

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, MAY 11, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

~~Here is~~ late news from the Navy.

Uncle
our

submarines in Far Pacific waters have sunk three more

Japanese ships. One ~~of them was~~ a destroyer, and

these torpedoings have nothing to do with the Battle of

the Coral Sea. The sinkings, announces the Navy, have

not been reported before. In addition to a destroyer,

our sub got one cargo ship belonging to the Japanese

Navy and one medium sized cargo ship, a merchantman.

That ^{is} brings the total of Japanese vessels

sunk or damaged since December Seventh up to a hundred

and eighty-one. Of these, forty-two have been sunk by

American submarines alone.

Sam's
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that
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We hear
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Tap
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marines
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AUSTRALIA

It is now believed that the Japanese lost thousands of men, soldiers aboard transports, in addition to those twenty-one enemy ships destroyed or damaged in the Battle of the Coral Sea. The argument is that that Japanese fleet, which was ~~known~~ what is known as a task fleet, a task fleet for the invasion of Australia, must have included several transports, and the strong belief now is that those transports were destroyed. ^{Such} ~~That~~ is a report from General MacArthur's headquarters in Australia.

^{This} ~~It~~ is not ~~officially~~ official but it comes from what are called "informed quarters."

The official communique from ~~General~~ ^{tells us} MacArthur ~~is~~ that army airplanes have either damaged or sunk two Japanese undersea boats. ^{By} ~~Our~~ planes, were bombers, on a reconnaissance flight, looking for remnants of the ~~the~~ enemy's fleet that escaped from the Battle of the Coral Sea. ^{These} ~~Our~~ bombers caught a number of enemy

seaplanes in the Louisiade Islands on the northern edge

of the Coral Sea. # According to the correspondent of

the Sidney newspaper, no fewer than eighteen Japanese men-o-war were sunk in the Battle of the Coral Sea.

If true, that brings the total of enemy war vessels destroyed ^{in that battle} ~~there~~ up to twenty-two.

A big Australian newspaper publisher warns his countrymen not to be too sanguine, ~~over the Battle of the Coral Sea.~~ ^{that} The Japanese losses will keep them quiet for a while, said Sir Keith Murdoch today. But, he added that it would be foolish to believe that the Japanese invasion fleet had been smashed. As a matter of fact, he pointed out that the enemy force was comparatively light and that although our losses were less than those of the enemy, they are nevertheless difficult to replace. Furthermore, he warned of a movement by the Japanese on a large scale is imminent, and our side is in need of rapid reinforcements in both ships and planes.

BURMA

The Battle of the Burma Road is the big anxiety of the day. ~~There is keen excitement in the dispatch from Chungking.~~ The Chinese Army of General ~~Uncle Joe~~ Stilwell is attacking the Japanese all the way from Mandalay to the mountains of Chefang. Just as the enemy was on his

way through that Burmese backdoor into China, Stilwell's army slammed the door shut, says the dispatch from

Chungking. ^{TR} With the help of the American Flying Tigers, Stilwell has turned that section of the Burma Road into a death trap for the invading Japanese. One report

brings words that his Chinese Army with the American

Flyers have already killed ^{some} four thousand, five hundred of the enemy and ^{that the Burma Road is strewn} ~~strewn the road~~ with their bodies.

^{TR} The Japanese mechanized column is trying to fight its way back ~~in a retreat~~, but the Chinese in Burma have

^{the Summer Capital,} retaken Maymyo, and are moving to encircle Mandalay.

Stilwell is now pressing towards Wan-ting, the frontier

town that guards the gateway to Yunnan and also advancing on Lashio.

The Chungking report is dramatic indeed, and talks of the complete collapse of that Japanese mechanized column. In fact, a spokesman for Generalissimo Chiang's Army announced confidently that it had been completely liquidated. And the second column is in danger of being annihilated by Stilwell's Army near Bhamo, northwest of Lashio. It is already surrounded with all communication lines cut. The Chinese Army spokesman announced that the Japanese fell into a trap when they pushed across the border over the Himalayas into China -- Yunnan.

Later in the day, officers of the Allied armies flew over the Burma-China front and came back with the report that within twenty-four hours there will not be any Japanese invaders left in the Province of Yunnan. One officer reported that the only Japanese troops he saw from the air were at Wan-Ting and that they were fleeing as fast as they could toward Lashio.

ADD BURMA

We learn today that the Government of Burma ^{had}

^{now}
moved to Indian ~~soil~~. Also, that the Japanese had

bombed Imphal, ^{a, a place in} ~~a city in~~ eastern India. Imphal is

forty miles northeast of Calcutta and some forty miles

from the Burmese border. The purpose of the bombing,

^{to have been}
it is believed ~~was~~ to hamper the retreat of British

troops from Burma.

