

NAVY

L.J. - Sumoco. Thursday, Jan. 8, 1942.

A late bulletin from the Navy gives us ~~x~~ the final facts about Wake island - and heroic facts they are. It is now revealed that the small garrison of marines blasted seven Japanese warships, a cruiser, four destroyers, a submarine, and a gunboat. Previous advices indicated that four Jap vessels had fallen victim to that brave and historic defense. But now the final check-up shows - seven.

Tonight's navy bulletin includes a citation by President Roosevelt - honoring ^{all the Wake Island} ~~the~~ marines ~~xxxx~~ under the command of Major Devereaux. The presidential citation says in part:- "These units are commended for their devotion to duty and splendid conduct at their battle stations under most adverse conditions."

That, for the past, now for the present -today. More Jap ^{vessels} ~~ships~~ sunk. The Navy ^{states} ~~communicate~~ that a submarine of the Asiatic fleet has sunk an enemy

transport and three cargo vessels, ~~xxx~~ a telling blow struck by our undersea forces.

In the Philippines, General MacArthur's ^{troops} ~~forces were~~ ^{were} waiting today for a ^{big} ~~huge~~ Japanese attack. Holding their short and strong defense line in the area of the Batan peninsula, the Americans and Filipinos were aware that the enemy was massing heavy forces for an assault. They expect the ~~big~~ battle to begin at any time - if it is not raging right now.

MALAYA

~~There's~~ alarming news from Singapore.

The latest bulletin just in tells us that British officials are talking of moving their Malayan headquarters to the Netherlands East Indies. This is taken to indicate that they are preparing the public for startling news. Specifically, the authorities announced that if general headquarters should be transferred to the East Indies, this should not be interpreted as meaning any decrease of determination to hold Singapore at all costs.

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This is accompanied by word that the Japanese advance down the west coast of Malaya, has been speeded up, is being led by units of bicycle troops and midget gun carriers. These are followed by heavier mechanized forces. Singapore says that this invasion led by bicycles is now being opposed only by British artillery outposts and bands of Imperial guerrillas.

MALAYA

The war in the air tonight features the bombing of Bangkok, capital of Siam. This in retaliation of recent Japanese bombings of Rangoon, capital of British Burma. The Bangkok bombing was a heavy and destructive affair, with high explosives blasting the intricate mages of that famous oriental city.

SOVIET-JAPAN

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We were warned today not to expect Soviet Russian to go to war with Japan - not right away in any case. This caution comes from Washington, from members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. They speak highly of the Red army fight against Nazi Germany, but say there is little chance that the Soviets will join the United States against Japan - not for the present, that is. Yesterday, the Foreign Relations Committee, in a secret meeting, listened to an analysis of the situation made by Assistant Secretary of State Breackenridge Long, and what they had to say today is based on what he told them.

Senator Thomas of Utah, for example, pointed out that Moscow has a non-aggression treaty with Tokyo, and this, *for the while* prevents the Soviets from collaborating with the United States against the Japs.

Another member of the Senate Committee,

cautions us against over-estimating current Red Army victories over the Nazi blitzkrieg machine. He warned against what he called - "over-emphasis." He said we could figure that the present Red Army triumph is about fifty per cent military success, and fifty per cent Nazi plan -- retiring to winter positions.

FOLLOW SOVIET-JAPAN

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In the London House of Commons today, Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden stated that the Nazi war machine in Russia is not what it used to be, but at the same time he warned the British people against over-optimism. He recited a bit of history in telling how the tide turned in Russia - checking the Germans as they seemed about to capture Moscow. What happened? Fresh, Red army divisions were thrown into the fight at the critical moment. That - plus the fact that the Nazi war machine had been worn down to exhaustion by its long sustained drive across the Russian spaces. Fresh divisions and wearing down, that's the ~~explanation~~ explanation of the German retreat.

"This," warned the British Foreign Secretary, "does not mean that there is any guarantee against further setbacks for us in the future. It does not mean," he went on, "that the German army is still not

very strong. What it does mean, he summarized, is that the German army in Russia today is not the same German army of last June Twenty-Second." ^{Which} ~~That~~ was the date of the sudden blitzkrieg attack.

