

L. J. - Sunoco. Monday, May 4, 1942.

STARK

A ray of hope comes today from a high naval officer, Admiral Stark, Commander-in-Chief of our naval forces in European waters. ^{Taking} ~~Beginning with~~ the nearest ^{news} first, the Admiral told newspapermen of his conviction that the peril of the Nazi submarines along our Atlantic coast is being slowly but surely beaten.

And he went on to say that we turned out no fewer than thirty United States men-o-war last year. *Not including small craft.* But in Nineteen Forty-Two, he added, at least a hundred new American fighting vessels will be afloat, and the following year, he declared, will be even greater.

Admiral Stark then spoke about offensive action by the Allies. And he used these words:- "We can't win the war fighting defensively. Nevertheless," he added, "reckless and unprepared action only loses wars.

The Strategy of calculated risk, in which we strike the enemy and strike him hard, will produce victory."

Admiral Stark added that there is complete cooperation between the British Admiralty and the American high naval command. Working as one.

HOLLAND

The Nazi rulers of ~~horror~~ in Holland are taking it out on the Dutch for ~~the~~ recent raids by the British Royal Air Force. The success of those raids ~~had~~ ^{it} ~~seems, had~~ stimulated the conquered people, not only in Holland but elsewhere, to active expression of their resentment at the Germans. ^{So much so that} Violence broke out in several places; and sabotage.

The Dutch radio today announced that the Nazi authorities had shot seventy-two Netherlanders and seven others have been sentenced to life imprisonment. The Germans claim that all seventy-nine of those Hollanders had been convicted of favoring the enemy, of espionage, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ possessing weapons and explosives and violating their word of honor as officers.

That is taken to mean that some of the seventy-nine were former officers of the army of Queen

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Wilhelmina, ^{They} ~~who~~ were forced to sign a pledge when that
army surrendered, that they would never again take up
arms against Germany. The Germans also claim that the
seventy-nine Dutchmen executed and imprisoned were
ringleaders of a secret anti-Nazi organization.

NEW GUINEA

Early today, we heard that Port Moresby, the jumping-off place in New Guinea, was in danger from an overland attack by Japanese advancing through the jungle from Lae and Salamaua. And the Japs had pushed up what is called the Markham Valley from their bases on the northern shore of New Guinea.

But we learn now from MacArthur's headquarters in Australia that the danger to Port Moresby will not come overland. That the main New Guinea port is in greater peril than ever of an attack by sea, but that the chances of an overland assault are comparatively remote. For that wild Markham Valley turns out to be too difficult.

The danger of a Japanese attack on Port Moresby by sea is suggested by the increasing severity of the air raids there.

The Japanese who tried to advance from Lae, overland, have returned to their base. Those from Salamaua are separated from Port Moresby by mountains eight thousand feet high and covered with heavy jungle.

DIAMONDS

Here is a story from the Antipodes that might have given a plot to Robert Louis Stevenson. A beach comber walked into a town on the northwest coast of Australia, and enlisted in the Imperial forces. After he had taken the oath, he produced a package from his tattered garments and said he wanted to turn it over to somebody in authority. The package was investigated and found to contain diamonds to the value of a million dollars. The beach comber had found it while literally combing the beach for food.

The story of that parcel of diamonds is that they came from Java. The package was addressed to a bank in Australia, and given to the pilot of one of the last planes to take off from the island after the Japanese had landed early in March. When the plane approached the coast of Australia, it ran into a gang of Japanese navy zero fighters, who shot it down. It crashed into the

water near the beach, was wrecked and almost submerged. Four men of the crew were killed on the spot and were buried on the beach by their mates.

The survivors waited on the beach for many days before they were rescued by a band of Australian aborigines. They did their best to find that precious ~~package~~ ^{parcel} in the wreckage; but failed. Even after they were rescued, a search party was taken to the scene but couldn't find the diamonds. They lay hidden until that beach comber, scavenging for sea food, found the million dollar parcel half buried in a mud bank.

~~The story does not say ³¹⁴ anything about the reward.~~

PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, the principal fighting of late has been on the island of Mindanao. American and Filipino soldiers are harrassing the Japanese on the West coast of Mindinao where they landed last week.

The Army report from Corregidor is the same as usual - bombardments by Japanese planes and artillery on the mainland, with our own cannon replying. But the Navy announces the loss of a warship, only a small one, to be sure. It was the U.S.S. MINDINAO, a river gunboat of some five hundred tons, which Japanese bombers have sunk in the bay near Corregidor.

