

L.T. - SUNOCO. TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 1942

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The Japanese tonight have three beachheads firmly established on the vast and still partly unexplored island of New Guinea. But they still have not taken the most important point, Port Moresby, by which the Australians keep the command of Torres Strait, the strait between New Guinea and northernmost Australia. The Japanese made violent attacks on Port Moresby today, with repeated raids by heavy bombers.

The Australians admit that all they can do here again is to fight delaying actions; that they haven't enough air strength to carry the war to the Japanese.

One spokesman at Canberra, the capital of the Commonwealth, declared that the Australian Government is under no illusions. That a full scale Japanese assault

and that  
may be attempted soon, <sup>^</sup>the first objective <sup>^</sup>will <sup>no doubt</sup> ~~be~~

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<sup>be</sup> <sup>^</sup>Port Darwin, Broome and Windham. Today's raid on

Port Moresby, only three hundred and fifty miles from  
Australia, was the tenth that the Japanese have made.

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Netherlands East Indies officials admitted today  
that their commanding officers at Bandoeng had been  
obliged to surrender to prevent a general massacre.

that the naval base, is  
But <sup>^</sup>Soerabaja, still <sup>^</sup>is holding out, although surrounded  
by ~~an~~ overwhelming ~~number of~~ Japanese forces.

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The Japanese today published a claim that they  
had captured more than two hundred and ninety thousand  
soldiers of the United Nations during the first three  
months of the war. <sup>That up</sup> ~~to~~ to March Seventh, at Hong Kong,

Manila, Singapore, Rangoon and Batavia, they had taken  
more than a hundred and nineteen thousand prisoners.

That  
<sup>^</sup>The capitulation at Bandoeng added another hundred

thousand. <sup>And</sup> <sup>^</sup>They claim to have destroyed eleven hundred

and eighty-two aircraft of the United Nations; as well as a hundred and thirty-five ships. All of which is enemy propaganda.

An American reporter who covered the fall of not only Singapore, but Batavia and Bandoeng, cabled a story today in which he used the words, "Java fell because the little Dutch boy's finger was too small to plug the dyke." That the Japanese threw against Java an invading force of hundreds of thousands of men; and there just were not enough Dutchmen to stop them.

The Burma news tonight comes from Mandalay, far up the Irrawaddy River. The British Army that had been defending Rangoon was able to move north, thereby giving the lie to the Japanese claim that it had been cut off when the Mikado's armies moved into the smoldering remains of Rangoon.

In spite of having to announce one more retreat, the British spokesman insists that His Majesty's

forces defending Burma are now stronger than when the Japanese first began their invasion. Furthermore, he said that within a month there will be a big surprise for the Japanese.

The British talk as though they have been able to destroy the usefulness of Rangoon entirely, that is as a port through which the Japanese might move men and supplies by sea. If that is true, the Mikado's generals may have a difficult job keeping up their communications across the formidable Tenasserin Mountains.

However, **B**y capturing Rangoon, the Japanese are in possession of ~~our~~ bases within three hours of Calcutta, and fabulous India.

The ironic part of the British situation in Hindustan is that the bulk of the defenses are in the northwest. The British always expected to have to protect themselves against the Russians, and the Afghans. Few military leaders ever visualized an

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attack from the other side, the way the British themselves entered Hindustan.

On the subject of India, Prime Minister Winston Churchill will make an important announcement the next time Parliament sits. This was revealed today by Sir Stafford Cripps, speaking as leader of the House of Commons.

## ATROCITIES

From all parts of the earth occupied by Japanese troops, there <sup>have</sup> come stories of atrocities unequaled since the hordes of Genghis Khan overran the world. So many of them <sup>were</sup> ~~have been~~ reported from China in the last few years that readers actually became accustomed and hardened to them. <sup>But</sup> ~~Though~~ apparently the brutalities of the Mikado's men in China are nothing to what they <sup>are</sup> ~~re~~ prepared to do in the future or what they've already ~~a~~ been doing since December.

General MacArthur has transmitted brief reports of <sup>in the Philippines</sup> shocking behavior. But latest and worst of all <sup>related</sup> is the story ~~told~~ today in the British House of Commons by Foreign Minister Anthony Eden. Among other things, <sup>Eden</sup> ~~he~~ told categorically that fifty British officers and <sup>were</sup> ~~have been~~ bound hand and foot and killed with bayonets. The atrocities on civilians, both men and women, were similar to the ~~brutal~~ barbarities which



aroused horror at the time of the Nanking massacre in

50 Nineteen Thirty-Seven, <sup>he said. That</sup> European and Chinese women

alike were the victims of the Nipponese conquerors <sup>in</sup> Hong Kong.

