

DECLARATIONS


P.T. - Sunoco. Thursday, Dec. 11, 1941.

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Today's events merely made final and formal the existing fact that it's all one war, one supreme and unified conflict engulfing the whole world. The Italian and German declarations of war were so little a surprise that the State Department in Washington hardly bothered to receive them. The German Charge d'Affaires, Dr. Thomsen, might have been a messenger boy bringing something entirely unimportant, when he came to deliver the Nazi declaration. Nobody was there to accept it, and he was kept waiting for an hour. And even when Secretary of State Cordell Hull arrived at his office, he wouldn't see the German bringer of war. So Hitler's declaration was handed to Acting Chief of the European Division Ray Atherton.

Italian Ambassador Prince Colonna, bearing Mussolini's ~~declaration~~ <sup>proclamation</sup> of hostilities, was received by the State Department's Advisor on European Affairs,

James C. Dunn. Advisor Dunn told the Ambassador that the United States had expected Nazi Germany to carry out its threat against this hemisphere, and had fully anticipated that Italy would follow suit. He used these words: "fully anticipated that Italy would obediently follow along."

So there was no surprise, save perhaps in one or two details. 

~~it with their declarations of war?~~

There was one small element of surprise in the form that Hitler's war address took today. As it was heard by radio over here, it was considerably different from previous Hitler harangues. That is - an English interpreter cut in so regularly between Hitler's pauses, that expert radio listeners surmised - a transcription, a record. They had the feeling that the war address to the Reichstag, as heard on the air, was really a recording - rehearsed in advance for the purpose of getting across the English translation more effectively. This - for propaganda purposes, trying to make propaganda capital out of the Nazi Fuehrer, blaming it all on President Roosevelt.

A complete lack of surprise was reflected in the swiftness with which the President and Congress acted today. The Japanese sneak punch was indeed a bolt

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out of the blue, and there was tremendous activity in Washington to act promptly - the next day. This time, all that was needed was routine, obvious and quick. With Germany and Italy declaring war this morning, President Roosevelt and Congress had responded in kind shortly after one o'clock this afternoon. The

President did not appear in person to read his message before Congress, as he did on Monday in the exciting drama of the Japanese affair. He sent it across to Capitol Hill, as if it were merely a recommendation <sup>of</sup> some departmental matter. And Congress immediately acted - declaring that a state of war existed between the United States on one hand and Germany and Italy on the other.

This time it was unanimous, with not even the dissenting vote of one, such as was registered in opposition to the declaration against Japan.

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Congresswoman Jeanette Rankin of Montana, had, apparently, done enough to demonstrate a woman's right to stick to her own opinion. She had voted against war with the Kaiser's Germany back in Nineteen Seventeen. She had done it all over again in the case of Japan three days ago. Today, however, she reversed herself - and demonstrated a woman's right to change her mind. Not an entire reversal, however. She didn't vote in favor of the war resolution. When the declaration against Nazi Germany came up and her name was called, she replied - "present", meaning- no vote at all. Then when the declaration against Italy came to a vote, she repeated her response - "present." She was sticking to her resolution not to vote for war, but she had made enough concession not to vote against it - a halfway concession. Well, it's sometimes lucky when you can

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get a woman to concede anything. So perhaps we may consider the lady's halfway giving-in as a sort of semi-bright spot in these dark days with half the world at war with the other half.

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Here's the latest - still another declaration of war. The <sup>Budapest</sup> ~~Berlin~~ radio reports that Hungary has <sup>handed</sup> ~~predeclared~~ the U.S. Minister there, his passports. ~~predeclared a state of hostilities with the United States.~~

The ancient Kingdom of Hungary, of course, is now just an extension of Nazi power, and I don't suppose <sup>any</sup> ~~that~~ ~~the~~ Budapest declaration of war will cause **much** consternation in Washington.



JAPANESE LOSSES

The inevitable has happened - the news has taken a turn for the better. That had to be. We were ~~scheduled~~ scheduled to have an inning of our own mighty soon - and it happened today. The Japanese enemy lost three naval vessels, and one was a big battleship.

Off the Philippine coast, the Island of Luzon! Japanese landing operations, troops in boats pushing ashore. Warships on guard - and one of them was the Nipponese battleship - the HARUNA. What about the defense <sup>against</sup> ~~to~~ this landing operation? Well, part of it was - air defense. United States bombers were striking hard, and they concentrated their bombs on the <sup>giant</sup> ~~joint~~ Japanese battlewagon. The falling high explosive found its mark, the HARUNA blasted, set afire - and finally sunk. It was a big one, twenty-nine thousand tons, though old, built in NineteenThirteen.

