

HONG KONG

P.T. - Sunoco. Thursday, Dec. 25, 1941.

In the surrender of Hong Kong we find prominent mention of that necessary element -- water. It seems to be indicated that the British garrison of the Far Eastern island had to yield largely because of a lack of -- water.

The British announcement of a surrender was made in <sup>the</sup>~~the~~ form of a terse bulletin issued in London.

It reads: "The Governor of Hong Kong regrets to say that he has been advised by his military and naval commanders that no further effective resistance can be made, and <sup>that</sup>~~that~~ he is taking ~~xx~~ action ~~ix~~ in accordance with that advice." From Tokyo sources we hear

that the Hong Kong Governor, Sir Mark Young, had a meeting with Japanese commanders under a flag of truce, and the terms of capitulation were arranged.

And London summarizes with the following:

"So ends a great fight against overwhelming odds."

It was admitted by British military authorities all along that the position of Hong Kong was hopeless -- and largely because of a shortage of water. The Japanese, upon landing on the island, soon captured important reservoirs, and a London announcement continues as follows: "Water mains were destroyed by bombardment. The Public Works Department struggled bravely to effect a remedy, but the enemy destroyed the pipes again and again." TP It has often been held that in modern war one of the greatest dangers to cities would be the destruction of water ~~supplies~~ <sup>mains</sup> and connections, by sky bombardment. This theory seems to have been borne out for the first time in the case of Hong Kong.

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PHILIPPINES

There's not much news from the Philippines tonight. The Army communique is terse and sharp. It reads as follows: "Intensive fighting continues at all important points on Luzon Island. American and ~~Philippine~~ <sup>Philippine</sup> troops launched counter-attacks which met with <sup>local</sup> success particularly in the vicinity of Atimonan, southeast of Manila."

Atimonan is one of the secondary points of enemy assaults. The main area is along the Gulf of Lingayen -- a hundred and fifty miles north of Manila. No account of the fighting there is given.

We hear no more about ~~plans~~ <sup>plans</sup> to move the Philippine government from Manila, to declare the town an open city -- to avoid bombing. In general the Philippine news would seem to indicate that nothing decisive has happened -- but that things are critical everywhere.

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One story tells of the courage of a detachment  
of native <sup>Filipino</sup> ~~Philippine~~ troops. They were ordered to

retreat, <sup>but</sup> ~~and~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ begged to be allowed to have a

go at the Japs. They were allowed, and went to it

with <sup>bayonets,</sup> ~~abandon~~. The Japanese are said to have been

astonished by these direct tactics and beat a retreat.

DUTCH

The Dutch in the East Indies have sunk a Jap  
destroyer, one of the most powerful of that type of  
ship in the Mikado's fleet. ~~That~~<sup>ing</sup> brings the total of  
enemy ships destroyed up to fifteen -- ~~an~~<sup>in the</sup> astonishing  
showing made by the ~~Nether~~ Netherlands air and sea  
raiders in the war of the ocean. On the other hand,  
the Dutch announced <sup>one of their own</sup> the loss of a submarine<sup>s</sup>, which  
struck a mine and sank. It was returning from a  
successful mission on which it had blasted Japanese  
vessels.

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SUBMARINE

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Off the coast of California -- we've sunk a Jap submarine. There's no doubt of it -- although it is notoriously difficult to tell whether or not an undersea craft has really been sunk. ~~More than once, in fact, in the last war and in this present one, an enemy sub was reported ~~ixx~~ to have been destroyed -- when nothing of the sort occurred.~~ <sup>IT</sup> In recent days, with Jap underwater prowlers raiding along ~~ix~~ our Pacific coast, depth bombs have been aimed at them. Three times Army and Navy patrol planes have gone speeding to scenes of submarine attack -- and <sup>d</sup>ropped their charges of high explosives. In none of these instances was any claim made -- it wasn't certain that the depth bombs had found their mark. <sup>IT</sup> So what about today? Are we sure that American attack on Christmas did succeed in destroying one of those Japanese wolves of the deep? I can't do any better

