

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, MAY 28, 1942

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

I am in Washington tonight and one topic of conversation here concerns -- Mexico. The President of Mexico today called for a declaration of war against the Axis powers. Manuel Avila Camacho told the Mexican Congress that actually a State of War with the Axis already exists -- this because of the sinking of Mexican ships by submarine attack. He spoke of "reiterated aggression". He added that Mexico has no recourse other than to accept the realities; these realities being -- War. So he asked the Mexican Congress to make the realities a formal thing by issuing a Declaration of War.

The state of war affairs in southern Russia is ambiguous -- with both sides claiming success. The Nazis declare ^{that} the big victory ^{is being completed.} ~~that~~ ^{they} claim seventy miles south of Kharkov. They say that encircled Soviet troops are being rapidly mopped up, and they now boost the number of trapped Russians to more than one hundred and sixty thousand. The Soviets on their side issue a sweeping denial. Today Moscow states that the Red Army has definitely stopped ^{the} a German counter offensive south of Kharkov.

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Today Moscow dispatches tell of some weird Nazi tricks -- mentioning "confusion attacks." These were staged by German troops ~~making~~ wearing Russian uniforms and by Nazi tanks marked with the Red Army emblems. By disguising as Russians the assailants hoped to cause confusion.

And then Moscow gives us a description of a psychic attack -- in which the entire One Hundred and First German Division of about fifteen thousand men marched to the assault in parade formation. Advanc^{ing} against the Soviet line they were goose-stepping while a military band blared with ^{a braying of} horns.

Just like a parade ^{down the} ₁ unter den linden in Berlin, but it was on
the battlefront in southern Russia. The goose-stepping parade
was blasted by Soviet guns. Whereupon, said Moscow, many
of the psychic soldiers deserted. Apparently they had enough
of the ^{the psychiatry,} psychology, _λ or what, and went over to the Russians.

LIBYA

In Libya the British report a sharp repulse for the Nazis in the desert battle. This occurred in a blazing conflict of tanks -- only about fifteen miles from Bobruk. A German column advanced more than one hundred miles to get that near to the stronghold. However, most of the one hundred miles was across nearly empty desert -- little defended -- a No Man's Land of the burning sands.

Another heavy battle is being fought further to the South. In that area a Nazi column advanced for ninety miles. There a violent conflict is going on; with the British lines holding intact.

AMERICAN-BRITISH

The magnitude of British-American plans for concerted action against the Axis enemy is indicated by a statement from Lieutenant-General Somervell, Chief of the United States Army Supply Services. General Somervell is in London with the American military mission that is coordinating plans with British military chiefs. In his statement today he stressed the word -- standardization. They are formulating a giant supply program which will standardize the British and American military forces. Both parties to use the same kind of equipment and munitions. American shells to fit British guns and Vice-versa. American And British tanks to use the same kind of parts. The two Allies to be able to exchange war materials. This will mean a great increase in mutual efficiency ^{and} ~~that~~ is expected to facilitate a big British-American military blow against the Nazis.

We are cautioned, however, not to expect any such development too soon. Word here in Washington points out that an invasion of the Nazi controlled continent would take enormous forces of the highest degree of training. And the British-American offense is not likely to be adopted until everything has been made ready in the largest kind of way.

CHINA

In China there are two theaters of action -- as there have been for several days. In the eastern part of the country the Japs are still attacking the important city of Kinhwa. China denies the Jap claim that Kinhaw has been captured but admits that the city is under siege. Forty thousand enemy troops have been assaulting ever since Monday, with the garrison holding out in gallant style.

The Chinese reiterate their claim that the Japs are using poison gas.

In the South, Yunnan, the Chinese are conducting a powerful counter offensive against ~~the~~ enemy forces that pushed ~~far~~ forward from Burma. Tonight Chungking reports that at ~~t~~wo key points near the Burma Road large enemy units have been encircled, and face annihilation.

