

L.T. - SUNOCO. FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1942

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

On the island fortress of Corregidor, there are tonight thirty-five hundred United States Marines and sailors of the fleet, who eluded the enemy thrust that broke through the lines of the worn out defenders of Batan. Ever since yesterday's grim news of the fall of that peninsula, the question has been, how many of our men got across the narrow strip of water to Corregidor?

Last night the answer seemed necessarily to be -- few if any. But today the Navy Department reported that those thirty-five hundred Marines and Blue Jackets were evacuated from Batan to Corregidor. This occurred a couple of days ago apparently. Lieutenant General Wainwright states the time in the following words:- "When it became evident that it was

no longer possible to hold the peninsula in the face of overwhelming enemy odds."

Only two days ago, the General reported that the sea fighters were on duty in Batan, so their evacuation to Corregidor must have been shortly after that. They represent marines and sailors, officers and men, who were originally stationed at our naval bases -- like Cavite.

When MacArthur and his army took their position ~~position~~ in the Batan peninsula, the men of the sea went along. There they played their part in the glorious defense, - until ordered across to Corregidor, when the situation was hopeless.

As for the remainder of the heroes of Batan, it would appear that they have either died fighting or have been captured and are prisoners. General Wainwright reported today that all communication between Batan and Corregidor has been cut for nearly twenty-four hours, and the War Department states that it is apparent that fighting on the peninsula has

ceased. Enemy guns are at the southern end of Corregidor now, and are bombarding that fortress. All along the fortress has been shelled, by Jap guns on the other side, the southern shore of Manila Bay. So Corregidor now is subject to a cross fire - but still fighting. General Wainwright stated this today with the phrase - "Our flag is still flying!"

From the original Batan Commander, General MacArthur, we have solemn comment today. In Australia, he said: "The Batan force went out as it would have wished -- fighting to the end of its flickering forlorn hope." MacArthur wrote his statement in pencil on a sheet of cheap writing paper, and this was read to newspapermen. The General sent a message to the mothers of the heroes: - "To the weeping mothers of Batan's dead," it says, "I can only say that the halo of Jesus of Nazareth has descended upon their sons, and that God will take them unto himself."

## FOLLOW PHILIPPINES

Some degree of retaliation for the loss of Batan was announced today in Washington -- the sinking of a Jap cruiser. The enemy was conducting landing operations on the bit Philippine island of Cebu, They had transports, and large warships off the coast, and all we had were some tiny little boats - motor speed boats. But these were the same sort of craft that operated so valiantly at Batan, dashing out and torpedoing Jap warships. So here's what happened off Cebu, in the laconic words of today's War Department bulletin:- "A fleet of five warships and ten transports was off that island. Our torpedo boats," it continues, "attacked the enemy vessels -- sinking a Japanese cruiser."

A later bulletin from the Navy announces the torpedoing of a big Jap ~~xx~~ ship in the Sea of Celebes. It is described as either an auxiliary cruiser or a large tender. An American submarine scored three torpedo hits, and sent the huge boat to the bottom.

And more enemy sea losses, inflicted by American naval forces, are reported from Australia. Out there an American submarine has slipped into port after a long cruise. The sub was operating in the Sea of Java at the time of the naval fighting there, and our fighters of the undersea announced that they torpedoed four Jap cruisers - sinking one for sure, and at least damaging the other three. The Japs went after the sub hot and heavy, and the crew counted sixty-nine depth charges sent down to blast them <sup>at</sup> one time or another. They had a series of hair-breadth escapes, sliding thru a crashing inferno of depth bombs.

## INDIA

The word from India changed suddenly for the worse this afternoon - and it looks like a collapse of negotiations. Yesterday all seemed set for an agreement between the British Government and the Nationalist leaders of India, but something happened at the last moment - a hitch over details.

And now <sup>the</sup> new word from Delhi is that the Nationalist Congress has rejected the compromise formula that seemed about to be accepted. Last night we heard that all that remained was to iron out some lesser matters of detail, and one of these concerned the amount of power to be wielded by the proposed native Minister of Defense. Specifically, it was a question of the power of such a minister with reference to the creation of an Indian Home Guard - ~~troops~~ <sup>militia</sup> to be controlled by this Minister of Defense. That's the point which has caused the collapse. The Nationalists

wanted the British to give priority to the ~~national~~<sup>ir</sup> militia, Home Guards. Meaning, <sup>that these</sup> ~~they~~ would have the preference in getting armament. The British refused this priority, saying the regular army under British leadership out there should have the first call on the weapons. This condition the Nationalist leaders refused to accept, and today they informed British Envoy Sir Stafford Cripps that the plan was rejected.

