

L.T. - SUNOCO . MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1942  
(SUN VALLEY)

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am broadcasting from Idaho tonight. Outside the window are the lofty Sawtooth Mountains, buried deep with Spring snow. On my short swing around the country to get away from my usual New York City background, I have dropped off at Sun Valley. Being an ardent skier, and having heard ~~my friends~~ ~~tell~~ of the wonders of Sun Valley, I decided to stop here for a day or two and find out whether there could possibly be such a fabulous place. Yesterday and tonight I found out -- I discovered that it's even more amazing than I expected.

But how about the news of the world? All afternoon I have been getting it over a special Western Union wire, from Australia, the Middle East, London, Washington and so on.

## RUSSIA

In Russia, the Soviet spokesmen are hinting at an important victory either won, or about to be won. They declare the Red Armies in the north have surrounded an ancient walled city on the Leningrad front north of Lake Ilmen. The dispatches from the Red Army in the field don't mention the name of the city but the implication is that it's Novgorod, the key position on that front

The fighting in that sector has been the most bitter of the whole winter. However, it is evident that the Nazis are still holding on to Staraya Russa, south of Lake Ilmen. Although the Soviet Army has had it surrounded and has been battering at it for weeks.

The Red fighters appear to be considerably pepped up by the arrival of Airacobra fighter planes from the United States, in considerable numbers. Officially they are known as P-39's; and the Army newspaper Red Star declares they are superior to

the German Messerschmitts and that the Russians now have enough of them to make an important showing.

## PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, much tension but apparently no fighting. For almost two days now the hardy defenders of Batan have been waiting for the zero hour that the Japanese General Yamashita promised them if they did not give in by noon yesterday. This is interpreted as deliberate strategy on the part of the Japanese, just spinning out the delay to make the American and Filipino soldiers all the more anxious. But there's no sign of anxiety in General Wainwright's army. Instead, he sent a message -- speaking for the entire Batan force -- to General MacArthur; a message of affectionate greetings and congratulations. It promised MacArthur to continue the defense of the Philippines with the same zeal and courage they had shown while he was on the spot. And it told how they are confident that with him to lead the armies of the United Nations of Australia and the Philippines they and he will triumph over the aggressor.

Meanwhile, the high commissioner of the Philippines Francis T. Sayre, had lunch with President Roosevelt at the White House today. He brought the President a present, a sword taken from the body of a dead Japanese General killed on Bata Peninsula.

LEAD

The actual fighting in the Pacific War seems to have been mostly in the air for the last twenty-four hours on the spacious Australian front, The Japanese have been bringing up their heaviest sky forces. Two more attacks they made on Port Moresby, that crucial place commanding the Strait of Torres.

How close far off Port Moresby in New Guinea, appears to us today! How close and how familiar -- and up to a few weeks ago, it was just a remote, rather primitive point that we used to read about in Beatrix Grimshaw's stories of the South Seas. And occasionally as the place where exploring expeditions would outfit and start. When you got there on your travels, it was not much of a place to look at. Picturesque enough, but small and primitive. Nothing of importance ever happened there, except an occasional barroom fight. The arrival of the steamer <sup>from</sup> ~~at~~ Sydney used to be almost an epochal event.

But today the question whether Port Moresby can hold out is important to all of us. The Japanese with their heaviest bombers, delivered their two fiercest attacks there on the eighteenth and nineteenth of this month. Prime Minister Curtin of Australia, says they didn't accomplish anything important although four of the enemy fighters came down to within two hundred feet of tree tops, with cannon blazing and machine guns rattling. They lost two fighter planes, the Japanese had nineteen bombers accompanied by many navy fighters. The theory is that the real purpose of these raids is to soften up the place preliminary to all-out Jap attack that has been expected now for weeks.

Today's communique from the War Department reports that over the weekend American Army planes destroyed eleven Japanese aircraft in raids on Rabaul in New Britain and Lae in New Guinea. Plus the two planes shot down in the Japanese raids on Port Moresby.

