

L.T. SUNOCO. TUESDAY, DEC. 9, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

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The news of the war in the Pacific is dominated by one all-important question - how much damage did the Japanese enemy inflict on the United States fleet? How badly were the warships hit in that sudden surprise attack at Hawaii on Sunday? The event occurred day before yesterday, and the question is being asked more and more insistently.

The Navy is maintaining war-time secrecy -- as the Navy must. It is for the chiefs of the fleet to decide when to release information so pertinent, pertinent to us Americans, and pertinent to the enemy that has assailed us. Obviously, it would be of the utmost value to the Japanese to have accurate knowledge

in detail of what specific damage they inflicted on
American warships - in that sudden blow. ~~Perhaps~~ Full
information ^{would} ~~might~~ help ^{them} ~~us~~ to size up the situation
more accurately, just as it would help us of the
American public to figure the state of affairs tonight.
For the real key to the news ^{at this moment} ~~tonight~~, the missing key,
is that unanswered question:- to what extent has the
power of the American fleet been impaired? Is it
serious?

We ~~SH~~ find that angle of doubt appearing
constantly as we scan the tidings from far and wide -
in the blackground of everything, in fact.

FIGHTING

The scope of the Japanese campaign became clearer today. It extends over immense spaces of that greatest of oceans -- the Pacific.

The Philippine Islands:- The Japs bombed Manila again tonight, and were met with heavy anti-aircraft fire. Their immediate objective was an airfield near the city -- and that gives a clue to one large point of enemy strategy. Bombing airfields, That follows the pattern set by German blitzkrieg tactics in Europe -- hit the aviation bases.

This night assault followed air attacks during the day, and General MacArthur, American Commander in the Philippines, reports that the Nipponese squadrons suffered considerable losses. We too lost planes, he adds -- withholding all detailed figures as a military secret.

As to the story of Japanese troops invading the Philippines, there's nothing official on that. Manila has nothing to say on the subject -- no comment, though Berlin today quotes a Japanese military spokesman as

declaring over the radio that the Japanese have landed. Other rumors have told of a landing on an island near Manila, and have mentioned Davao, as a scene of enemy invasion. Davao, on the Island of Mindanao, is the most important center of Japanese population in the Philippines.

There is a rumor of a Japanese aircraft carrier sunk off the Philippines. Manila, giving the place as near the Island of Luzon, says that the story is entirely unconfirmed.

That United States Minesweeper sunk at Guam was an old boat -- the PENGUIN, built in the days of the previous World War. [The Nipponese attack on Guam resulted in a number of casualties. So the Navy announced today. But the state of affairs on the island is not at all clear. This also applies to other outlying American islands, like Midway and Wake. Tokyo claims that the Japanese have taken possession of both Guam and Wake.]

As to the Japanese assault against British Hong King, it's by both land and air. The land attack is against the British mainland forces. Hong Kong tonight tells of the British artillery opening heavy fire on a Japanese column of assault and stopping its advance. In the air, enemy planes are bombing Hong Kong Island, especially the harbor -- aiming at British warships there.

The Japanese tell of taking Thailand without a hitch. ~~Now~~ Yesterday their regiments entered Bangkok the Siamese capital. There is severe fighting in nearby Malaya, where Nipponese troops have made landings. The British report beating off an attack, but the assaults were renewed.

The Japsn are trying to capture an important
Malayan airfield ^{at Kota Bharu} near the border of Siam. ^{TK} The

geography ~~of~~ these parts is exteedingly complicated.

In previous war stories, I've sometimes tried to
simplify the geographical factors and described them
in words. This is almost impossible in the case of
the northern part of the long and narrow Malay
Peninsula. You'll have to look at your map and see
the complicated geography of Siam, Burma, and the
Malay States.