^ And it is noteworthy that the Japanese officers refused

to let any representative of the International Red Cross ~~to~~ visit the camp into which the survivors were herded.

The British Government was unwilling, said Eden, to publish any account of Japanese atrocities until they were confirmed beyond the possibility of doubt. <sup>that</sup> But now there is no longer room for doubt.

50 Similar stories are beginning to leak through from Java after the surrender of the main Dutch force in the Bandoeng area. Officers of the Netherlands army <sup>who</sup> ~~that~~ have reached Australia reported that the Japanese <sup>made</sup> ~~were making~~ a point of treating European prisoners roughly. The natives, on the other hand, they handle comparatively well, the idea being to pit Asiatics against Europeans.

## HITLER

51  
The Soviet leaders apparently believe that at least one of Hitler's moves in the Spring will be against Turkey. That's the interpretation ~~that~~ Moscow now offers for the bomb plot in Ankara, supposed to have been an attempt on Nazi Ambassador von Papen. As a matter of fact, Papen was <sup>not</sup> ~~wasn't anywhere~~ near the bomb when it exploded, ~~and ran no risk~~. Nevertheless, ~~a number of~~ Soviet subjects have been arrested by the Turkish authorities. The Soviet spokesmen tonight are charging that the Nazis promoted that bomb attempt, ~~and that~~ it's all part of a scheme to blackmail Turkey into becoming a part of the Axis ~~powers~~.

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The plausibility of this theory is that it would coincide with the strongly anticipated move of the Japanese on India. A Hitler attempt to embroil the Turks would be the western part of an Axis pincers movement on the heart of the British Empire in Asia.



In this connection, it may be worth noticing that

Germany's heavy planes, operating out of Sicily, have been bombing Malta without cease for twenty-four hours.

However, <sup>TP</sup>the reports from Ankara are that the Turkish Government still is determined to stay neutral and will fight if invaded.

## RUSSIA

2  
The most interesting <sup>item</sup> ~~thing~~ in today's news from Russia <sup>tells of</sup> ~~is that the~~ Soviet generals ~~are~~ moving a whole army, including heavy artillery, across the ice of Lake Ilmen and the delta of the Lovat River, which empties into Lake Ilmen. The waters are frozen like rock, and the Soviet engineers have changed that surface into a series of highways, along which the Red divisions are moving on that northern front.

52  
Reports are again coming out of Russia of a conspicuous lowering of the Nazi spirits. Of course these may be wishful reports; they come from the Soviet side. One general who interviewed many prisoners is quoted as having said:- "Shortly after the outbreak of the war, the Germans advanced with gusto. Now they are holding fast only out of fear."

This wouldn't be worth repeating except for stories <sup>from</sup> ~~that come simultaneously out of~~ France, that

the Nazis have withdrawn nearly all of their troops from occupied French territory. This has been reported by military attaches of other countries stationed in Vichy. <sup>That</sup> South of the River Loire, there are not more than six thousand German troops in all occupied France, barely two regiments, and they not young fresh troops.

23 <sup>That</sup> The Nazis have even withdrawn their customs guards and passport police from France. <sup>The obvious assumption is that</sup> ~~Presumably,~~ this is all <sup>pressure</sup> on account of the extraordinary ~~needs~~ of the war in Russia.

And it is interesting to learn that one division, which was brought back from the Russian front for a brief rest in France, was embarked at Riga and brought to Brest through the English Channel!

## HIGH COMMAND

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There have been many swift changes in the high command of our military forces of late. Now the most revolutionary of all is a suggestion from Congress. Senator Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri wants to unify all our fighting forces into one department, a department of National Defense, with a new Cabinet member to boss the job. The Missouri Senator would abolish the War and Navy Departments entirely, and also abolish Secretaries Knox and Stimson. Our sea forces, if Senator Clark's idea were adopted, would be under the command of a naval officer who would be known as Admiral of the Navy. At the head of the land forces would be an officer known as General of the Army. Not only the secretaries of the Navy and War would be abolished - but so would the Under-Secretaries and all their assistant secretaries.

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Senator Bennett Champ Clark would put all the air forces under the Army command. However, the actual patrolling of the coasts of both the Continental United States and our island territories, would be under Navy supervision, with the Marines carrying on as they have always carried on.

The Missouri Senator doesn't happen to be very close to the President. In fact, up to December Seventh, he was one of our foremost isolationists. So it is interesting to observe that it is he who is presenting this revolutionary bill after Senator Chandler of Kentucky had told reporters he had heard that the White House was considering the same move -- one high command for the Army, Navy and Air.