NAVY

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Another blow struck at the enemy by American undersea power. This afternoon the Navy announced the sinking of two Jap ships and the damaging of two others. This was accomplished by American submarines in the Southwestern Pacific, but the Navy specifies ^{that} it was not a part of the Coral Sea battle. ^{TR} The two enemy vessels sunk were ^a ~~the~~ large naval auxiliary and a cargo ship. Another cargo ship was severely damaged, and so was a heavy cruiser. And that is the most important part of it -- a powerful Jap warship violently ^{blasted} ~~blazed~~ by torpedoes. Whether ~~it~~ or not it sank is not indicated but we do know the Jap heavy cruiser ~~x~~ has at least been put out of action for some time to come.e.e.

STIMSON

The possibility of a Jap air raid against our own Pacific shore was emphasized today by Secretary of War Stimson. He called a bombing raid against the United States -- "almost inevitable." He explained that, because of the character of the Oriental mind, the Japs would be compelled to try some retaliation for the American bombing of Japan. ^{It the} Secretary of War put it in these words: "The United States government, through General Doolittle, ~~xxxxxxing~~ administered a stinging, humiliating surprise blow when it bombed Tokyo." The Secretary ~~xxxxxx~~ added that he had some understanding of Oriental psychology, and ^{realized} ~~understands~~ what a loss of face Japan has suffered because of the bombing. "A most serious loss of face," said he, "which can be wiped out only by a return blow."

Hence, the military authorities are taking every precaution. "We are doing everything we can," said Secretary Stimson, "to prepare for such a return blow."

Waring's Office, D

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Being in Washington, there was one person in particular I wanted to see -- Brigadier-General James H. Doolittle. Who wouldn't be eager to have a chat with the commander who led the American war planes that bombed Japan? Luckily, I had known Jimmy Doolittle in the past -- when he was the nation's ace of acrobatic and speed flying. So I dropped in on him at the office of the Chief of the Air Corps, General Arnold. ^{Gen.} ~~I~~ Arnold is in London, and General Jimmy is found Brigadier-General James H. Doolittle deep in the preparation of his full and final report on the bombing of Japan, a detailed study of the action, with technical observations and lessons to be drawn. That document will be a flaming thriller when released -- but it won't be released until the need for secrecy has passed.

Jimmy Doolittle was his old smiling self. In fact, a good deal of the visit we had together might be apt to characterize a phrase that old time novelists used to employ. The phrase -- "he smiled silently."

Of course I wasn't brash enough to ask any questions about things of obvious military secrecy -- not with our country using secrecy as so baffling a weapon against the Jap enemy.

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using his office.

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Jimmy informed me that he could not be quoted on anything concerning that exploit which ranks as perhaps the most brilliant air blow ever struck. So, in the matter of the bombing of Japan, the bases from which our planes operated and sundry other concealed points, we can let it go by saying -- the Brigadier-General "smiled silently."

There was one thing, however, on which I felt free to question Brigadier-General Doolittle, a personal thing concerning which I had long ^{been} ~~felt~~ curious. I often wondered about it, and wanted to ask him in times past -- but never got around to it. How did it happen that he never got around to trans-Atlantic flying? During the time when he was the Army's Ace daredevil of the sky, cross-the-ocean flights were the great headlined events -- the dream of aviators. So why hadn't Jimmy Doolittle ever tried one?

I asked him today, and thought most likely he'd reply that trans-oceanic flying never interested him, or that too many others were doing it. But not at all.

"I simply never got the opportunity," said Jimmy. "The chance to make an ocean flight never came my way."

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Then he went on to tell me how he planned a superb sky jaunt across the Pacific -- he and Captain ^{as} McCready of Kelly-
 and McCready ^{Remember? Will Doolittle & MacCready} across-America-Non-Stop-fame. They went so far as
 to survey the route -- Midway Island, ^{Wake, Guam} ~~Wake, Island~~ and so
 on. Jimmy pointed out that later on this route precisely was
 the one used for the trans-Pacific Air Line. But those years
 before, there was nothing that could be used for landing fields
 on islands like Midway and Wake. So he and McCready planned to ^{put}
~~to use a sea~~ ^{portons on a land} plane and make their stops on the lagoons of
 coral atolls in the South Sea. It would have been a
 magnificent flight, would have earned flaming headlines in those
 days.