In Australia there has just been a conference between General MacArthur and Australian leaders. Minister Forde and Major General Sturdee took part in it. Quite a lot of discussion is necessary to work out all the problems involved in establishing a unified command. Reading between the lines we gather that one of the principal difficulties is to satisfy the demands of London. All the Australian officers, as well as the Civilian officials, are most enthusiastic about MacArthur and about giving him supreme command.

~~Essentials of an agreement can be accomplished.~~



CRIPPS

Sir Stafford Cripps, the British Lord Privy Seal, is now in India as Prime Minister Churchill's personal representative. He landed at New Delhi today with a considerable party, there to negotiate that long delayed business of further independence for India. He said he would be there only two weeks that he is confident he will be able to finish his conferences with the Indian leaders that soon.

There is no time to lose, no time for a prolonged discussion, He declared.

With energy and good will, he believes the essentials of an agreement can be accomplished.

-----0-----

In Burma, too the Japanese are bringing up their strongest aerial resources, parachute troops as well as planes. But there a battle was also fought on the ground. The Japanese claim to have captured Toungoo, apparently the most important

point on that front. However, there is evidence that this claim is false, from Chungking we get the report of a heavy battle thirty-five miles to the south of Toungoo, a battle between Japanese and the Chinese forces sent to Burma by Chiang Kai Shek. In the battle of Burma, the enemy apparently is not relying so much on those infiltration tactics used in Malaya and Java, as upon parachute troops.

And they are throwing large numbers of warplanes into the fight.

The word from Chungking is that the American Volunteer Group, the Flying Tigers, are sorely in need of plane reinforcements. In one raid on an airdrome, the Japanese had a hundred bombers on the job and the fact that only two planes were shot down while several of the Allies are missing, is an indication that the Japanese may be getting the upper hand in the air over Burma.

Speaking of aviators Miss Claudette Colbert has been meeting a lot of them lately.

CLAUDETTE COLBERT

Sitting beside me are several rather well known people with whom I have been doing a little skiing. Otto Lang, skier, author, and director of ski films you have ~~not~~ seen. The U.S. Army Ski Troops were here at Sun Valley not long ago, and Otto was helping Uncle Sam on a military ski film that is now being used by the government. And they are getting ready to make another here in these jagged Sawtooth Mountains, one with a Russian war background. Russia in Idaho! Sounds fantastic. But nothing is too fantastic for Sun Valley.

Hollywood's most ardent skier is the movie star, Claudette Colbert. Between films she comes here to recover from the grind of long hours under the hot lights, before the cameras, with directors shouting at you. Although I'm sure they never shout at her. How is she as a skier? Well, I've been trying to follow her down one of those snowy mountains. And her form is something

to watch. I mean her skiing form, of course.

There has been an aviation invasion of Sun Valley during the past few days. A striking crowd of Uncle Säm's pilots. Lads who are ~~all~~ through with their training, and now are on their way.

On their way where? Even they don't know. But we all know that our fliers are now in Africa, Australasia, India, the Near East, the Middle East, South America, Alaska -- almost everywhere. You evidently made a great hit with these airmen, Miss Colbert. It was quite evident what they thought of you. But what did you think of them?

MISS C.:- ~~Well~~, I assure you I was a lot more impressed with them than they could possible have been with me. What youngsters they are to be flying those huge fortresses! One of them, that big fellow, Lieutenant O'Connor, from Texas told me when I was dancing with him, that it was glorious to fly through these big bulbous clouds out here

at Sun Valley, for even a couple of weeks. As a special reward when they finish their long months of dangerous training, just before they fly across the seas to fight the Japs and the Nazis they have a few days of glorious fun with their friends, or perhaps their wives? Although most of them looked too young to be married.

L.T.:- That's a corking idea, Miss Colbert.

Let's put it up to Uncle Sam.

