

NAVY

C.I. - Sunoco. Thursday, May 7, 1942.

Tonight's Navy bulletin begins with these words:

"Very excellent news has been received." And the excellency^e of the news is discovered in the figure - twelve. That many Jap warships smashed up by our air forces in the southwest Pacific.

Off ~~Northwestern~~^{eastern} New Guinea are the strategic ~~ixx~~ Solomon Islands, and during the past few days there has been news of a Japanese ^{invasion} ~~xxxxx~~ fleet moving to seize dominating points in that archipelago. It would appear that this invasion fleet was the target that our men so successfully hit. The Navy speaks of the victory as a naval engagement^{and}, states our loss was only three planes. Meaning our naval air forces were in it - bombing the enemy ships. ^{TR} The Jap loss consists of one light cruiser, two destroyers, four gunboats, and one supply vessel ^{--- all} - sunk. Also, a big seaplane tender, a light cruiser, a transport, and a cargo vessel

badly damaged. And they lost six of their warplanes in the fighting.

This happened on May Fourth, and the only ~~comment~~ comment needed is the first line of tonight's Navy bulletin - "very excellent news has been received."

CORREGIDOR

A late bulletin issued by the War Department tells of a Jap claim that Lieutenant General Wainwright, in surrendering Corregidor, also agreed to order the surrender of the remainder of the American-Filipino forces still fighting in the islands.

Tonight's communique reads as follows:-

"The War Department has been unofficially informed from a ^{oa} broadcast ^{by the now} ~~from a~~ Japanese-controlled Manila ^{radio} station of what are purported to be the terms of the capitulation after the fall of Corregidor. The Japanese," the bulletin goes on, "are said to have insisted upon the immediate surrender of the scattered American and Philippine troops operating on the various islands of the archipelago. In order to avoid further unnecessary sacrifices," the ^{Washington} communique continues, "General Wainwright is reported to have reluctantly conceded to these terms and to have broadcast appropriate orders to his field commanders."

The Japanese claim that the American Commander in the Philippines has ordered a general all-around surrender, is completely unconfirmed. Nor is there any word that the other American forces have surrendered. The Army communique concludes as follows:- "The War Department has received no official information on the subject and has no knowledge whether or not the reported conditions have been met."

The War Department today announced the total of soldiers, sailors, marines and civilians who must have been captured at Corregidor; minus the casualties during the past few days. The figure is eleven thousand five ~~xx~~ hundred and seventy-four - Americans and Filipinos.

CHINESE

A major battle is being fought along the Burma Road in China - twenty-four miles north of the Burmese border. And the latest reports tell of the Chinese beating back enemy mechanized attacks. At one place a Jap advance unit is said to have penetrated fifty miles into China from Burma. (They say the enemy purpose is to seize air bases in the southern Chinese province of Yunnan - bases from which Chinese and American battle fliers have been operating.)

Far away in ~~xxx~~ eastern China, the words are - second front. This applies to guerrilla activity in the large territories controlled by the Japs - controlled more or less. The Chinese guerrillas, who have been operating for years, are described as having been organized ^{for} ~~into~~ a regular series of concerted military moves - storming the Japs with surprise attacks at various places. ~~This is on such a large scale and xxx~~

MADAGASCAR

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Vichy, France, confirms the surrender of the Diego Suarez naval base in Madagascar - as was announced by British Prime Minister Churchill this morning. But Vichy claims that the remainder of the great island will be defended) - ~~they~~ will fight on.

The Churchill statement made it clear that the French at the naval base put up a ^{brave} ~~great~~ fight. They hurled back one attack with a loss that may exceed a thousand men. But the British Commando forces were too strong. This time Great Britain was determined that the old story should not be repeated - "too little and too late." (It is revealed that the Commander expedition to capture Madagascar was being prepared for weeks - so it wasn't a mere quick reaction to the accession to power of Laval and his collaborationist outfit.) ~~The~~
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preparations were thorough, and the attack was pressed with decisive speed. One position after another at the

naval base was captured, and after hardly more than a day of fighting, the French command surrendered.

SEA BATTLE

London announces that a violent sea battle was fought last week along the Arctic convoy line to Soviet Russia. A ten thousand ton British cruiser was sunk, the EDINBURGH, and four merchant vessels were lost. The Nazi loss was one destroyer sunk and another damaged.