MALTA

When Field Marshal Viscount Gort took up his new job as Governor of the Island of Malta, he got a warm welcome. The warmest part of it came from German and Italian planes. They showered the island with a particularly heavy series of bombing raids over the weekend. Viscount Gort took his oath of office in a building that had been partly wrecked by bombs and to an accompaniment of loud explosions. But the raids ^{seemed} ~~resulted~~ *to turn out alright* ~~in only good news~~ for the Allies. Here is a dispatch from Cairo, that R.A.F. planes and anti-aircraft guns either shot down or damaged no fewer than ninety-three Axis planes, in the last two days. ~~and we don't feel~~

~~sad about that.~~ The bombing was repeated tonight, with the result that the British bagged eight more enemy planes, making a total of one hundred and one for the weekend.

POISON GAS

Winston Churchill's warning about poison gas has let loose a flood of rumors which chemical authorities in this country pronounce -- not only wild, but even mystical. For instance, there's the story from London that Hitler is going to use a nerve gas, which paralyses the minds of all people who inhale it. The London rumor has it that this fiendish Nazi gas render people unable to make any decision. Also that it has been concentrated by the German Army in huge quantities.

Swiss railroad men are ~~px~~ reported to have said that three hundred and twenty tank cars with that gas have been concentrated near the Swiss border. It is reported also that large concrete reservoirs of poison gas have been built near the eastern front, that three factories in unoccupied France are employed night and day turning out huge quantities of shells full of gas. Also, that the Germans have invented a new ~~px~~ piece of artillery, a six barrelled gun for THROWING GRENADES and shells filled

with liquid gas.

To which our own clemists say, stuff and nonsense! We too have scientists employed exclusively in chemical warfare research. And when these reports from Europe were repeated to our chemical warfare people the answer was that it is extremely unlikely the Germans have developed any such gas for war. High officers of the Chemical Warfare Service declare that there is only a small and most remote chance that any nation would discover any mystery gas, for the reason that all chemical combinations possible for the making of gas are already known.

On top of which we hear that Uncle Sam has a gas of his own, deadlier than any that has been used heretofore. This we heard after the last war, when it was contradicted. But today that story is confirmed by the chemist who invented it, Professor Lee Lewis,

formerly of the faculty of Northwestern University and former Colonel of the United States Chemical Warfare Service.

It's a gas called "Lewisite" and the Professor tells us that the War Department has been keeping the formula secret for twenty-five years. Lewisite, claims its inventor, is more humane than any other gases used in the last war, because its effects are quicker and deadlier.

We are told that it was never used in warfare and that after the Armistice the War Department found itself loaded up with some thousands of tons of it. Whereupon it was loaded on ships and dumped into the Atlantic Ocean, off the East coast.

The U.S.A., by the way, never signed the Geneva protocol against the use of poison gas.

In Germany today the accusation made by the British Prime Minister was mentioned only indirectly. A newspaper published by the Foreign Office declared

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that it was useless to try to influence the German people by spreading rumors of the possible use of poison gas. The newspaper said further that Adolph Hitler and all other responsible Nazi officials have made frequent and solemn promises that the German Army would never use poison gas. And that the promise holds good today. So says the Nazi newspaper.

MARTINIQUE

^{surely}
Something is abrewing over Martinique, but we do not know just exactly what. ~~it is~~. Evidently the Vichy French are gravely worried. The Berlin Radio broadcast a report that the Government of the United States has ~~demanding~~ demanded leases on all ~~strategically~~ strategically important points on the island, also the disarming of French naval units at Martinique, which include an aircraft carrier and two cruisers, and the confiscation of all French tankers ^{now anchored} ~~now at the~~ there.
~~island~~

^{All of which}
~~This~~ is not confirmed in Washington. The word ^{merely} there is ~~in our own capital is~~ that the United States Government is demanding guarantees from Admiral Robert, the French High Commissioner, ^{guarantees} against the extension of Axis ^{Caribbean} influence to that French island. The French Ambassador called ~~x~~ on Secretary of State Hull today but when the conference was over neither the Ambassador nor the

Secretary would tell what happened.

However, in France the excitement became more marked. In fact it was announced at Vichy that Pierre Laval, had conferred with high Nazi officials one of them believed to be Marshal Herman Goering. However, it is not officially admitted that Laval and the Nazis discussed Martinique. That's inferred.

There is an unofficial report that Laval will refuse to recognize any agreement made between our Government and Admiral Robert. Laval is said to be furious that Washington has gone over his head and approached the French High Commissioner of Martinique. As for Nazi spokesmen they were almost frothing at the mouth over the whole matter. Laval also talked with the new Japanese Ambassador to Vichy.

Oh yes, and somebody blew up Radio Paris, the strongest station in occupied France. Ever since the

occupation, Radio Paris has been rightly considered as nothing more than a vehicle of Nazi propaganda. The pylons of the station were destroyed and the aerial

laid low. The destruction was ^{so} ~~very~~ effective, ~~so much~~ *will be off the air for some* ~~so~~ that Radio Paris ~~won't be able to broadcast for some~~ time.

TORPEDO

Several hundred people on a Florida beach saw a dramatic spectacle today. Some were bathing, some of them fishing. Some just sitting. Suddenly they heard a detonation from only a mile or so off shore. Out there they saw a British freighter, heading in. Closer and closer she came until only two hundred yards from the breakers.

