

L.I. - Sumoco. Tuesday, April 7, 1942.

Tonight's late Army bulletin, which is just in, employs the candid but ominous words "some additional progress" -- meaning progress by the Jap enemy in the Batan Peninsula. The War Department also uses the words "heavy losses have been sustained by our forces and by the enemy." And to this we can add the ~~i~~ implication that our forces out there are so small that they may not be able to take heavy losses for long.

The Army tonight is frank in picturing a huge ^{Batan} and all out [^] attack by the enemy today. It states:-
"Superior enemy forces, supported by tanks and artillery, continue to attack the center of our line." The superiority of the enemy forces is accented by this; ~~other statements:-~~ "The Japanese have thrown fresh reserves into the fighting," states the War Department report. ~~And it continues the picture with this:~~
And Gen. Wainwright has no reserves.
The War Dept adds this: -
"Japanese dive bombers are assisting in the attack dropping bombs and machine gunning our front line soldiers."

These military phrases, in terse language,

present a picture of violent and continuous enemy assaults that have been pressing back General Wainwright's outnumbered troops -- with further enemy

advances today. ^{Perhaps} ~~It may be that~~ the heroes of Batan may be in process of being forced down to the tip of their small peninsula stronghold -- from which they might have to retire to the Island fortress of

Coregidor; ^{there} ~~if they are~~ to continue ~~in~~ their ~~own~~ resistance

^{that has} ~~it would~~ astonish the world. ^{ed} ~~the~~ A late Army bulletin tells

of another bombing attack on an American field hospital -- the same one that was bombed only a few days ago.

The Japanese High Command apologized for that ^{one} in a radio broadcast. But once again they ^{have} blasted that ^e

same hospital. Today's ~~raid~~ was carried out by three flights of heavy bombers, and it inflicted pitiful casualties among the wounded soldiers, ~~in the hospital~~

The Army points out that the hospital is plainly marked and that the two successive attacks prove that they were intentional -- in spite of the Jap apology for the first one.

MacARTHUR

In Australia, General MacArthur's air forces have struck again at the Japs in New Guinea. Blasting the invasion base at Lae, on the north New Guinea coast, they set fire to a number of grounded Japanese planes.

NAVY

Two more enemy vessels have been sunk in the China Sea -- two successes to be marked to the credit of a single American submarine. Tonight's late bulletin from the Navy Department in Washington describes one of the Jap vessels as a combination passenger and cargo carrier of about ten thousand tons. The other a five thousand ton freighter.

One of our long range submarines torpedoed them -- in the vital work of striking at the long enemy lines of sea communication.

CRIPPS

Today I have been going over the mail and found many ~~were discussing events on this broadcast last~~ *letters about what ~~what~~ happened during last Friday's broadcast.* ~~Friday~~ When I mispronounced the name of the stately

Sir Stafford Cripps, I couldn't help laughing at myself.

Everybody in the studio here had gasps of mirth at my expense - especially Hugh James. And then the

listeners-in continued the mirthful proceedings with

telephone calls, *telegrams and letters -* ~~letters and postal cards~~ giving me

the laugh. The neatest I think comes from Robert Milton

of Fort Wayne, Indiana. He drops me a card which

smartly echoes the woeful error that I made with

Sir Stafford's name. Brother Milton writes:- "Drop in some day, and we'll shoot a game of Cripps."

All I can say is to confess ruefully that those slips of speech can happen to anyone, but I seem to have the unhappy faculty of getting tangled up in howling fashion right in the middle of the most serious

49

and solemn stories -- like the one about the British Empire and India. However, I hope you folks won't be too hard on a fellow who is trying to get along by rattling off the tricky syllables that come in the news.

And I have been expecting criticism for such an unseemly blunder, on so important a topic in wartime -- for India is no laughing matter. However, the stacks of communications that I have received are entirely good-humored -- proving the amiable tolerance of the radio audience. In fact, a big time government official in Washington put in an immediate telephone call saying -- "Thanks" for the first good laugh he said he had had since we got into the war.

