

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, FEB. 20, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am broadcasting from Schenectady tonight. To millions of people Schenectady and Radio Station W G Y are almost synonymous. For W. G. Y., the General Electric Radio Station, has spread the fame of Schenectady to the ends of the earth. The principal reason I am here is that this is W.G.Y.'s Twentieth Anniversary. In the history of radio that goes back just about to the beginning.

This afternoon, as usual, Western Union has relayed the highlights of the world's news to me; and here it is.

INDIES

The shock and horror of war has come to a far off isle of quiet and contentment. The Japs have invaded Bali. Bitter fighting has been raging on that bit of earthly paradise, and the latest would seem to indicate that the Japs have captured Bali.

The very name of the place seems to murmur with reminiscence and nostalgia. It was during the years after the previous World War that Bali became famous, tales of its charm and wonder brought back by travelers. They told how in the southern sea dwelt a people remot from western civilization, who lived a life that seemed a round of pleasant and kindly festivity.

And the girsl were beautiful, with slant eyes and complexions of light gold. Bali-land of smiles ~~nd~~ and isle of happiness!

Today a Jap invasion fleet appeared off Bali, and there was a thunder of guns. Landing parties

fought their way ashore -- an orgy of gunpowder and death. And from Java way came the roar of war planes - Dutch and American bombers and fighters. Some of the American sky craft were the ponderous flying fortresses. The fleet of the air blasted away at the invasion ships, and hit eight of them. Three cruisers. A bomb was seen to blast the stern of one for the heaviest kind of damage. Two destroyers. One could be seen to rise up in the air and come down in pieces as a huge bomb exploded. Two transports were smashed hard. High above there were dog fights in the sky, and four Japanese planes were shot down.

On the ground, the Dutch followed their policy of the scorched earth, destroying structures that might be usable to the enemy. The defenders clashed with the Japs in fierce fighting, and resisted as well as they could -- but the invaders as usual were an outnumbering force. And so we have the news -- the enemy has captured the isle of dreams.

But Bali has more than legends to make it important. It lies just east of Java, and is separated from that great island by only the narrowest kind of water. The strait between Bali and Java has the width of a mere single mile. So you see the eminent and deadly peril. Java now the sole remaining stronghold left to the United Nations in the Indonesian area. And we hear the enemy invading Bali has brought along steel barges -- obviously intended for the short crossing from Bali to Java

So the great Bulwark of the United Nations is gravely imperiled at its eastern end.

And now let's proceed along the narrow island to its western margin. There Java is separated by only fifteen miles of Sunda strait, And today's news tells us that the Japs in Sumatra are posed for an attack.

Java, our sole remaining bulwark in the Dutch East Indies, now flanked by the enemy on three sides.

Still another island in the news today points to Australia. The Japs have invaded Portuguese Timor, just across Timor Sea from the strategic Australian port of Darwin. Timor is owned partly by Portugal and partly by the Netherlands.

BURMA

The Burma situation is obscure. A dispatch from Rangoon states that the Japanese advance has been brought to what the dispatches calls -- "temporary standstill". This check was administered by air attack -- British and American squadrons of the sky hammering hard at the enemy columns on the ground. The Rangoon radio puts it in these words: "our troops held firmly, greatly heartened by air support extended."

Yes, the troops may well be heartened by fighting ~~ix~~ planes on their side -- after the way the forces of the United Nations have been beaten back repeatedly because of enemy mastery of the air.

Mandalay is in the news -- but not with any reference to "the flying fighes" or "dawn coming up like thunder". Alas -- it was enemy war-planes that came up like thunder. They gave stories Mandalay a savage battering.

The British report is that Government buildings suffered heavy damage, and there were a large number of casualties.

GHANDI

There has been plenty of speculation about the result of the talks between China's war leader Chiang-Kai-Shek and India's Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi stated today that his talks with Chiang-Kia-Shek have produced no new hope for a solution of the problem of India.

PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, General MacArthur's communique describes the fighting as -- "positional." Meaning, the line is stabilized. As for enemy tactics, our commander reports incendiary attack, Japanese planes dropping fire bombs.

The missiles are loaded with white phosphorous, a stubbornly burning material. The Japs are trying to burn the installations and equipment of our men by incendiary attack from the air. A picturesque detail from the Batan peninsula tells of the Igorotes -- who were so famous in hostilities years ago, when the American forces were subjugating the Philippines.

They still have some of the headhunting spirit and are said to be delighted with the war. Fighting the Japs, they can indulge in their homicidal proclivities without fear of being sent to jail.

But today's hero story from the Batan Peninsula tells of a Tagalog; Private Narcisco Ortilano,

a veteran of the Philippine Scouts -- that American trained outfit famous in the annals of the islands. Private Narcisco Ortilano killed eleven Japanese who attacked his machine gun post. He blazed away with his machine gun, until it jammed. Then he continued with his automatic pistol, until it jammed. He was unarmed, but wrestled a gun from an enemy soldier, and finished the battle with the captured weapon. Today he was recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross.

DISPATCH

Here's a news dispatch that seems to come out of the other world. It's from Wake Island, and was written by a United Press correspondent who was killed in the heroic defense.

He wrote his story two days before the stubborn resistance ended, and Wake Island was captured. His dispatch was flown out by plane, flown from Wake to Midway -- then on to Honolulu, and finally to this country, to the United Press office in New York. There it arrived only today.

So let's see what correspondent Joe McDonald reported in that last dispatch.