Two convoys passed each other, and were a mark for repeated and determined attacks by Nazi naval and air units.

Each convoy had its own story of battle.

The one on its way back to Britain was attacked by German destroyers and submarines. The weather was favorable for the assault -- a heavy sea and poor visibility. One of the escorting warships was the

EDINBURGH, and that ten thousand ton cruiser was torpedoed by a U-boat -- her steering gear damaged. But ~~the~~ EDINBURGH kept going.

The next afternoon, three German destroyers made five separate attacks, and one merchant vessel in the convoy was sunk. On the following day, there was another assault by destroyers. The EDINBURGH by this time was being towed, but she blasted away with all her guns and sank one Germany destroyer and damaged another. However, the Nazis got in a hit with a torpedo, and ~~the~~ EDINBURGH was blasted again. This time it was impossible to tow the big cruiser any further. She was too badly damaged -- and the weather was too bad. So the British, themselves, sank the EDINBURGH.

Now for the other convoy -- on its way to a Soviet port with war supplies. It was attacked by six Junkers dive bombers, one of which was shot down. No damage to the convoy. The next day six torpedo planes swung low over the stormy Arctic Sea, and came speeding to the

assault. One was shot down, and another damaged. In the convoy three merchant vessels were hit by torpedoes and sank. On the day after that -- more dive bombers, one shot down.

The terse account given by the London Admiralty presents a graphic picture of desperate action, Nazi attack and British defense, along the Soviet supply line in the Arctic Ocean.

RUSSIA

London has word that Hitler's plans for an all-out offensive against the Soviets are complete.

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The Nazis are only waiting for the ground to get hard after the Spring thaw. This report is published by the LONDON DAILY MAIL, which goes on to say that it has word that the main German drive will be against Moscow. Hitler is said to believe that the seizure of the Soviet capital would cause the collapse of the Stalin Government.

The Soviet side reports a new success on the Leningrad front, the capture of a strong point held by the Nazis all winter. And the Red Army tells of the annihilation of German advance units, who were marooned by the Spring floods.

PLANE

Today an Army scouting plane confirmed the news of the finding ~~of the wreckage~~ of a big Army air transport, which crashed five months ago, killing everybody aboard - including Major General ^{Herbert} Dargue of the Army Air Corps. The confirmation today was followed by a report yesterday - a report from a bereaved father who twice had braved the heavy snows in the Sierra Nevadas, searching for his lost son.

Aboard the tragic plane was co-pilot Lieutenant Homer Burns of Spokane, Washington. When the big transport and all in it simply vanished into mystery, the Lieutenant's father, Roy G.B. Burns, vowed that he would find his son. He went to the wild mountainous area of California, where the crash must have occurred, and tried to force his way into the high snow filled valleys. But the towering drifts were too much, and he had to abandon the search - but only temporarily.

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Five days ago he renewed it -- together with his daughter and his daughter-in-law, the wife of his lost son. Today he said:- "Our clue was a report from a man in a nearby town, that on the night the plane disappeared he had seen a flare in the mountains."

So with that clue he started out -- with the two young women and two men who knew the Sierra Nevadas in those parts. "It was awfully tough going," he said, "The altitude was around eleven thousand feet and there was still lots of snow. We just went on from one mountain to another -- until we found it."

Only the two men who knew the mountains were able to get to the wreck. But they returned with telling and pathetic evidence.. "They brought back my son's belt, with his initials on it." So the father related today.

HEROES

Today the War Department announced the commissioning of two new officers -- majors. They are a good deal alike -- although you've heard a lot about one and not so much about the other. One is Sergeant Alvin York, the other is Sergeant Samual Woodfill. The former was the selection of General Foch as the outstanding soldier of the war. The latter, Sam Woodfill, was General Pershing's choice. Now these two ace heroes of the previous war are back in the army -- as majors.

Sergeant York's exploits are sufficiently well known, while Woodfill's have been comparatively unsung -- though I myself did a bit of singing about them in a book a few years ago -- called Woodfill of the Regulars. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for the exploit of reducing a series of German machine gun nests, one after another. Did it single-handed. A dead shot rifleman of the Daniel Boone tradition, he stalked machine gun nests as if they

were partridges, or as if he were hunting bear.

