

NAVY

P.T. - Sunoco. Thursday, Dec. 18, 1941.

The latest flash of war news tonight gives us the flash and blast of an American torpedo hitting a Japanese ship. The Navy has just announced the sinking of an enemy transport by an American submarine. It doesn't state just where ~~the~~ this occurred or how many Japanese troops were lost.

The Navy bulletin also states that a Japanese destroyer was probably sunk in this blow struck by the American underwater fleet.

This was announced shortly after the President held a long conference on strategy with military and naval advisers -- including the new Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet, Admiral Nimitz.

PHILIPPINES

Today's word from the Phillipines was -- victory. It was the first official word of victory scored by the American- Philippine Army. Hitherto there have been unofficial stories of American successes against the enemy troops, but today's account is given in a formal bulletin issued by General MacArthur.

The major success occurred in the area of Vigan. That's to the north of Manila. General MacArthur reports that his forces there have inflicted a defeat upon Japanese patrols and motorized ^{troops.} ~~forces.~~ The Japs were driven back -- ~~xxx~~ many miles. It apparently was a sharp setback -- the first official account of offensive action by the American^s in the Philippines. ^{TR} And success is reported to the extreme north of the Isle of Luzon-- Aparri. There the Japs launched an attack trying to get a drive going. They

were sharply repelled -- driven back.

There was some enemy air activity today,
bombed^{ing} Manila -- the air fields ⁱⁿ and that section.

Not much to it, a small scale affair -- with little
damage.

The Philippines have had a bad steamship
disaster -- a crowded passenger ^{vessel} ship striking a mine.

It happened in Manila Bay, and two hundred persons
are reported to be lost, including prominent
~~Philippinos.~~ Filipinos.

HONG KONG

For the third time today, the Japanese demanded the surrender of Hong Kong - and for the third time, this was rejected. The Japanese are continuing their attack on that completely isolated British colony, and seem to think that Hong Kong cannot hold out. Tonight's dispatch states that when their third demand for surrender was turned down, they received the answer with what is described as - evident surprise.

MALAYA

The latest from Singapore is an Imperial Communique stating that no Japanese activity was reported throughout the day along either of the two fronts in northern Malaya, either at the east or at the west. The eastern battlefront is in the Malaya Sultanate of Kedah. The eastern line is in that other Malaya Sultanate of Kelantan. These areas, ~~are~~ both along the coast, ^{are} ~~they're~~ the scenes of the two-way Japanese attempt to drive southward against Singapore.

This latest no-activity bulletin followed earlier word that in the western sector of Malaya, in Kedah, the Empire Forces have retired to a new line behind a river. They have pulled back after fierce fighting across rice paddies and ~~the~~ streams and swamps. It isn't too clear how this affects the northern Malaya ⁿ port of Penang which is the secondary British naval base in Malaya -- second to Singapore. ^{Penang} ~~London~~, one of the glamorous cities of the East.

London
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however, gives the impression that Penang has been flanked and is possibly lost. The new position the British have taken up is said to be strong and presumably the Japanese are mustering their forces for a new attack.

ADD MALAYA

The war situation in Malaya is so important and so critical right now, that it's well to take a closer look at that jungle-land -- so little known to most Americans. I spent nearly a year of my life out there in those romantic ports of Singapore, Malacca, Penang, and inland at Ipoh and Kuala Lumpur, and on excursions by elephant into the dark tangled Equatorial forest. Also having a look at the splendors and court life of the Malay sultans in principalities of spangled elephants and glittering sword dances -- in Perak, Selangor and Negri Sembilan. But my old friend Carveth Wells, the noted author and lecturer, knows it even more intimately. Carveth was an engineer on the railroad, and as a surveyor he helped fix the boundary between Northern Malaya and Siam.

So I talked to him today about the terrain across which the battle now is raging.

He told me that there is no greater mistake than to picture the war in Malaya as a jungle affair.

He said it's true that the greater part of Malaya is one huge expanse of tropical forest. But that's the part ^{that} ~~which~~ doesn't count. The long peninsula, he pointed out, is jungle down the middle, but on both sides there are broad strips of clear and open land along the coast. These two belts, one on each side, are twenty or twenty-five miles wide, and these are the two theatres of war right now - with the Japs trying to advance down the ~~x~~ long clear ~~xx~~ ways on the east and west of the jungle region.