The sinking of the HARUNA is the first major

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naval success scored by our forces - incident Number One to offset the havoc at Pearl Harbor.

Of the three Japanese naval vessels <sup>wiped out,</sup> ~~destroyed,~~ the two others were a light cruiser and a destroyer. They were blasted by air attack while assaulting Wake Island. It comes as a bit of thrilling surprise to hear that the tiny coral atoll in the remotest Pacific is still holding out - the small American garrison of marines fighting off ~~an~~ attack. I can't do any better than read the official bulletin. It's Communique Number Two, issued by the Navy Department, and it goes like this:

marine  
"The ~~AMERICAN~~ garrison on Wake Island has been subject to four separate attacks in the last forty-eight hours by enemy aircraft, and one by light naval units. Despite the loss of part of the defending planes and the damage to material and personnel," the

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Navy Bulletin Number Two goes on, "the defending garrison succeeded in sinking one light cruiser and one destroyer of the enemy forces by air action."

The Bulletin concludes as follows:- "A resumption of the attack and probable landing attempt are expected. The marine garrison is continuing to resist." So reads the second official war bulletin issued by the Navy Department - and it's a fine one.

PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines the news of the invasion is a good deal the same -- with the American and Filipino forces reported to have things in hand. Attacks beaten back at various places. Today the U.S. War Department issued its fourth communique, giving indication that the resistance is continuing successfully.

STIMSON

52  
Among the bright bits in the news tonight is a thriller of war and heroism - that form of heroism called - steadiness. It was related by Secretary of War Stimson, who began by saying that the time was Sunday, and ~~the~~ place Pearl Harbor. While the terrific Japanese bombing was going on - what should arrive? Wing<sup>ing</sup> from the east - a flight of flying fortresses.

~~They were~~ on a routine voyage from San Francisco to Hawaii to reinforce air <sup>power</sup>~~forces~~ there - but what a routine it turned out to be! They arrived at their destination <sup>right</sup> in the thick of things - right in the middle of the <sup>maelstrom,</sup>~~attack,~~

The Japanese attacked the new arrivals who appeared so surprisingly and unexpectedly. The Secretary of War stated today that the first of the flying fortresses in the formation was shot down, but the others, although under heavy attack, were able to

land safely at various airports. Two of these suffered slight damage, which has been repaired. It's a striking example of the ability of American air men to handle themselves coolly and effectively in an unexpected situation - and what a surprising situation!

## LOSSES

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There was sharp congressional dispute today on the subject of our losses at Pearl Harbor. Senator Tobey of New Hampshire criticized the administration for the secrecy that is being maintained. "The people in this crisis want the truth about these losses," said he. To support which he pointed out the fact that the British yesterday promptly announced the sinking of their two capital ships off Malaya.

Senator Tydings of Maryland responded in contradiction. He argued that the President would be wrong to inform the Japanese of the destruction they succeeded in effecting at Pearl Harbor. He said that Japan right now was probably not certain that even one United States battleship had been sunk.

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There's still doubt about the exact nature of the Japanese attack that sank the British capital ships PRINCE OF WALES and REPULSE. London dispatches speak of suicide tactics and tell of warships being assailed by fleets of sixty Japanese suicide ~~war~~ planes. We naturally assume this to mean bombers, which deliberately plunge themselves onto ~~their~~ ships with full bomb racks. However, Singapore tonight states that the sinkings were accomplished by torpedo planes instead of bombers. Of course, torpedo planes might employ suicide tactics. We don't know -- the whole supposition of war aviators dedicating themselves to certain death to hit their objective <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ confused.  
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London reveals that a great majority of the crews of the two ill-fated warships were saved. More than twenty-<sup>three</sup> ~~six~~ hundred were rescued from the two sinking sea giants, and that would seem to indicate  
^ ^



some heroic work on life saving. Among the missing however, is Sir <sup>Tom</sup>~~Thomas~~ Philips, <sup>doughty</sup> Commander-in-Chief of the British Far Eastern Fleet. He apparently was lost and a new Admiral has been appointed to succeed <sup>to</sup> his command.