However, it's not so completely funny to me. I'm going to have an uneasy feeling, scared and shivery, everytime I come to the name of Sir Stafford Cripps. And I'm going to watch my step - as right now, for example.

INDIA

The latest from India states that the Nationalist Congress has turned down the latest British proposals. That's one point. The second is, that the Nationalist Congress will appeal to the Indian people to resist Japanese attack by every means available.

The Churchill government is willing to accept the appointment of an Indian Defense Minister - but with certain limitations. The London attitude was that it would be unwise to put an inexperienced native minister in full control of defense matters. But the Indians reject all that.

But at the same time, ~~the~~ the Indian Nationalist Council declares full national resistance to Japanese invasion -- whether India comes to an agreement with the British Government or not. Even if the present attempt for a settlement should break down -- they'll fight. This is said to be the gist of the appeal of the All-India Congress to the people.

In Washington today, acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles said he did not think the people of India would be deluded by offers of cooperation from Japan. This refers to a radio appeal by Tokyo Premier, General Tojo, who has urged the people of India to revolt against the British and join the Japs.

At the same time we are told that the Indian Nationalists are addressing an appeal to President Roosevelt. Their leader, Jawaharlal **Nehru**, is asking the President to intervene and use his influence with the British to prevent a collapse of the negotiations. Nehru is quoted as using a figure of speech in addressing the President. This figure of speech - "Give timely oxygen to a dying patient." The dying patient being the negotiations.

Nehru is said to have conveyed this request for American intervention to the presidential emissary in India, Louis A. Johnson. They hope that American

INDIA - 3

influence can do something to promote the success
of their negotiations with Sir Stafford Cripps.

BURMA

In Burma, regular American warplanes have joined the American Volunteer pilots in the defense of Mandalay. The A.V.P., organized in the service of China, has made an astounding record against the Japs. Now, apparently, these American volunteers will be incorporated as part of ^{the Tigere} ~~the~~ ^{our U.S.} regular army air corps.

The battleline in Burma is fluid and confused. The British announce that their forces, having retired from Prome, are taking up new positions. These are some distance north of Prome, and are said to be favorable for a new stand to defend Mandalay. ^P That storied and romantic city is the next objective of the Jap land attacks. It is their immediate objective for air ~~xx~~ assaults. They've been bombing Mandalay ~~xxx~~ savagely, and today the Chinese tell us that the air raids have killed between ~~xx~~ two and three thousand civilians, and destroyed two-thirds of the commercial district of Mandalay.

RUSSIA

From Soviet Russia we have a statement that would seem to indicate a breaking of the German siege line before Leningrad. The official newspaper of the Communist Party states that a relief train, crammed with supplies, has reached the former capital of the Czars. Such a relief train would have had to get through the German siege lines - so these may have been broken. Hitherto, there have been numerous reports that the siege of Leningrad had been lifted, but none of these turned out to be correct.

This latest account follows a Berlin bulletin saying that violent Soviet attacks broke through the Nazi defense front somewhat south of Leningrad - in the area of Staraya Russa, where the Red army has had a large German force virtually surrounded for some time. Berlin claims that after breaking through, the attacking Red forces were crushed.

SINKINGS

~~The~~ ^{Knox} Secretary of the Navy gives heartening
word concerning submarine sinkings off our coast, but
he tempers this with an expression of caution. He said
that last week there was a sharp reduction in U-boat
attacks, and explained that this was due in part to
measures taken by the Navy - the strengthening of our
anti-submarine defense. There's warning, however,
indicating that we should not place too much
significance in last week's decrease of sinkings.
He explained that the Germans have a habit of carrying
out submarine attacks in periodical waves. So their
attacks may subside, and then increase.

3
24

ROOSEVELT

President Roosevelt called today for - total sacrifice. Everything is becoming total nowadays - total war, total peace to come, total production - and total sacrifice.