^{pointed out that}
Wells ~~said~~ it's ridiculous to talk about fighting any kind of modern war in the jungle - it

can't be done. The tropical forest, with its immense trees and almost impenetrable thickets, would ~~ax~~ defy any kind of warlike drive, and even the jungle trails are too narrow and difficult for military use. The whole thing would have to be fought in those strips of open land along the coast. Through the rubber groves and rice paddies, which are comparatively dry now -- at this season. The Japs timed it that way.

TIMOR

The late news tonight gives us a large question-mark in connection with the remote Island of Timor.

A Portuguese possession, leading from the Dutch East Indies to Australia, Timor ~~was~~ taken over by the British and Dutch - to forestall Japanese action in those regions. ~~It was explained.~~ That was the story earlier today.

Tonight the word is that the Dutch have already evacuated Timor. This comes in the form of a statement by a British Embassy spokesman in Lisbon, who declared that the Dutch forces have already moved out of the Portuguese island - thereby reestablishing the sovereignty of Portugal.

This is most confusing, the more so because the statement makes no mention of the British who moved into Timor - Australian troops. There is no indication that

they have evacuated. We'll have to wait to see what it all means.

The Dutch ~~report that~~^{say} their bombers have carried out a heavy attack against Japanese warships which landed troops in British North Borneo, on that island legended as the home of the WildMan of Borneo, and which is also the home of some great oil deposits. One enemy cruiser is said to have been set on fire.

And we hear of Japanese attempts to land in New Guinea, the most barbarous of all the great islands of the earth.— wild Papua!

LIBYA

In Libya, the British report that their main forces have now driven as far as two hundred miles. The Axis ~~forces are~~ ⁱⁿ retreating, trying to avoid encirclement. London says that the next big battle is likely to be at Derna, which is a hundred miles northwest of Tobruk. Derna is the Number One supply center for the Nazi panzers, and they are expected to rally there for a final defense of the eastern part of the Italian Province of Libya. British sources indicate that Empire units are cutting around beyond Derna, blocking the line of retreat. So the Axis forces in the expected clash, face a battle of annihilation.

RUSSIA

In Russia the Red Army continues driving on, recapturing one place after another -- the Nazis drawing back all along the line. From a Swedish source we hear that the German situation in Russia is forcing a retreat of as much as forty miles. The Germans admit that they have lost a series of such key positions as Kalinin. The Nazis report it as a ~~plane~~ of withdrawal, *a defeat and rout,* the Soviets as ~~retreat en route,~~ *are trying* It may very well be that the Germans ~~try~~ *are trying* to effect a winter withdrawal have been hit so hard by the Red Army that the thing has got out of control.

CONFERENCE

5-3
Secretary of State Cordell Hull stated today that the United States will not be represented at the Moscow Conferences between the British and the Soviet high commands. This follows word from London that the British, the Soviets and the Americans are conducting discussions of great importance, and that these would probably result in the forming of a supreme command - a super-board of direction of the war activity of the Allies, something on the order of the Allied Supreme Command in World War Number One.

PLANE

Today a great search was being conducted in the mountains of southern California. The Army had a host of soldiers and squadrons of airplanes looking for a missing army transport - nothing heard of it since last Friday. Aboard the transport were some of the highest ranking officers in the United States, headed by Major General ^{Herbert} Dargue, commanding officer of the First Army Air Force, based at Mitchel Field, New York. They took off on Friday from Phoenix, Arizona, and were last heard of on that same day near Palmdale, California. Ever since a widespread hunt has been going on for the plane - which must have been forced down in the California mountains.

^{Gen. Bert}
Major ~~Gen Herbert A~~ Dargue is one of the

best known of army air officers. - He was one of the three army men trained to fly, back in Nineteen Twelve - learning in an old Wright biplane, one of those primitive

box kites.

Gen.
Major Dargue had a lot of adventure in many a risky flight. The wildest thriller was back in Nineteen|Seventeen, when he commanded a good-will sky voyage around South America - made by a squadron of army planes. Over Buenos Aires there was a collision in the air, two of the planes crashing into and shattering each other. And one was Dargue's, then a Major. He bailed out. His parachute was ripped, and he could hardly make it - but he contrived to get down safely.