The Japanese seem to be making little progress in their invasion of Malaya. The British report the enemy held at most points -- with the Japs making a new thrust at the extreme northwest of the Malay States -- Kedah. There they didn't land from the sea but came down across the border of Thailand.

SOVIETS

53  
The all-important question of Soviet Russia was under discussion in Washington today. At the State Department, Secretary of State Cordell Hull expressed his confidence that the Soviets will cooperate with the United States. ~~in the war.~~ He pointed out that President Roosevelt had promised to Stalin's new ~~Soviet~~ Ambassador Litvinov that the American policy of aid to the Soviets will be continued. To which the Secretary of State added the following: "We, for our part, have no doubt that the Government and people of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics will do their full part in standing side by side with all liberty-loving people against the common menace."

Later, ~~Ambassador~~ Litvinov was asked about this - ~~xxx~~ as he emerged from a conference with President Roosevelt. He gave a hearty assent, saying yes, his Government will cooperate. <sup>TR</sup> One newspaperman

made it more precise and asked about the possibility of the Soviets joining the United States in the war with Japan.


"We shall see," replied Litvinov. Then he expanded this with the following: "We are fighting in a common cause. And," he ~~xxx~~ added, "we are fighting Hitler more than anybody else." The <sup>Soviet</sup> Ambassador concluded by asserting that he had no doubt whatever that Russia would continue resistance against Germany.

## CORRESPONDENTS

The declarations of war raise the question of enemy diplomats and journalists in this country.

How can they get home? I suppose that in the case of the Germans and Italians, they might be taken to some neutral country -- like Portugal. But as for the Japanese, however, there is no route through neutral nations to their own.

Attorney-General Francis Biddle today stated that only a small number of enemy newspapermen have been taken into custody. He said that there's no



question of arresting all ~~newspapermen~~ <sup>journalists</sup> ~~the~~ from Axis countries. Italians, Germans and Japanese who have been merely engaged in legitimate press business will be left alone. Arrests are confined to those who have been ~~engaged~~ <sup>involved</sup> in activity considered dangerous to the United States. Right now they're being held in hotels, and the Attorney General made the statement that they ~~are~~ <sup>are</sup> being treated with all civility - "every consideration and courtesy to which their semi-official status entitles them," said ~~our Attorney General~~ <sup>he</sup>. In this there is an interesting point - newspapermen being considered as having a semi-official status.

The Attorney General added that he hoped American newspapermen caught in the Axis countries were receiving similar treatment. They were rounded up yesterday, and the Attorney General expressed the hope

that those in Berlin would not be held in jail.

Well, they're not - apparently, for here's an announcement by the StateDepartment which informs us that the American correspondents at Berlin are being held in a villa just outside the city. They report that they're okay, and the German Government announces that they'll be released to go home as soon as ~~the~~ German journalists over here are similarly released.



SERVICE

The war declarations in Congress were promptly followed by action to permit the use of Selective Service Men in any part of the world. The Senate and the House, without debate, voted to take out of the Selective Service Law that clause which prohibited the sending

*of an A. E. F.*  
~~of draftees~~ out of the Western Hemisphere. <sup>1</sup> The vote

in the Senate was the more interesting because of Senator Hiram Johnson of California. Yesterday, the veteran lawmaker blocked the passage of legislation to permit the Army to send any soldier anywhere. Today, however, he altered his attitude - because of what he called - "the two momentous events which have entirely changed my purpose." Meaning, of course - war with Germany and Italy. *So Hiram Johnson gave it his vote.*

Along with the passing of the legislation, Senator Walsh of Massachusetts announced that fifty

thousand Selective Service Men will be taken into the

*Navy.*

**Navy.**

8/2  
This navy angle takes us along to a recruiting announcement issued today - something for those of you who go to enlist. All applicants should take their birth certificates or baptismal records along with them. These are needed as proof of age and citizenship. There has been a lot of delay because men have failed to bring the documents along, and the recruiting officers have had to say to them - get the papers and come back.

ROOSEVELT

59  
President Roosevelt has ~~just~~ called a conference ~~next~~ on that all important subject - labor and the war. News just <sup>in</sup> from the White House informs us of a presidential summons to the leaders of both industry and ~~the~~ unions. They <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~ to meet in Washington next week. The announcement describes the objective that the President will seek to achieve, - "a unanimous agreement to prevent the interruption of production <sup>by</sup> ~~of~~ labor disputes during the period of the war." That's the purpose.

Now a patriotic message  
59 1/4 from Hugh.