BURMA

Fighting still is going on in Burma, savage fighting from all accounts. The Japanese reinforced their columns advancing northward and pushed ahead to within twenty or fifteen miles of the Chinese border. But when they got there they tried to outflank the Chinese army. A fierce battle followed, which lasted until Sunday night. It ended with the Japanese being driven back.

At the same time the British are retreating slowly above Mandalay, fighting a rear guard action and falling back along the Irrawaddy and Chindwin Rivers. They still have control of the railway to Shwebo.

Having lost Lashio, the British and American planes were bombing it intensively today, and report that they damaged the Japanese badly.

MANDALAY AND MAYMYO

There are quite a number of Americans who have been feeling rather glum during these past few days, because of the news from far-off Burma. Our American stake in Burma hasn't been great. But several groups of Americans had devoted years of their lives to that country. For instance, in the days when I was there, all of the oil drillers in the great Burma oil fields were bronzed, hard-bitten Americans from the oil fields of Texas and Oklahoma.

Most of the missionaries out there were representatives of the Baptist Church -- Americans. They had translated the Bible into most of the strange languages of Burma, such as the language of the Kachins. And they were highly respected by natives and Europeans alike for the magnificent educational and medical work they had done.

Then there were railroad engineers, and mining engineers, like Herbert Hoover, who spent years in Burma. Mr. Hoover opened up a silver mine on the road

to Lashio, a silver mine the Chinese had operated a thousand years ago.

It was a shock to me when the news came through that the Japs had captured Maymyo, the summer capital, Maymyo where I had once delivered an address on things that happened in the first World War, with my audience made up almost entirely of Scotsmen in kilts, a thousand or more Scottish soldiers of the famous Gordon Highlanders. And then to the cool hills of Maymyo I went later to recover from dengue, that unpleasant tropical fever. But, the greatest shock of all came this weekend with the news that storied Mandalay not only had been captured by the Japs, but that Mandalay is now just a heap of ashes. Mandalay, the capital of King Thebaw and Queen Supyalot whom Kipling sang about

Judging from the stories that have been coming through even from Tokyo, almost nothing remains, of Mandalay. For instance the interesting and colorful Burmese palace of Thebaw and Supyalot -- bombed, burned

and destroyed. Also the modern business district of Mandalay, the great modern steel and brick concrete markets erected by the British, where the lovely Burmese women used to spread out their alluring wares, as they puffed away on their huge white cheroots. There was more laughter in that Mandalay market than in any other market in the world. And now there is no laughing. There is nothing but ashes.

In Burma, most of the people are Buddhists, and nearly every ^{boy} ~~man~~ spends a part of his life in the yellow robes of a Buddhist monk, living in a monastery. The monks are in charge of the education of the young. The finest Buddhist monastery that I ever saw in the East was in Mandalay -- made of carved teak, all lace-like and with hundreds of spires.

Those monks, the Pungis, with shaven heads and yellow robes -- carrying great bowls, and with downcast eyes -- used to start out from the Mandalay monastery every morning on their rounds, to beg rice. You could

hardly call it begging. They never asked for rice when they stopped at a door. Nor did they even raise their eyes. They were simply giving you the privilege of contributing to the monastery. And then after an hour or so they would file back to the monastery. Still with their eyes down. And then they would continue their scholarly and religious pursuits. But that monastery is now in ashes, And all the hundreds of white and golden pagodas of Mandalay are in ruins.

Most of us thought the last war was devastating. But now that man has taken to the air and is fighting so much of the time up there, what has happened to Mandalay gives us some idea of how necessary it is for us to knock Hitler and the Japs out just as quickly as we can. And then to find some way to prevent such wars.

At any rate, there must be some lesson in what has happened to Mandalay. A few weeks ago, a great city. And now the reports tell us what nothing is left, not a human being, not even a dog. Just ~~xxx~~ ashes.

TRANSPORTATION

The latest news for motorists: that Transportation Director Joe Eastman is to have supreme authority over all forms of getting from one place to another. To be exact we hear that Eastman now has control of everything that rolls on rubber.

The announcement reads that the Office of Defense Transportation will ~~draw~~ draw up rules to assure the maximum use of the existing supply of civilian transport services depending upon rubber, and that includes limiting the use of all rubber-borne transportation facilities in non-essential civilian activities.