However, President Roosevelt today lost no time in spiking any chances there might be for Senator Clark's plan becoming a law. The President made it clear that any bill for one supreme unified command would pass only by defeating all the

Administration forces in Congress. The White House objection being that it isn't necessary. Our armed forces, he said, are working together quite well, under the present set-up, hence there is no need for the change that is suggested by the Senator from Missouri.

Reporters then asked him, what about the statement made by Senator Chandler, the statement that Mr. Roosevelt himself had been considering just that kind of a change, a supreme command? As he frequently does in press conferences, the President answered the question by asking another. He asked, What does the term "supreme command" mean? He said that he didn't know himself, and he doubted whether anybody else knows exactly.

Then he pointed out that last night he had made one move toward simplifying the organization of our military establishment, by making Admiral King Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet, as well as Chief of Naval Operations.



ITEM VETO

President Roosevelt has the sympathy and support of a Republican leader in one of his wishes. Republican Senator Vandenberg of Michigan wants to help the President obtain authority to veto individual items in appropriation bills. That authority is desirable because of the addiction of some lawmakers to inserting riders in bills. That subject came up last week as you may recall. The farm bloc in particular and other ~~pressure~~ <sup>adding</sup> groups have a habit of ~~sneaking~~ these riders <sup>up</sup> into money measures with the idea that if the President wants to veto them, he has to veto the whole works.

The next appropriation bill that comes <sup>up</sup> before the ~~Senate~~ <sup>Sen.</sup> Vandenberg will offer an amendment giving the President the power to veto any individual item or items. ( ~~He made public part of a letter he received from Mr. Roosevelt on the subject. The governors of~~ )

## PORK

The Price Administrator has at last called a halt on the staggering price of pork products. ~~It won't~~ <sup>But not</sup>

<sup>to</sup> go into effect for another thirteen days; ~~as it only~~ <sup>and</sup>  
<sup>to</sup> affect ~~the~~ <sup>only</sup> wholesale price <sup>s.</sup> No wholesaler, after

March Twenty-Third, may charge more than the highest

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price that prevailed between March third and March seventh. That ruling ~~is only~~ <sup>to be</sup> temporary, ~~and will hold~~  
<sup>only</sup> good for sixty days. After that there will be a

permanent ceiling put on the wholesale price of pork.

~~This~~ <sup>not to</sup>  
~~And it doesn't~~ apply to sausages, canned meats or  
manufactured meats, except <sup>And</sup> canned spiced-ham luncheon  
meat. These distinctions are somewhat baffling.

The Price Administration Office announces that if the  
retailers get gay and put up their prices too high,  
they will feel the force of Uncle Sam's hand.

~~Wherever you go now, you hear somebody saying,~~

~~"If we only had the seventy million or so pigs that~~

## AUTOS

Congressman Wright Patman of Texas is jumping to the rescue of motor car dealers. He wants to help them out of the jam into which they were plunged by Leon Henderson's freezing of the cars they have in stock. Patman is Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business. He will offer one bill ordering the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to help the dealers with money. In addition to the money they have tied up in cars they <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ not allowed to sell, many of the dealers have expensive leases on show rooms, ~~that~~ they can't use. So Patman will draft a second bill to relieve them on that account also.

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## SUBMARINES

Four more of our cargo ships attacked by submarines. One tanker torpedoed and cut in two, three and a half miles off the Atlantic coast.

The submarine, after firing the torpedo, sailed between the two halves of the tanker.

Further south, the survivors of a tanker flying the flag of Panama, were landed somewhere in the West Indies.

8 1/2 At another West Indies port, the survivors of a freighter, ~~xxx~~ were brought ashore. And a newspaper at Havana reports that two of Uncle Sam's warships arrived at a certain port towing a tanker which had been attacked and shelled by an enemy submarine. The enemy set her afire but did not sink her, and United States planes sank the submarine.

According to newspaper figures, this brings the list of ships attacked in American waters up to

seventy-six, of which sixty-nine have been sunk.

On the other side of the ledger, the Government  
of Brazil has just turned over to <sup>the</sup> United States

~~officers~~ the Italian liner COMTE GRANDE, one of the  
luxurious vessels in the tourist trade. She had been  
in a Brazilian port since Italy <sup>entered</sup> ~~got into~~ the war.

Presumably she will be turned over to the shipping pool  
of the Allies.

Hugh, have you anything  
to say about submarines

air and tankers? & S-L-U-T-M