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Meanwhile, from the Russian war front we have continuing stories of Soviet advances, ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ particularly in the Crimea. Red army forces are described as driving swiftly to raise the siege of their great naval base, Sevastopol.

And tonight, a special Moscow war communique states that during the first six days of January, the Red forces recaptured more than eleven hundred localities.

GERMANY

There is a story tonight that the Nazi Gestapo is taking things over a good deal on the Russian front. Stockholm tells us that Himmler, Chief of the Gestapo, has established a headquarters of his own near the battleline. And that is taken to indicate a large increase in the power of the sinister Himmler and his notorious secret police. This, if true, would be all the more significant in the light of widespread reports that there is bitter dissension between the German army command and the Nazi politicians - army opposition to Hitler's policies.

5) For example - here's a rumor that we get from Washington. It tells of German army officers working to oust Hitler and get rid of the Nazis.

This group of German army officers is even said to have a secret radio station with which they are

circulating anti-Hitler propoganda. They are only waiting for the right moment to stage a coup d'etat, says the report. We are told the following:- "Should present conditions on the Russian front continue, an army putsch is only a matter of time."

The plan would be to salvage as much of the German military conquest as possible, toss out Hitler and the Nazi Party, and turn to the world with peace proposals. This supposed underground plan ~~about the German army officers~~ is printed in a weekly review called "Foreign Correspondence", ^{got out by} ~~which is got out by~~ Sir Willmott Lewis, correspondent of the LONDON TIMES, and Edward Weintal, a Polish journalist.

LIBYA

In North Africa, the main forces of Axis troops are retreating from their positions ~~to the~~ south of Benghazi; ~~They're~~ withdrawing to the west, in the

direction of Tripoli. (This army consists of the main body of General Rommel's panzer forces, which were driven all the way from the Egyptian border - narrowly escaping encirclement. London reports that they've been reinforced during the past few days, but now the panzers are on the ~~x~~ retreat again - probably to avoid another British move to surround them.)

The news of this military operation is accompanied by a weather report - the weather being an important factor in the strategy. For days now, the war bulletins from Libya have been placing accent on weather, but today gives us a contrast. Hitherto, it has been a case of rainstorms, which seem so paradoxical on the North African desert. The British

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time and again explained that a veritable deluge of rain was impeding military operations on the eternal sands. But what do we hear today? The news is that General Rommel's panzer forces got away under the cover of a sandstorm. A downpour one day, and a sandstorm the next - that would seem to be the height of contrast, just showing what a devilish place the desert is. How can you reconcile the two things?

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I've been on the desert when it was raining, pouring. Afterward, when the sun comes out, it dries quickly, leaving the sand rather firm - something like the condition of an ordinary American beach. A sandstorm wouldn't be likely to whip up on ground like that - it would come from quite a distance, from deep in the desert where it hadn't been raining.

Those swirling demons of blasting sand can travel a long way. I've seen it when it looked like a mountain range swooping down a long way. So we can see the strange drama of weather. understand

you.

LIBYA - 3

The British attack handicapped by rainstorms, then the next thing the Axis panzers ^{escaping} ~~are getting away~~ under cover of a sandstorm.

In addition, the Germans and Italians sowed the country with minefields to slow up the British pursuit, but the last we hear is that crack British regiments had caught up ^{again} and are fighting Rommel.

FOLLOW LIBYA

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They say in London that the Nazi panzer troops in North Africa were told some while ago that Hitler had captured Moscow. Who told them? Their own Commander, General Rommel. The British have the story from German prisoners that they have captured, the story that the Nazi North African commander deliberately circulated among his men the fake about the fall of Moscow. And the soldiers staged a celebration - cheering and firing their rifles.

One may wonder - Why tell such a big lie?

Well, maybe General Rommel wanted to buck up the spirit of his own troops, make them fight better.

ITALIAN INVASION

London gives us a rumor that the Axis forces are taking precautions against a possible British invasion of Fascist Italy - this ~~be~~ because of successes Empire ~~xxxxxxx~~ in Libya. An anti-Nazi German newspaper, published in London, says it has information that Italian troops are being withdrawn from the Balkans, ^{with} ~~and~~ Hungarians ^{to} ~~will~~ replace them. The Italians ~~are~~ being pulled back to Italy to resist a possible British drive into their own home country.