Meanwhile, Petroleum Coordinator Ickes announces that he will let us know tomorrow just how small civilian gasoline rations will be on the East Coast.

For the time being, there will be no rationing of gasoline in districts where there is no shortage, such for instance as the region around Pittsburgh.

COUGHLIN

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Exit SOCIAL JUSTICE, the stormy magazine founded by Father Coughlin. There were to have been hearings today in Washington to decide whether the paper should be barred from Uncle Sam's mails. The Radio Priest had announced that he would fight the cancellation order with all his eloquence. The time for the hearing came, three Assistant Postmaster Generals were in session, and the room where they sat was jammed. First Assistant Postmaster General O'Connell called the case, called for representatives of SOCIAL JUSTICE to appear. No answer. Three times he called. So it was thought the case would go by default. Then came a letter from the nominal editor of the magazine, informing the Postmaster General that SOCIAL JUSTICE was giving up its mailing privileges and would hereafter not be published. And that, apparently, is that.

~~Attorney General Biddle had declared that some~~

PULITZER

Several American newspapers and also newspapermen
received
~~obtained the~~ distinguished compliments this afternoon.
For today was
~~it was~~ the day for the handing out of prizes by the
Committee which makes awards every year under the will
of the Late Joseph Pulitzer of the NEW YORK WORLD.

In the case of individual newspapermen, the ~~awards~~ *Compliment*
carries with ~~them~~ *it* the useful ~~complement~~ *obligato* of five hundred
cash, or presumably, defense bonds.
dollars. One of these goes to Jeffry Parsons of the
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE, for his distinguished
editorial writing.

The prize for the most disinterested and ~~meritorious~~
meritorious service rendered by an American newspaper in
Nineteen Forty-One, ~~is meted~~ *goes* to the LOS ANGELES TIMES,
with a citation which reads:- "For the successful
campaign which resulted in the clarification and
confirmation for all American newspapers of the right
of free press as guaranteed under the Constitution."

Cameraman Milton Brooks of the DETROIT NEWS gets five hundred dollars for a photograph entitled, "Ford Strikers Riot."

Louis Stark of the NEW YORK TIMES also gets five hundred, for his distinguished reporting of important labor stories.

To Lawrence Edmund Allen of the Associated Press, another five hundred, for stories of the activities of the British Mediterranean fleet.

And do you remember the yarn last year about several California and Oregon counties that wanted to secede from California and Oregon and form a forty-ninth state? Stanton Delaplane of the SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE gets five hundred dollars for the skill with which he reported that.

A Philippine newspaperman also gets a prize - Carlos P. Romulo of the PHILIPPINE HERALD. He gets

five hundred dollars for his observations and forecasts of Far Eastern developments last year.

The most distinguished novel of the year, in the opinion of the Pulitzer Committee, [?] ~~was~~ "In This Our Life", by Ellen Glasgow, *of Richmond, Va.* And the Committee ~~xxxxix~~ has avoided a lot of trouble by making no award whatsoever in the field of drama, which has been the source of more knocks and complaints than all the other awards under the Pulitzer will ^{all} put together.
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BASEBALL

Did you hear about that doubleheader at St. Louis yesterday? Any game with the boisterous Brooklyns meeting the St. Louis Gas House outfit is fun.

But it wasn't pop bottles that made yesterday's double-header such a wow. It was a set-up between four of the Dodgers and Umpire Billy Sears. Likewise, it was the first test of the new rule made this year by President Ford Frick of the National League, the rule forbidding either manager or players to leave the dugout for an argument with the umpire. For that, it was announced today, Manager Durocher of Brooklyn pays fifty dollars into the National League war chest. Altho he wasn't the only one to draw the fine.

Brooklyn Pitcher Freddie Fitzsimmons got annoyed with Umpire Sears, and was hustled off to the showers.

"Fat Freddie" wanted to take a punch at the umpire but peacemakers intervened and today Freddie Fitzsimmons drew a fine of twenty-five dollars.

Then First Baseman Dolph Camilli, the field captain of the Dodgers, resented a decision of Umpire Tom Dunn; resented it to the point of kicking dirt over the plate after the umpire had swept it clean. So Dolph wanted to take a punch at Dunn, but again the peacemakers prevailed. And that was a twenty-five dollar gesture.

To cap the climax, Pitcher Chester Kehn uttered remarks from the sidelines which were considered too rough for the sensitive ears of the St. Louis fans, and for a lesson in deportment and nice language, he pays twenty-five dollars.