The President made his declaration by letter to a conference of United Automobile Workers at Detroit. They have a program ~~xx~~ with the slogan - "Victory through equality of sacrifice." Under this program, labor is going to give up double pay for work on weekends and holidays. The President advocates the abolition of this holiday double pay, and today he congratulated the Union leaders. The United Auto Workers have just voted to abolish the holiday double pay.

PRODUCTION

During the next few months, the American purchaser will find mighty little to buy in the way of durable goods. Production Chief Donald Nelson said today, that the production of this kind of civilian merchandise will virtually stop within the next eight weeks. Durable goods meaning - products that are not consumed, ^{that is that are} not food, [^] not clothing. In other words, things like household fixtures and furniture. They won't be manufactured any more - not during the duration. The materials are needed for war production. And Donald Nelson went on to tell us about war production during March. He said it came to a total of more than two and a half billion dollars' worth.

RUBBER

There's optimistic word about synthetic rubber.

It comes from Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones, who has been criticized for our failure ^{to manufacture} ~~to purchase~~ large quantities of synthetic rubber before the outbreak of war in the Pacific. To a Senate Committee he stated the following:- "We do believe the methods we have adopted will give us rubber we can use - and in large quantities."

And he gave figures to indicate that by the end of next year we will have a yearly synthetic production of seven hundred thousand tons.

He was asked whether this would ease the shortage of rubber for civilian use. Jesse Jones replied that the civilian part of it depended on the amount of rubber used in the war production and the amount sent abroad under lend-lease.

He went on to state that the Jap attack in the East caused the loss of only a little of the crude

BECK

This evening the world of aviation is honoring a man who has never flown a plane, and yet he's getting a trophy for what he has done for aviation. Tom Beck, editorial director of COLLIER'S magazine.

At the Lotus Club in New York, Senator Thomas of Utah, an air-minded legislator, will present to Tom Beck the Frank Hawks Memorial Trophy.

NEGROES

The Navy is going to accept the enlistment of negroes for general service. This is an innovation, as hitherto the Navy has only recruited negroes to act as mess men. This ^{is} discrimination ~~has~~ aroused some discussion, and now there is a change as announced today by Secretary Frank Knox.

Hereafter, negroes will be enlisted in the reserve components of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. However, they will not be mixed with white crews. They'll be organized as all-negro crews to man small vessels - harbor craft, auxiliaries and possibly destroyers. ~~They'll~~ ^{To} be commanded by white commissioned and petty officers.- Secretary Knox explaining that it takes plenty of time to train officers.

57

IMPERSONATION

In a Boston jail tonight there's a negro truck driver who bears the melodious name of Felton Harris. He's in a prison cell, and no doubt he's meditating on the superiorities of life in the army as compared with existence in the hoosegow. Felton Harris from way down South in Georgia posed as an officer at a Massachusetts army camp. ^{He} had been in the Army as a private; but had been dishonorably discharged last year for stealing a pistol. Thereafter he had become a truck driver, but apparently still aspired to a warrior's career.

Quite unofficially, he wandered into a negro regiment at Fort Benning, Georgia, and posed as a sergeant for a while. Then he drifted up to Massachusetts got himself a lieutenant's uniform, went to a colored regiment at Fort Devens, and announced that he had been sent up from Fort Benning. He was accepted without question, and for twenty-three days led the life of a lieutenant -- if not the life of Riley.

58
The federal prosecutor today described the imposture in these words;- "Demanding and receiving the respect of

the personnel and obtaining living quarters from the United States." And they say that Lieutenant Felton Harris was placed in temporary command of a detachment of negro troops -- and how he marched them around! He instructed the soldiers in the manual of arms and setting-up exercises -- giving them plenty of exercise.

The lieutenant was riding high, wide and handsome in his military career, when he decided he needed a furlough. For the Easter holidays he went over to Cambridge, and apparently was doing all right there -- because he fell asleep in an automobile. That attracted the attention of the police, and when the lieutenant was unable to produce the proper army papers, they notified the F.B.I. Only a brief investigation was needed to disclose the truth, and then the transition - from a lieutenant residing in officer's quarters, to a truck driver locked up in jail.

8 1/2
9 Hugh, there's something to think about!