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So much for the Japanese attack, and now
what about ^{the} ~~a~~ counter-offensive? It is inevitable
as doomsday that Japan is going to be bombed, with a
devastations of explosions and flame on the flimsy
flimsily built Japanese cities. There was a report
today that Tokyo had been blasted, also Kobe, ^{and} ~~on~~ the
Island of Formosa. This ^{news came} ~~was reported~~ from Manila,

without any official confirmation. ^πThe German radio today stated that the Japanese authorities had ordered full air raid precautions in the are^a_Λ of Tokyo. The latest, however, is word from Manila, which quotes a Tokyo broadcast as stating that as yet no hostile planes had appeared over Japanese territory.

The most sensational rumor about the Pacific war comes from Rome. And it's entirely unconfirmed and probably unreliable - but it states that the full power of the Japanese Navy is steaming toward Hawaii, to give battle to the United States fleet.

The economic aspect of the oceanic struggle was stressed in Washington today by the Office of Emergency Management. This agency declares that if the United States Navy fails to keep open the supply lines with the Dutch East Indies and British Malaya,

it may be a severe blow to American war production. We've got to have a number of things from those Asiatic colonies. Some of these are rubber, tin, manganese, ^gtunsten, mica, chromite, graphite, Manila fibre, palm oil and glycerine. All of which puts emphasis on one large task that falls to the fleet - the keeping open of those long drawn out supply lines with southern Asia.

GERMANY

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All signs point to the probability the United States will soon be in a formal state of war with those other two Axis partners Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. Rumors were current in Europe today that Hitler would soon declare war on the United States. From Berlin came official word that the position of Germany will be clarified within the next twenty-four hours. They did not say what kind of clarification it would be -- whether or not it would be a declaration of war. ^{TP} Japan, however, is outright in stating the expectation that Hitler's Germany will enter the conflict with the United States ^{and} promptly. ^{at} ~~and at~~ Washington it was reported that secret papers were being burned in the German Embassy -- the usual preliminaries when diplomatic emissaries leave a country ^{at} ~~on~~ the event of war.

If on the German side there are indications of going to war with the United States, there are similar

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signs on the American side that we are prepared for war with Nazi Germany. Today President Roosevelt in a statement designated German and Italian nationals as -- alien enemies. He did this in a proclamation giving the F.B.I. the authority to round up German and Italian citizens. The President used the following words:-
"an invasion of predatory incursion ^{is} ~~was~~ threatened upon the territory of the United States by Germany." This proclamation was actually signed yesterday and under its authority the F.B.I. today proceeded to round up nearly four hundred Germans and Italians -- these in addition to nine hundred Japanese that have been taken into custody during the past two days.

Tonight President Roosevelt addresses the nation by radio, and the White House tells us the presidential speech will deal with the Nazi aspect of our war with Japan. ~~Presidential Secretary Steve Early used these~~

RUSSIA

There's no word about what Soviet Russia is going to do. The newly arrived Ambassador, Maxim Litvinov, conferred with President Roosevelt today. Maybe he said something about the possibilities of the Red Army joining Great Britain and the United States in the war with Japan -- but we don't know. All that's available is the previous word from London -- that Stalin is inclined to feel the Soviets have all they can do in ~~the~~ dealing with the armies of Hitler. ^H In Tokyo a Japanese spokesman declared today that he did not believe the Red Army would attack Japan. "I think," said he, "that Soviet-Japanese relations will remain as before." From the Japanese controlled puppet state of Manchukuo comes an announcement that Manchukuo is ready to defend its border with Soviet Siberia. This was taken as a kind of warning to the Soviets that the Japanese in Manchukuo are ready for action, ~~if anything should~~

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INQUIRY

There is going to be a congressional inquiry into the question of the damage to the navy. Today the House Naval Affairs Committee agreed to summon Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox and Admiral Stark, Chief of Naval Operations. They will appear before a secret session tomorrow, ~~there to~~ and they will answer questions about why the Japanese were able to get through with such a heavy assault as ~~was~~ they launched on Sunday at dawn.