It's great to see these old time heroes honored, and I am only sorry that Dan Edwards is not still alive -- although they could have hardly made him an officer, not with one arm gone and a silver plate for a knee. Dan committed mutiny by refusing to retreat in battle. But the court martial instead of condemning him to death, recommended him for the Congressional Medal of Honor. What a soldier rollicking Dan would make for this war if his arm were back on and if his knee would bend and if he were still alive - to join Majors York and Woodfill.

LEHMAN

Governor Lehman of New York will not be a candidate for reelection. This he announced today in the following words:- "If nominated, I will not accept the nomination. When my duties as Governor are over, I expect to devote all my time and energy exclusively to the war effort."

Gov. Lehman
In the first World War ~~he~~[^] served in the supply system of the Army, and observers in Albany believe that he is likely to be called upon to take some big time supply job in the present war effort.

His decision not to run for reelection raises the large question - Who will be the Democratic candidate *for Governor of New York this coming* ~~this coming autumn? That of Number One importance -- as~~ *autumn; and will his Republican* ~~the campaign begins for the mid-term elections.~~ *opponent be Tom Dewey?!*

MUSIC

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Today I was reminded of a peculiar little paradox of war and music. Passing the Center Theater here in Rockefeller Center, I saw the announcements of a Spring Opera Season beginning this evening -- the familiar San Carlo, ~~Opera Company~~. I looked down the list of works to be performed and of course did NOT see -- Madame Butterfly, that perennial favorite.

But, of course, Madame Butterfly is much too reminiscent of the Jap enemy -- with its tale of Americans in Japan. Yet here's the paradox -- Butterfly is the only work of music that features the Star Spangled Banner. The Italian composer, Puccini, certainly appreciated the beauties of our American National Anthem, and the stirring strains of the Star Spangled Banner flash repeatedly in the opera about Japan.

And yet the patriotic angle might make Madame Butterfly awkward to perform -- in war time. Impresario Gallo of the San Carlo ~~Opera Company~~ reminded me: "When the National Anthem is played people rise."

So you see what would happen -- the audience
up and down time and again through a performance of Madame
Butterfly. And who wants to sing
to an audience that's going up and
down all the time?

TAXES

The Secretary of the Treasury proposed today that all individual exemptions be lowered in the income tax. He suggested that the seven hundred and fifty dollar exemption for single persons should be reduced to six hundred dollars, and the married exemption cut from fifteen to twelve hundred. Furthermore, Secretary Morgenthau proposed a slash in deduction allowed for children -- reduce this from four hundred dollars to three hundred dollars for each child.

The Administration hitherto had not advocated a lowering of exemptions. No such proposal was contained in the Treasury Department's original program for new taxes.

A lot more people, many now exempt, would have to pay income taxes. Secretary Morgenthau said that the number of these new taxpayers would come to over six million nine hundred thousand.

AUTOS

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The government intends to ^{buy}~~acquire~~ extra automobile tires from private owners. "Extra" is defined as meaning -- more than five to a car. And the sales by private owners will be voluntary.

This was stated today by Under-Secretary of War Robert Patterson. He, together with other officials, are ^{the compulsory} in favor of requisitioning both cars and tires, ^{if} that becomes necessary. However, for the time being, the plan is to buy extra tires from volunteer sellers.

The Under-Secretary of War went on to another topic -- "petting parties." Sounds peculiar. What have petting parties to do with war? You wouldn't pet the enemy, would you?

8 1/2 Under-Secretary Patterson was saying that unessential civilian automobile driving must cease. He mentioned what he called -- "pleasant driving habits, such as visits to Uncle Joe." So apparently, we will have to forego the delights of seeing Uncle Joe ^{and Aunt Emmy. Yes} ~~you~~ ^{we're all} ~~but we have~~ got to sacrifice ^{and endure privations.} The Under-Secretary of War mentioned another unessential. At least, he said it was

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unessential. The use of automobiles for petting parties must be stopped. That -- in addition to not seeing Uncle Joe, your pet relative. But this ~~is~~ becoming petty -- so let's have something big from Hugh James.