"Why didn't you do it?", I asked Brigadier General
 Doolittle today.

He smiled with curious reminiscence and answered. "We
 were not allowed to. We were both in the Army, and ^{General Patrick} ~~our commanding~~,
 then chief of the Air Corps, said -- 'No.'"
 General said -- no."

"Why?", I asked.

Then Doolittle's smile assumed an added twist of wry
 remembrance as he replied: "The General said that McCready and

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I were too valuable." ^{TR} You could sense the recollection of a big disappointment -- not to have been allowed to try that cross-the-ocean exploit. It must have hurt at the time, a dozen or so more years ago. But ~~that~~ ^{Patrick} General [^] certainly had his wisdom -- when he said that Jimmy Doolittle was too valuable to risk. Maybe he had some premonition of the fate that was reserving the ^{test pilot and ace} ~~stunt~~ aviator of those years for an exploit of future war far more glorious than any flight across an ocean.

ADMIRAL LAND

Everywhere these days we hear that what we need are ships and more ships -- and still more ships. Are we getting them? The man who knows more about this than anyone else is Admiral Emory S. Land, head of the Maritime Commission, one of the busiest men in the world. Admiral Land told me today that our ship building program is up to schedule.

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The Admiral is an authority on many subjects:- The Navy in which ~~HEE~~ he served with ~~such~~ distinction, the Merchant Marine on which he is now our Number One authority, and also - aeronautics. For at one time he was one of the heads of the Guggenheim Foundation for the advancement of aviation in this country. And at that time his chief pilot, borrowed from the Army, was a young chap named Jimmy Doolittle. Admiral Land told me today that he hadn't seen Jimmy since General Doolittle carried out that fabulous bombing raid on the cities of Japan. But he said that he had always regarded Jimmy as one of the most remarkable men he had ever known and spoke of him with great affection.

I mentioned this to General Doolittle an hour later and he in turn said that Admiral Land, the man to whom Uncle Sam

has given almost the toughest job, building those ships, ships and more ships, is one of the greatest men he had ever known.

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Jimmy ~~XXXXXX~~ reminisced that when he was flying for the Guggenheim Foundation, making those first experiments in flying blind, that he had three bosses, one Harry Guggenheim, a civilian; another, the Army Air Corps officer in command of Mitchell Field, Long Island; and the third, a naval officer, Admiral Land. Jimmy quoted the Bible where it says that you cannot serve more than one Master, and told how he had been obliged to serve three. And he explained that this could only have been possible for an Army officer under such a wise and great naval man as Admiral Land.

MINERS

The Mine Workers today ousted Philip Murray -- and that's the equivalent of a union President tossing out a union vice-President. Because the action taken by the Executive Board of the Mine Workers was strictly at the behest of the Union President -- John L. Lewis. The two men, former close friends and allies had been bitterly at feud of late. John L. Lewis was head of the C.I.O. and Phillip Murray succeeded to his job. Murray is high in the labor councils of the administration whereby Lewis has been in opposition.

At the same time, today's expulsion of Murray seems likely to cause a definite break between the United Mine Workers and the C.I.O.

BRIDGES

The Attorney General today ordered the immediate deportation of Harry Bridges. The order affirms the contention that the West Coast C.I.O. leader has been a member of the Communist Party during his residence in this country -- and, he is an alien.

The latest is a dispatch from San Francisco which states that Bridges will undoubtedly appeal to the United States Supreme Court. The Attorney General thinks that an appeal to the courts might take a year -- before a final decision is handed down.

Today's government move leads one to recall President Roosevelt's recent action in freeing Earl Browder, the American Communist leader who was sent to prison for passport violations. Communist Browder turned loose, Communist Bridges ordered deported.