than quote today's Army communique. It makes a vivid, dramatic story -- in its terse military way. Here's how it goes: "An American Army bomber from General DeWitt's Western Command successfully attacked an enemy submarine off the California coast. Soon after the submarine was sighted, it made an emergency dive. A bomb was dropped," the bulletin continues, "and the submarine ~~xxxx~~ emerged and then sank. Two more bombs were dropped, apparently scoring direct hits -- and filling the air with debris." <sup>IP</sup> So reads today's army communique, and it gives us a picture of telltale evidence. Tremendous explosions <sup>on the sea --</sup> ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxx~~ and in the water, <sup>was seen</sup> ~~hurling~~ high, the wreckage of a sub. ~~was xxxxxx seen.~~ A ponderous depth charge ~~xxxxx~~ exploded so near the underwater boat as to blast it upward in pieces.

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## FREE FRENCH

The Free French seizure of St. Pierre and Miquelon, two French islands off the coast of Newfoundland, turns out to be a paradoxical piece of business. Newspaper headlines this morning told of how forces of the DeGaulle Free French movement had landed from ships and wrested control of the two islands from the authorities representing the Vichy government.

This at first glance, seemed to be altogether in favor of the Allies -- something to be heartily welcomed by the United States and Great Britain. The Free French said they acted to keep the Nazis from establishing a possible submarine base at St. Pierre and Miquelon.

However, the first reaction from Canada was an assurance that the Dominion had nothing to do with it.

On Washington, Secretary of State Hull interrupted his Christmas holiday to look into the affair. And the State Department issued a prompt

announcement in which it used the phrase - "so called Free French." It says that the taking over of the islands was done without the knowledge of the United States Government. The seizure is described as arbitrary. Also -- contrary to agreement.- It is indicated that the United States expects Canada to do something about it.

In other words, restore the islands to the control of the Vichy regime of Marshal Petain.

The explanation is that our government is trying to stay on as good terms as possible with Vichy -- this in an effort to keep collaboration with Nazi Germany down to a minimum. We are trying to encourage the Petain regime to maintain as firm an attitude toward Nazi Germany as possible. And the fear is that the Free French seizure of St. Pierre and Miquelon may drive Vichy in the direction of Berlin.

The latest is a dispatch from London which states that the Free French leaders have gone into

a quick huddle. They're alarmed. They explain that they staged their coup at the two islands off Newfoundland because the people at St. Pierre and Miquelon wanted them to. It was their desire. Now the annoyance expressed by Washington is decidedly disconcerting. The Free French have been trying to persuade the United States to recognize them as the legal government of France, and the fear is expressed that Washington is less likely to do so -- after the St. Pierre -- Miquelon business.

AFRICA

In North Africa the British have captured  
Benghazi. This marks an important success and seems  
to complete the surrounding of large Axis forces. London  
indicates that some of the German panzer units got  
away by retreating to the West. But they are said to  
be in small parties -- disorganized. Benghazi was  
captured by the British before, when they so <sup>completely</sup> ~~competently~~  
defeated the Italians in Libya. The taking of the town  
was a striking victory at that time, and so it is  
once again.

BOY

Now for some tales of  
Christmas: -

At Madison, Indiana, Tommy Thedenow is a small boy -- also a good boy. And he knows that any good little boy should always tell the truth.

Tommy is one of the thousands of children who addressed a Christmas letter to Santa Claus, Indiana, the town with the YULETIDE name that ~~xxxxxxx~~ gets into the holiday news every year. Tommy wrote to Kris Kringle, and listed the things he wanted for Christmas, -- a fire engine, toy airplane, a tricycle. There was one final item on the list, and this Tommy wrote

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on the back of the ~~page~~ -- where perhaps it might not be so easily noticed. Maybe Santa Claus being a busy Saint, might overlook that last item -- on the back of the page. Tommy is an honest lad, and he was telling the truth -- but he didn't want the truth to be too conspicuous. You know -- even a good boy needn't be too good.

On the back of the page Tommy wrote the following: "I hate to add this, but my Daddy says please bring him a bundle of switches."

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I'm sure Tommy's Daddy was disappointed this morning, because Santa Claus would never bring the switches ~~xx~~ after the way Tommy told the truth.