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This is all part of the rumor crop, a harvest of reports that is unusually abundant today.

AMERICAN COMMAND

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The suggestion that an American admiral should command all the sea forces of the Allied powers drew some comment from the London House of Commons today - and the remarks were not in a tone of cheering acclaim. The land command in the Far East has been given to British General Wavell - British, American and other Allied armies to operate under his direction. So, with a British General commanding on land, there have been suggestions that an American Admiral would command the Allied fleets. Our own Commander-in-Chief, Admiral King, has been mentioned for the post.

This today drew protests in the London House of Commons. Sir George Jeffries, M.P., stated that he did not believe ~~AMERICAN~~ an American ^{Admiral} ~~commander~~ should also command the British navy in Far Eastern waters. He explained himself in these terms: "The American

fleet," said he, "has not begun this war well.

And," he added, "the American personnel has had no experience in modern war whatever." And the M.P.

continued by asserting that he doubted whether the British sailors would like it - "would like serving under a foreign command," ~~said he.~~

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A Labor M.P. spoke up in agreement. He said he'd hate to think that the center of Allied military control was shifting to Washington. He elucidated this by a reference to the island of Helgoland, so important as a German sea fortress ^{outpost} and naval base. "It gives me a nasty feeling," said the M.P., "to think that we may find ourselves reduced to the position of America's Helgoland off the coast of Europe."

This bit of parliamentary discussion is interesting, because it might perhaps seem to indicate the possibility of a vast shifting of the center of

gravity of the war - a shift to the west, toward

America, ^{to}~~from~~ the conflict in the Pacific.

CIVILIAN DEFENSE

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The House of Representatives today voted to shift the Administration for Civilian Defense from the Office of Civilian Defense. The administration is taken away from the office, and that's taking a whack at Mayor LaGuardia of New York. There ^{has been} ~~was~~ plenty of criticism over the fact that LaGuardia has been holding two important offices, - Civilian Defense Director and Mayor of America's largest city. He should give up either one or the other; ^{so} ~~as~~ critics have been saying. And this opinion was voiced in Congress today with lively flings at LaGuardia.

They were considering an appropriation of a hundred million dollars for civilian defense purposes, and an amendment was proposed to take the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ administration of the job away from LaGuardia's bureau, and transfer it to the War Department. This was opposed by the War Department, which said it didn't

want the administration of Civilian Defense.

Arguments were made that giving the Army the job would tend to militarize the whole country. Congress, however, decided that the War Department should have the administration, whether it wanted it or not.

~~They were~~ Simply taking it away from LaGuardia. *So*
they
~~and~~ voted that way, a hundred and eighty-seven to
^
a hundred and sixty-eight.

Washington is saying that today's decision by the lower House throws the whole Civilian Defense affair into confusion - with the Senate still to inject its own ideas into the tangle.

SHIP

A strange and sudden mishap of the sea occurred today off Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Eight lives were lost. ~~a dozen saved.~~ It happened in an icy gale. The whole north Atlantic coast is in the grip of a bitter cold wave, and the ocean is stormy off New England. The craft that came to grief was an army boat, what they call - a mine planter, used for laying mine fields.

5-872 Yesterday, this mine planter, named the ARNOLD, went to the help of another army boat, which had become disabled in the heavy seas. The ARNOLD took the helpless vessel in tow and started for port.

Then after a while the ARNOLD itself became disabled. And now there were two craft out of control, wallowing in the storm. ^{Whereupon a} ~~Then~~ A third ship came to the rescue, and took the two in tow.

It was a tempestuous job, which lasted until

SHIP - 2

2-9
today - when the mishap occurred with strange abruptness. The mine planter ARNOLD, while being towed, suddenly sank - plunged to the bottom. An army officer said that it was almost as if - "the bottom dropped out." The sinking was so swift that ~~the~~ one boat on the other end of the tow line was almost pulled under water. Nobody seems to know what caused the mine planter to take the quick and unexpected dive.

59 1/2 And now a defense item from you Hugh.