At the same time, the powerful Nationalist leader, Nehru, called upon India to resist the Japs to the end. He summoned the people to muster their fighting strength against the threat of invasion, and he sounded the slogan - "Hold India until death!#

With the Nationalist leaders ready to fight and at the same time turning down the compromise agreement, the outlook in India seems paradoxical, unless they can once again get together and renew negotiations.

BAY OF BENGAL

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The British naval losses in the Bay of Bengal were given a decidedly serious interpretation in London today, with naval authorities saying that the Japs have struck such crippling blows ~~at British naval strength~~ that the big naval battle might have to be postponed. Last night, we heard that Royal naval units were prepared to seek out the "Japs, and ~~give them battle~~ *fight it out.*

But now we have the comment that the job of holding off the enemy from India may have to be left to air power - military planes based on land.

This follows the announcement of the sinking of the aircraft carrier HERMES, an old ship going back to Nineteen Twenty. ~~It was~~ Britain's first aircraft carrier, and the fourth of that type of ship that the Royal Navy has lost during the war. The HERMES was sunk ten miles off the coast of Ceylon, not far from the town of Trincomalee, the naval base the Japs have been bombing.

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The carrier was sent to the bottom by dive bombers, as were the heavy cruisers DORSETSHIRE and CORNWALL - the loss of which was announced yesterday. It would appear that all these craft were sunk by dive bombers - not by torpedo planes.

London denies a Jap claim that in addition to the HERMES, two <sup>more</sup> ~~additional~~ British cruisers were sunk, at the same time, off Ceylon. ~~This is denied by~~ The London Admiralty, <sup>says about that: -</sup> ~~with the phrase~~ "quite untrue."

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TP At the same time, British air squadrons, based on land, may have damaged a Jap aircraft carrier. Big bombers scored what are called "near misses". And when bombs explode in the water near enough to a ship, they may open the seams of <sup>the</sup> a vessel - and possible sink it.

Son of Beatrice Lillie the actress, Sir Robt. Peel, is reported missing in the naval action.

BURMA

In Burma, the Japanese are violently attacking the Chinese lines north of Toungoo. We are told that the enemy purpose is to seize an important point to the rear of the Chinese positions - a strategic locality that would enable them to strengthen a defense line.

The Chinese still report that the Japs appear to be preparing to go on the defensive in eastern Burma, while they throw their main forces against the British on the western side of the country - toward India. Over there, the invader is said to be pushing up the Irrawaddy River in small boats, trying to use river manœuvres to outflank the British.

The Chinese are still calling for air reinforcements - more planes, especially for the Flying Tigers. That small group of American Volunteer Pilots is in desperate need of new equipment. In their many flaming victories against the Japs on high, they have virtually used up their pitifully

small equipment.

If they were to get some new equipment, it would sound especially good down in Louisiana -- home of the boss Flying Tiger, General Clare Chenault. He it was who organized and taught the American Volunteer Pilots their new and startling tactics of air fighting - novel stunts of sky battle that have been largely responsible for the startling successes against Jap air fleets.

I understand right now, that General Chenault's fellow citizens in Louisiana are raising a fund to buy a bomber and sent it to him and his volunteer pilots. Chenault's men never had a real bomber - though they did bomb the big enemy base of Hanoi with savage effect. They did it with almost comic equipment.

The victories of the Flying Tigers, in fact, have been so spectacular as to seem slightly incredible. Day after day, the news has brought accounts of their exploits in battling hugely

outnumbering enemy sky forces -- and shooting them down like ducks. It seemed too good to be true. Take the following figures:- The Yankee Volunteer Pilots have brought down thirty-one enemy planes for every plane they themselves have lost. The Japs have lost ninety-six airman for every Flying Tiger lost. Their ace, young Jack Newkirk, "Scarsdale Jaxk", had twenty-eight Rising Sun flags painted on the side of his plane, meaning twenty-eight victories - before he himself was killed on an impossible assignment a couple of weeks ago.

I believe that the fame of the Flying Tigers has suffered a bit because their exploits have seemed slightly incredible.

Have those Volunteer Pilot victories been proved and checked as definite certainties?

Well, I have just had my mind made up on that point. I have been talking to William Van Dusen, of Pan-American Airways -- whose aviation business includes the Far East. He knows the affairs of the

Flying Tigers intimately.