ORPHAN

President Roosevelt today was demoted in rank -- taken down quite a few notches. As President he's Commander-in-Chief of the fleet, but now he's reduced to the rank of a sailor -- and I'll bet he loves it.

There's a nation-wide move -- <sup>a</sup> ~~it's the~~  
"Children's Crusade of Prayer." And at Buffalo, New York, they decided to pick a child to pray daily for the President of the United States -- to implor<sup>e</sup> Heaven to direct and to help him. So they held a lottery among the Parochial school children of Buffalo, to pick the child who would do the daily praying for the President. The chance, as it happened, fell upon an eight-year-old girl named Myrtle Pickering. She's an orphan, lives in an orphan home. Which one? Here's a moody coincidence. Eight-year-old Myrtle Pickering, picked to pray daily for the President, is a member of

the German Roman Catholic orphan asylum at Buffalo. The German part of it is a rather touching reminder of how our people, though they may come from everywhere are so fervently -- American.

Today, on Christmas, President Roosevelt was notified. The blue-eyed blonde-haired little girl wrote to him, and in her letter she said:- "Our country needs you very much. I will pray that our Blessed Mother takes care of you. I am eight~~years~~ old," she adds, "and I can pray very hard." And then Myrtle concludes, "Goodbye, my brave sailor."

And so the President is demoted from the rank of Commander-in-Chief of the Fleet. To Myrtle, elected to pray for him, he's just -- her sailor.

CHURCH

*I think*

~~Being~~ that this Christmas Day is an eminently good time for us Americans to reaffirm our faith in our country -- our patriotism. This war unified us instantly -- as Americans, simply and intensely. The great common denominator that makes us one, in spite of all our previous differences of opinion, ~~and~~ is Americanism, the patriotic ardor of love for our country.

Being merely a news man, I scanned the press wire <sup>s</sup> today -- seeking a dispatch that would provide a news angle for an expression of American patriotism <sup>m.</sup> ~~λ~~. And I found it exactly where you'd expect it -- in Washington, the headquarters of

things, the White House, something concerning the President of the United States.

In the national capital ~~there's~~<sup>stands</sup> an old church built of grey stone, and there today a special Christmas service was celebrated -- sponsored by the Washington Federation of Churches. The house of worship is Methodist. The sermon was preached by the Reverend Barney Phillips, Chaplain of the United States Senate. He's an Episcopalian -- Dean of the Washington Cathedral. This non-sectarian observance of Christmas was ~~hi~~ held for President Roosevelt, Mrs. Roosevelt, and ~~their~~ their guest, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The service was attended by a notable throng of dignitaries, American and British.

So there's the news angle. It's religious, and has to do with Christianity -- but, then, what could be a better foundation for our American

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patriotism than religion and Christianity? So let us hear what transpired when President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill attended divine service on Christmas.

Let us listen in imagination to the voice of the Dean of the Washington Cathedral as he said:-  
"We have lost our sense of values in regard to the implications of Christmas, particularly in the realm of duty to God and to fellow men."

But how can we regain our sense of values? I'd say -- there's no way better than through patriotism, through the glowing vision inspired by the love of our native country, this land that's our land. We must have this national fervor to win the war -- and what exaltation of heart could come more naturally to Americans on Christmas?

Today the President and the Prime Minister,

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listening to the Christmas sermon, heard this exhortation: "Bring back," cried the Dean, "the ideals of home, of sweet and protected innocence of children, of noble holy womanhood and glorious chivalrous manhood."

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The cynic may sneer -- old-fashioned. But let's be immensely old-fashioned, magnificently old-fashioned. Let's have in this land a surge and a flood of our traditional American patriotism -- that flame of national feeling which has ~~xxx~~ marked and saved many a critical day in our history. We need this as a nation at war, and it's good for us, merely as Americans who celebrate Christmas.

~~xxx~~ The preacher in Washington made another appeal -- in ~~these~~ these words:- "that each may have the strength of ten because his heart is pure." To which let us add <sup>that</sup> if our national heart

is pure, we will have the strength of ten nations.  
National purity of heart meaning -- pure American  
patriotism.

This, it seems to me, is a Number One news  
angle among all the bulletins that have flashed over  
the wire -- this wartime Christmas.

Now Hugh.

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