the prison vegetable garden. What's more he came up before me recently, asking for a pardon. But he didn't get it. I figured he was a lot better off looking after those vegetables!

L.T.: Everybody seems to be all steamed up over the Japanese question, out here in the West, Governor. What do you people in Idaho think about it?

GOV. CLARK:- Well, the Japs are coming into Idaho right now. And I guess we don't mind too much, so long as it's only temporary. But we want to make quite sure they skedaddle out of here when the war is over! The notion of allowing them to come her and buy up our gorgeous land in the Snake River Valley just won't go. We don't think much of the idea of fighting them on the other side of the ocean

and at the same time sell out our state to them!
And, Lowell, I'd like to add one word more. You
know, Idaho is called "The Gem of the Mountains,"
The wealth of this state hasn't been touched yet.
We're mighty glad you came out to visit us. And
we hope all the folks back East ^{will} follow your example.
Come on out to Idaho, folks!

LABOR

President Roosevelt today stated his belief that part of the public demand for labor legislation is an organized agitation. He said he didn't know to what degree the grass roots campaign of letters and telegrams urging war time labor laws, is the doings of what he called the Fifth Column or the Sixth column. But he thinks it's largely artificial.

The President this afternoon repeated his opposition to the labor bill in Congress -- the measure that would suspend the forty hour week for the duration of the war.

The President's opinion about the popular demand for labor legislation was echoed by war production chief Donald Nelson. He told a Congressional committee that he was suspicious of public sentiment campaigns "that seem to spring up all over the country." Said he, "If I were Hitler, and as skilled in propaganda as he is supposed to be,

I'd try to create dissention between employers and employees in this country. But he went on to say that he had no evidence that the volume of mail and telegrams to Congress was inspired by Axis agents.

FISH

I know you'll think I am guilty of a mispronunciation, as I rattle off this next headline -- saying that Guf ~~Dk~~ Klie today established a fishing record. It sounds as if it ought to be Gus Klie -- Gus being a good name for a fisherman. But the new champ's first name is Guf -- which also is not a bad name for a hook and line artist considering the fish stories they tell.

However, there's no guff in today's news from Miami, which states that Guf Dk~~l~~ie of North Bergen, N.J., set an all-time record catching a bonefish weighing twelve pounds and nine ounces. The bone fish is one of the gamest of the game, and today's big one is five ounces above the previous world record. So, as a fisherman Guf isn't taking any guff from anybody.

END

Idaho is famous for its fishing. Young Truman Talley, Jr., has been telling me about it for years. They pull some of the gamest trout in the world out of Silver Creek and the Salmon and Lost Rivers near here. In fact, I see Governor Clark clearing his throat and edging toward the microphone. I can tell by the look on his face -- his weatherbeaten Idaho fisherman's face -- that he wants to tell us his favorite fish story.

Sorry, Governor, but Red Sander, our N.B.C. engineer from San Francisco is motioning that our time is up. Also my three day vacation in Sun Valley. Time is up on that. But I hope to come back to Idaho next year. I hope you'll tell us your Lost River fish story then, Governor.

And now back to N.Y. where Hugh James is going to say solong for me