STUART CHASE

L.T.: Stuart Chase, the eminent economist, who is also on a swing around the country, <sup>has</sup> stopped ~~here~~ <sup>off</sup> for a couple of days skiing. He has just come in from California, and this morning after digging me out of a snow bank, he told me of an idea he had heard in California, a suggestion made by some of the people out there for having the Japanese do some worthwhile work while the war is on. Tell us about it, Stuart.

CHASE:- It was this, Lowell. Some Californians are urging that large numbers of the Japanese be sent to the Owens Valley, across the Sierras, the valley you just mentioned. They suggest that the Japanese build a model community, or communities, which after the war can be turned over to our wounded soldiers, and their families. So they won't have to be kept in institutions. And where they can live pretty normal lives.

ALIENS

The folks in Pasadena, California today witnessed the spectacle of a large caravan of motor cars and trucks moving east, three hundred and fifty vehicles in the column. In those cars and trucks were the families and household goods of some six hundred Japanese. It was rather like the trek of the Dust Bowl refugees. Only a trek in reverse, in the opposite direction.

The Japanese to be included in ~~xxxxix~~ this caravan, gathered together before sun-up this morning in that famous Pasadena Rose Bowl where they used to play the New Year's Day football games.

In the procession were many youngsters, girls and youths born in the United States, potential citizens. Many of the lads wore sweaters with a letter on them, showing they had played on the teams in high school and colleges. When the procession got going, it was five miles long. At the head of it were three trucks carrying baggage. Every tenth

car was an Army jeep with military police. They were bound for a camp that has been organized in the Owens River Valley, east of the Sierra Nevada and two hundred and thirty miles north of Los Angeles. There are six thousand acres of fertile valley soil there for the Japanese to work. The Government is providing machinery and seeds.



## AXIS

The Republics of South And Central America are getting up on their toes to squelch the spies and agents of the Axis in their midst. With the exception of Argentina and Chile, every government south of the Rio Grande has arrested, German, Italian and Japanese nationals. Closed up many of their organizations and established the strictest kind of regulations.

The scope of the German spy ring was demonstrated in Brazil quite recently. The famous British liner Queen Mary, now a transport, arrived the other day at Rio De Janeiro. Less than one hour after her anchor had dropped in the harbor, it was announced over the Bolivia radio -- on the opposite ~~side~~ of South America; and that in spite of a strict Brazilian censorship on communications.

The police of Rio promptly went on the war path, and carried out a few raids. They arrested thirty persons who had short wave radio transmitters --

five of which were in houses that had been rented in the names of former officials of the Nazi Embassy.

In one of the states of Brazil the police found an organization of Nazi agents headed by a Lutheran clergyman. In the valley of the Amazon and in one mining province, the authorities arrested many Japanese, some of whom had been living close to Brazilian military stations.

-----0-----

Argentina and Chile are the only countries still keeping up diplomatic relations with Italy, Japan and Germany, and there Axis agents are reported to be operating freely.

## LABOR

Production Chief Donald Nelson made an earnest request of labor leaders today. He asked them flatly not to insist upon double time pay for Sundays and holidays, until the war is over. The head of war production had called an emergency meeting of the tycoons of the C.I.O.

John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers was not present. But Philip Murray, President of the C.I.O. and all the other important leaders were there. They heard Nelson utter these words: "We are moving as far as we can towards operation on a seven day three shift basis," The war effort, he pointed out, should not be crippled either by a few selfish employers with eyes on nothing but their profits, or a few blind labor leaders who put personal partisan ambition above the common good.

Philip Murray, President of the C.I.O. declared that there is no group of citizens anywhere in the country more loyal than those who belong

LABOR \* 2

to unions of the C.I.O. He would not speak about American Federation of Labor men of course.

Nelson tried to remove the fears of the unions and he used these words:- "I will not be a part of any attempt to use our need for increased production as a cloak to put something over on labor." He said further: "We are going to see to it that nobody pushes you around, but we are also going to see to it that labor does not push anyone around either."

And now from Sun Valley let's switch a thousand miles and more to Radio City. To you, Hugh.