"Wake Island has suffered eleven bombings and one shelling since the war began," he wrote. "no serious damage has been done, to slow down the defense of the island." And he concluded cheerily. "All is well, as this dispatch is written." Two days later the final assault was staged, and later on the Navy reported that United Press correspondent Joe McDonald was among those who had been killed.

Today the United Press put the long delayed bulletin on its wires and one of the editors to receive it was Joe McDonald, Sr.; father of the newspaperman who sent it. He's editor of the Nevada State Journal at Reno, and today he printed the last dispatch from Wake, his own son's last story.

RUSSIA

Today's account of Red Army advance mentions the Latvian Border. Moscow says that Soviet troops are approaching and may even have crossed the frontier into Latvia. Which might indicate that the Red forces are about to drive the Nazis right out of Russia in that sector.

The Moscow reports are brief and the supposition is they're waiting for Monday to flash a big story of Soviet victories -- Monday being Red Army Day.

SINKINGS

Another ship has been sunk off our Atlantic coast -- a Brazilian freighter. This makes the eighteenth vessel destroyed by U-boats near the American shore.

The survivors of the Brazilian steamer, who landed at Norfolk today, said their craft had been first shelled and then torpedoed. The crew, safe in their boats, were approached by the U-boat, and the German sailors talked to the survivors. These, naturally, got a good look at the undersea craft, and they say it was surprisingly small. "So small I felt I could put it in my pocket," one Brazilian sailor relates. And Canada reports the loss of a freighter -- torpedoed off the Dominion Coast. Eighteen survivors landed today.

London gives us the interpretation that the Germans striking on this side of the ocean in response to a demand made by Japan.

ALIENS

President Roosevelt today authorized the army to take control of certain areas, and to exclude from such areas any person -- either alien or citizen. Any and all persons may be excluded," says the executive order issued to the Secretary of War.

The purpose of this is to enable the War Department to deal with the Japanese problem on the Pacific coast. Hitherto, under civil law, it was possible to move out enemy aliens -- Japanese,, German and Italian. Citizens, however, were immune. And that included Japanese born in this country and therefore citizens. The opinion has been expressed that some of these Japanese citizens are more dangerous to strategic war areas than some Japanese aliens.

Now, under today's presidential order, the army is empowered to remove any person - citizens included.

The executive order authorizes the Secretary of War to provide transportation, food and shelter for people who have to move.

VIERECK

At the Washington trial of German propagandist George Sylvester Viereck, one witness today was Congressman Hamilton Fish of New York. The Congressman gave some vigorous testimony, at one point of which he hotly charged the prosecuting attorney with lying.

He denied that Nazi propaganda had been mailed out of his office and insisted that speeches which Viereck had written for the late Senator Lundeen of Minnesota were not sent through the mails free under any Hamilton Fish congressional frank.

INGALLS

The woman flyer, Laura Ingalls, has been sentenced to prison. Having been found guilty for failure to register as a Nazi agent, she faced the court today for sentence, how long a term in prison? Eight months to two years.

MRS. ROOSEVELT

The First Lady resigned today from her post in the Office of Civilian Defense. Last week she said she was going to and today she did. Stepping out as unpaid Assistant Director in charge of voluntary participation. In her letter of resignation Mrs. Roosevelt gave her reason. She said she did not want attacks on her to handicap the Civilian Defense work.

She put it in these wordsP "By remaining I would only make it impossible for those who wish to attack me, because of my beliefs, to attack an agency that can prove its usefulness to the people."

SCHENECTADY

Whenever I broadcast away from Radio City I like to tell a little about the community that I am visiting. In the case of Schenectady I suppose that isn't necessary, because through W.G.Y. much of the world is in contact with Schenectady every hour of every day.

So, in addition to knowing that this is the home of General Electric, no doubt most of you know that one hundred and eleven years ago this city was the western terminus of the first steam railroad company to be organized in the United States; and fifty-six years ago it began to manufacture electric equipment and has continued to lead the world in that.

Whether we win or lose this war is going to depend to no small degree on the brains of these scientists here in Schenectady, and the workmen. Where

there were only ten thousand employees a short time ago during the depression, the number today is thirty-three thousand. Everywhere you see large placards reading "Building for Victory." President Charles Wilson of General Electric put it this way:- "We have left defense and we are attacking all along the line." Then he added, "we are actively waging war."

I wish I had time to take you, in words, through some of the plants that I visited today. Most of the things they are doing here we can't talk about. But it all corresponds to what was done in Schenectady in the last World War, when they developed those devices for detecting submarines at sea, the devices that put a crimp in the U-boat war, then. Doctor Coolidge of the G.E. Laboratory told me that the first time those listening devices were used on a U-boat hunt - on three

British trawlers - the British didn't think they could possibly work. Nothing of the sort had up until then. But, a day or two after the trawlers started out on their hunt they heard a submarine, caught it, and destroyed it with depth charges. On their listening device they could even hear the German U-boat officers and men as they fired twenty-one shots on the bottom of the North Sea, killing themselves - because they were out of commission, trapped on the bottom, with no escape.

This time scientists have far greater problems to solve, detectors to locate not only submarines, but airplanes in the night. They not only must hear but they must see through the dark and they are doing it.

I remarked to one of the men largely responsible for this war production today, Chester Lang, that we all want a little good news, and that what they are doing here sounded like good news. His reply was:- "Let's not

have any good news right now. We are not yet half awake. And to win we have got to work much harder and much faster than we are." His point was that we will be beaten unless as a nation, down to the last man, we take off our coats and go to it.

And So Long Until Monday.