This decision to hold an inquiry followed bitter attacks in Congress. ^{Vincent} ~~Congressman Vinson~~ of Kentucky made the charge ^{that} - "somebody was asleep." Senator Tobey of New Hampshire stated that the rumor around the Senate was that, in his words - "a large part of the Pacific fleet has been wiped out." To this he added, "The pride of the American people in their Navy and their confidence in some of their

officials has been terribly shaken."

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Congressman Walter George of Georgia said,
"The people are entitled to know what is going on."

Chairman Vinson of the House Naval Affairs Committee launched an attack against Congressman Dingell's demand for a court martial. Dingell of Michigan insists that a whole series of high naval officials should be made to answer for, what he considers, negligence in Hawaii. Chairman Vinson excoriates the court-martial demand as "a cheap effort to get newspaper publicity." He formulated his position in these words:- "If the Navy has suffered losses at Pearl Harbor, that only means that we must buckle our belts and make a more determined effort to win the war that much sooner."

And here's the latest - a statement by President Roosevelt about the American naval losses.

The President states that neither he nor anyone else knows who is responsible for the success of the Japanese assault on Sunday. He added that he ~~ixxnx~~ has not yet received additional details concerning the attack. *and the damage.*

DRAFT

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Congress is moving swiftly to eliminate the territorial limits from the Selective Service Law - the restriction that forbids the sending of drafted soldiers out of the Western Hemisphere. A bill is being prepared to enable the Army to send selective service men wherever necessary - any place. And there's a report that the age limits may be increased - younger and older. The limits now are from twenty-one to twenty-eight. They may be expanded to from eighteen to forty-four.

ALARMS

The big air raid alarm in the region of New York today was all because of -- a fake. The War Department uses the eloquent word -- "phoney". So this ends a lot of activity and confusion.

It all began when word flashed that hostile planes had been spotted along the east coast, the area of New York. They could hardly have been Japanese planes, of course. How would they get here? But then, the likelihood of a quick state of war with Germany raises the supposition that the Nazis might find a way to try some bombing along the east coast of the United States.

For example, we have a South American story which states that a Nazi pocket battleship is raiding off the coast of Argentina. It is said to be the LUZOW, a powerful vessel, sister-ship of the GRAF SPEE, and such a craft does carry warplanes.

So there was instant excitement when the report came to New York -- hostile planes. All the anti-aircraft machinery was put into operation, and the

Army Air Corps declared an "alert". Thousands of children were dismissed from schools, and sirens shrieked everywhere.

Then later the story hostile planes developed into a case of the Army staging a first class dress rehearsal of the anti-air raid system, seeing how it would work. But this now is denied by the War Department, with the crisp word -- phoney. Army officials explain that somebody sent a false tip to Mitchell Field, Long Island, some unidentified person announcing that enemy bombers were approaching New York. So the Army instantly got busy -- on the alert. Sky squadrons were sent to hunt for the supposed bombers. "We just cannot take any chances these days," the War Department official explained. "The planes took off to investigate the report. And, even if it proved to be false, it showed that we were on our toes - and our planes would not be on the ground, " said he.

On the West Coast, it would appear that the hostile planes were the real thing. Today Lieutenant-General DeWitt, commanding the Fourth Army, confirmed

58 1/2 the fact, and gave the opinion that the planes had come from an airplane carrier. "They could have been on reconnaissance duty," said the General. "They could have gathered information for further use." Other army officers stated that the hostile planes had approached to within twenty miles of the Golden Gate, and came near to San Francisco several times. The Army is insistent about the actuality of the hostile approach and one report tells of a hunt for an aircraft carrier off the California shore. ~~One wonders how any such Japanese vessel could have got all the way across the Pacific.~~

59 At San Francisco, the average citizen is reported to be a bit ~~xxxxx~~ skeptical, thinking that the blackout and the air raid alarms were just dress rehearsals - the Army developing a west coast air

defense, getting it into working order by practice.

At Seattle, though; there has been rioting against stores that violated the blackout by keeping show windows lighted and illuminated signs going.

Mobs attacked a number of stores, smashing windows and shattering lights.

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And now Hugh.