It was only a couple of weeks ago that we heard Major *Gen.* Dargue in an address at the Dutch Treat Club here in New York. I saw him there, and renewed old acquaintance. I knew him well when he was a Major at the time of that South American good-will flight. Now, *he is* ~~he's~~ one of the high army officers missing in a big army transport that has vanished in California.

INGALLS

There was surprise flash in the news today when it was announced that one of the ace women aviators of this nation has been arrested on the charge of being a Nazi agent. She is Laura Ingalls, who has scored all sorts of aviation triumphs. The biggest headline of these was a trans-continental non-stop flight in Nineteen Thirty-Five.

It is now disclosed that Laura Ingalls was arrested last night, and was kept incommunicado until her arraignment today. The specific charge against her is, that she violated the regulation that requires all foreign agents to register. The complaint alleges that she has been an agent in the pay of the German Government since last August.

Laura Ingalls protests that it's all a mistake. She says what she was really doing was - counter-espionage.

"I didn't take any orders from the German government," she declared today. "I was carrying out my own investigation." To which she added, "I guess I overstepped."

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However all this may be, it comes as a decided shock to find an ace ladybird under arrest as a Nazi agent.

APPOINTMENT

President Roosevelt today wrote a letter to a man whose identity he does not know. The letter is to be delivered to somebody now in this broad land - but the President doesn't know who he is. It's addressed this way:- "To the President ^{of the United States} in Nineteen Fifty-Six." The gist of it is - a request, ~~a request~~ for the apointment of a boy to West Point. That boy is now ~~one year old~~, a tiny orphan without a father - and his name is Colin Kelly ^{3rd,} He is the son of America's first great war hero in World War Number Two, the infant son of Captain Colin Kelly of the ^{Army} Air Corps, who lost his life in the one-man bombing attack that sank the ~~xxx~~ Japanese battleship HARUNA.

His name has been honored and celebrated in every corner of this land, and the nation owes a debt of loyalty to his young widow and orphan. So in part payment of that debt, President Roosevelt today wrote a

letter to - "The President of the United States in
Nineteen Fifty-Six." In this message he says: "My
request is that you consider the merits of ^{an}~~a young~~
American youth of goodly heritage, Colin P. Kelly,
Third, for appointment as a cadet in the United States
Military Academy at West Point. I make this appeal,"
~~ixxhxxixf~~ continues the President of today to the
President of Nineteen Fifty-Six, "on behalf of this youth
as a token of the nation's appreciation of the public
services of his father."

In Nineteen Fifty-Six young Colin Kelly will be
sixteen years old, and the way is arranged for him to
follow the career of his father - as an American
officer.

LADY

Before I tell this next one, I want to say - the ladies, God bless them! There's nothing so wonderful as a good woman, and all that. I certainly don't want to offend the ladies, but it still remains a fact - that sometimes a woman can make a man want to tear his hair out, if he has any. For example, there is Mrs. Brown of Yonkers.

~~Today at Albany, the following was revealed.~~

^{TP} There was an air raid alarm, one of those practice affairs that we've been having. And Mrs. Brown of Yonkers telephoned to the local office of the State Conservation Department. She said - "Send a game warden at once." Now - what did a game warden have to do with an air raid? That was presently revealed when Wild Life Protector Harold Canepi went to the home of Mrs. Brown.

There the lady explained that in her home she

had six children, boarding with her. She was much concerned about the little tots in her charge, and wanted to do everything she could for them if an air raid should occur. Mrs. Brown displayed a fine maternal solicitude. She wanted to take every precaution for their safety, ~~their~~ comfort and ~~their~~ happiness - if there should be a bombing.

All this was decidedly praiseworthy on the part of the motherly Mrs. Brown of Yonkers. But still - why the game warden? What, asked the protector of wild life, did it have to do with him?

Mrs. Brown explained. She said she had called the game warden to have him tell her what games little children should play during air raids. Should they play with dolls or marbles, or maybe ring-around,

that was what she asked the bewildered game warden. Whereupon the the-rosy? ~~He~~

looked as if he had been hit by a bomb. He just shook his head hopelessly, and included the incident in his report to headquarters at Albany, ^{which was revealed today,} and they I suppose have referred the matter to Mrs. Roosevelt, who ^{has} suggested the idea of games for children during air raids.

Now Hugh there are just a few seconds left for

a 1/2 you.