A man who was fishing in a boat had been watchin the ship several minutes as she passed. The explosion, he said, sounded as though it came from the bottom of the sea. And he used these words:- "You can imagine my surprise when not two hundred yards away from me the ship practically blew up in front of my eyes." He took his fishing boat alongside the torpedoed vessel and asked if he could help. One of the mates told him to stand by and twenty minutes later they lowered lifeboats and he helped tow them in.

A spectator on the beach said that after the explosion he saw what looked like a stovepipe moving out

to sea. Presumably the periscope of a Nazi U-boat.

And when it fired its torpedo, it must have been between the ship and the shore.

SKI TROOPS

Our ski troops in the northwest have been practicing other activities besides that of military skiing. They have been trying out rations. The Army has developed a new ration for field use, called "K". A soldier can carry enough of this for three meals in a small package weighing less than thirty-three ounces. For five days a company of ski troops on snowclad Mt. Ranier have been sliding, skiing, sledding and snowshoeing through every kind of alpine maneuver, eating nothing but ration "K". After the test was over, the officers announced "K" the most popular, the most complete and nourishing emergency ration so far developed.

There has been a rumor recently that our one lone regiment of ski and mountain troops may be expanded to a division, perhaps two divisions, possibly an army corps. There may be nothing in the rumor. But, the idea seems logical enough in view of the fact that Japan may suddenly decide to tackle Uncle Sam by way

of his vast Far Northern possession, mountainous and snowy Alaska.

Here in the United States we have done less toward developing special mountain troops than almost any nation. And, as mountaineers know so well, it takes a long time to train a man not only to be a good skier, but to do rock-climbing, the sort that Austrian, Italian, Swiss, French and Norwegian troops, and many others have been doing for generations.

Undoubtedly one way to strengthen the defenses of Alaska would be for us to make use of the many experienced mountaineers who have become citizens of this country, some of whom are among the best in the world. For instance, Hitler's old enemy, Hannes Schneider, who had difficulty escaping from the wrath of the Nazis; and the Marquis d'Albizzi, who performed great feats in ~~xx~~ the last war, with the Italian army; and Norwegians like Erling Strom, conquerer of Mt. McKinley.

Uncle Sam, if he would make use of his talent, could quickly develop the largest and best mountain army corps in the world. Yes, and many of them, like Bradford Washburn, explorer and head of the New England Museum of Boston, and ~~xxxxxx~~ Walter Wood, mountaineer and official of the American Geographical Society, are of dyed-in-the-wool native American stock. We have the men who, if organized and trained, could make Alaska much too hot for any invader.

CONN

RETAKE

5-7
There has been some talk of another heavyweight prize fight between Private Champion Joe Louis and Private Billy Conn. It was to have been in June, but now it has to be postponed until September. The reason, if we may believe the reports from Pittsburgh, is that

engaging in fistcuffs with his
Private Conn has been ~~having father-in-law trouble again,~~
irate Irish father-in-law, and that Conn has
~~which has left him with~~ a broken left hand. ^{TP} The father-in-

law, who goes under the picturesque sobriquet of

Greenfield Jimmy Smith, denied ^S the soft impeachment. *What's*

more Jimmy
Smith's daughter, Mrs. Conn, is reported also to have been in the scrap. ^{TP} Father-in-law Smith said to reporters that

they had better check somewhere else. ~~maybe,~~ ^{he} said *that*

maybe
his daughter and son-in-law were in an auto accident.

The trouble is reported to have developed ~~within~~ out of a Christening party. Conn obtained a furlough from Camp Wadsworth, New York, to go to Pittsburgh for the Christening of his baby boy, born last April.

After the Christening, Mr. and Mrs. Conn went to the Smith mansion at the urging of his Manager; hoping to effect a reconciliation - one of those happy family scenes. But what happened? Says Billy Conn:- "My father-in-law swung on me and whanged me in the face." Then he continued:- "I hit him on the top of the head!" And that was when he broke his hand." Billy said he wanted to bury the hatchet and added, "but maybe it was in me he wanted to bury it."

Others present at the pleasant interview were Art Rooney, President of the Pittsburgh Baseball Pirates, who had been the baby's Godfather, and Milton Jaffe, a sportsman well known in Pittsburgh.

When the din of battle had subsided, it was observed that Jaffe also had a sprained left hand, though that's not explained. Neither is it explained how Billy's Mary Lou\$, got hers.

Billy it seems had ordered some flowers for his mother-in-law. Oh yes, it was Mother's Day - not

father-in-law's day. It was just as the florist was delivering the plant that Billy and Mary Lou came out of the front door, Billy Conn stripped to the waist and badly battered, Mrs. Conn quite disheveled. We are told that it was the florist who drove the pair to the hospital.

The comment of Billy 'Conn's Manager was:- "I guess just nobody can interfere with love." Which is apropos of what I don't know. And SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.