The story has something of a quaint Oriental flavor. When Clare Chenault's Volunteer Pilots enlisted the Chinese, they were guaranteed a bonus of five hundred dollars for every plane they shot down. So obviously, they have made quite a bit of cold Chinese cash. However, the Celestials were not born yesterday as business men. They are the traditional merchants of the Orient. Before they pay any five hundred dollar bonus, they make definitely sure that a Japanese plane has actually been shot down -- no fooling. There must be wreckage to prove it. So they check the wrecks - and around a kind of Chinese accountant to do it. Their bookkeeping is so careful that if two enemy planes have crashed, with the debris scattered over the ground, they match up the wreckage to be sure that it really is a case of two planes - and not one scattered all over the lot.

And Van Deusen of Pan-American Airways

told me of one case in which the Chinese bookkeeping caught up with the Flying Tigers. They made a daring surprise raid against an enemy air base, and caught the Jap planes on the ground -- neatly lined up. The tigers swooped and destroyed twenty-six Oh boy, they figured - twenty-six at five hundred dollars each! <sup>But</sup> They reckoned without C

planes on the ground - neatly lined up. The Tigers swooped and destroyed twenty-six. Oh boy, they figured - twenty-six at five hundred dollars each! But they reckoned without Chinese bookkeeping. The Chinese showed them the contract, and pointed to the clause - five hundred bucks for every enemy plane shot down. And, destroyed on the ground did not come under the heading of shot down. So that's the kind of proof and check-up to authenticate the victories of the Flying Tigers - Chinese bookkeeping - than which there is nothing more complicated and complete!

## WOMEN

The registration of women is now a probability. President Roosevelt stated today that he is seriously considering the voluntary registration of all women between eighteen and sixty-five. Note the word -- voluntary. In the case of men under Selective Service, the registration is compulsory. However, the President said that huge numbers of women might be expected to come forward and enroll.

The national mustering of woman-power if definitely decided upon, will be held after April Twenty-Seventh - the day when men from forty-five to sixty-four will register.



## CIRCUS

<sup>o</sup>Tday in New York, some bookkeepers for the circus added up a lot of figures, and arrived at a total -- twelve thousand dollars. That much was taken in last night at the Spring opening of the Barnum and Bailey Ringling Brothers annual extravaganza. And the money will be divided among the Army Relief, Navy Relief and the President's Infantile Paralysis Fund.

I wish I could give you a presidential version of the battle last night between the Secretary of Commerce and the Publisher of the WASHINGTON POST. It would be illuminating to have a decision from President Roosevelt as referee or umpire in the exchange of hostilities between Cabinet Member Jesse Jones and Newspaper Magnate Eugene Meyer.

The President was asked about it today -- who won? He replied that he had no inside information about the memorable fracas, and refused to be made a referee or umpire.

The fight occurred at a banquet given by the exclusive Alfalfa Club at the historic Willard Hotel, a banquet attended by two Supreme Court justices, several senators, a presidential secretary and other celebrities of the government. The two contestants were evenly matched in point of age -- each is sixty-eight. Publisher Eugene Meyer is a former chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

He preceded Jesse Jones in holding that post -- Jones later to become Secretary of Commerce.

*68-year olds*  
They were leaving the Alfalfa Club banquet at about the same time -- and found themselves in proximity of each other, and that was dramatic -- because of an editorial that had just appeared in Eugene Meyer's newspaper, the WASHINGTON POST. *An* ~~This~~ editorial *that* in scorching terms blamed Jesse Jones for the country's present lack of synthetic rubber production.

When the Secretary of Commerce saw the publisher, he spoke harsh words. The publisher responded just as harshly. In fact, harsh words were exceedingly abundant, a good deal more abundant than synthetic rubber, for example.

Then Jesse Jones seized Eugene Meyer by the lapels of his coat and was so vigorous about it that he shook the eyeglasses from the publisher's nose. The glasses fell clattering to the floor, and with this,

the publisher began to swing. There's a dispute *about* whether the swings missed or connected -- whether or not they landed on the Jesse Jones physiognomy.

8 1/2 Astounded spectators finally separated the battlers, although it wasn't easy to pull them apart.

*Nor is it*  
~~it isn't~~

easy to say who won. In fact, in the matter of such an exalted fight, it would take a presidential verdict to arrive at a clear cut decision. But the President says that he won't be made a referee or an umpire. So there's the rub, if not the rubber -- synthetic or otherwise.

9 This war, Hugh, may be a war of machines, but it has its human moments.