

PHILIPPINES

P.J. - Sunoco. Tuesday, May 5, 1942.

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The Japs are making a landing attack on Corregidor. And the dramatic key to that statement is in the word - "landing." For months the enemy has been assailing our island fortress at the entrance of Manila Bay, but the assaults hitherto have been those of air bombing and artillery shelling. ^(Japs had) ~~They have~~ made no attempt at an actual landing, getting ashore with ^{not until now,} soldiers, on the powerfully fortified island. So that ~~the~~ puts an emphasis of tense drama on the brief statement in tonight's communique - just in from the War Department. ~~It~~ reads:- "General Wainwright reports that about midnight the enemy assaulted Corregidor, and that a landing attack was in progress."

So they tried to get ashore by night @ this very night, considering the time difference between ourselves and the Philippines.

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In Washington, the belief of naval experts is that the landing attack was across the narrow ^{two} ~~xxxxxxx~~ mile stretch of water between Corregidor and the peninsula that bears the historic name of Batan. The naval experts say that ~~the~~ a Jap landing might be effected at the northern end of Corregidor, - the "tail" of the island, which is shaped like a tadpole. There are beaches along that northern end, while at the south Corregidor presents a barrier of formidable rocks.

So at this moment the Japs are storming Corregidor with that culminating type of assault - landing. Swarming across in boats under a violent fire of shells and bombs. And they may have succeeded in landing on the beaches at the northern tail of tadpole shaped Corregidor. There may be desperate fighting on those beaches right now - with our few men battling

with all the courage that was demonstrated at Batan.

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Tonight's army communique tells us likewise of a message sent by President Roosevelt to General Wainwright, earlier in the day - before the landing attempt against Corregidor was known. The President voiced the admiration of this nation - homage to the defenders of Corregidor, who may now be waging their supreme battle.

MADAGASCAR

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The latest on Madagascar is a British
communique as follows:- "Operations are proceeding,
and our casualties thus far have been light." This
comes from London, and the mention of "light
casualties" would seem to indicate that the fighting
is not severe. However, the Vichy French are
resisting - ^{and} ~~they~~ vow they will fight to the end.

Madagascar is one of the key islands of
this earth. It is big - nine hundred miles long.
It is rich and barbaric, full of natural resources and
tropical wilderness - mountains and jungle. Lying off
the east coast of Africa, it is in a situation of
strategic importance - for command of the Indian Ocean,
and the supply lines of the Allied nations to ~~such~~
~~places as~~ Australia, India, the Near East. Few ^{places} ~~places~~
could be more valuable to the Japs, and it was feared

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they might get Madagascar from Vichy France, just as they got French Indo-China - from Vichy. The apprehension was heightened during the past few days - with special Japanese envoys negotiating at Vichy on some mysterious business. So the moment was ripe for what happened today.

At the northern tip of Madagascar is a French naval base, called Diego Suarez. It is of key importance, and is said to be powerfully fortified. ~~This morning~~ United Nations action took the form of a British squadron appearing off the Diego Suarez naval base, the squadron consisting, they say, of cruisers, destroyers, an aircraft carrier and two troop transports. The British admiral delivered an ultimatum to the ~~French~~ French commander demanding peaceful possession of Madagascar. The ultimatum was

rejected, and action began - today.

on Madagascar
The British landed with their latest tactics -
commando tactics. ~~For the seizure of Madagascar,~~

*T*hey put into effect those methods of war by surprise,
which they have been cultivating in European raids

against the Nazis. The commandos attacked by sea and
from the sky. Parachute soldiers ~~swamped~~ *swarmed* out of big
transport planes, and ~~commando~~ *landing* boats went speeding to
shore. The assault was supported by the fire of naval
guns and bombing from warplanes.

The commando attack resulted in landings
at two places, apparently - on both sides of the narrow
neck of land on which the Diego Suarez naval base is

ed:
situation. *^* So the picture tonight is one of commando
troops pressing an advance against a fortified naval

base. ~~Two French cruisers are supposed to be there,~~
~~aiding the defense, presumably.~~

The defense of the island is by direct orders from the Vichy Government - orders from Laval. The pro-Nazi collaborator stated today that the French forces in Madagascar will fight the British to the limit of their strength. This, in one aspect, is a direct reply to the United States. Vichy was informed by President Roosevelt that the British have moved to take over Madagascar with ^{our} the full approval; ~~of the United States~~, and, if Vichy ~~fixes~~ fights the British, we will consider that an act of war against the United Nations.

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Today, Laval, while bitterly denouncing the action ordered from London, expressed regret that the United States gives its support to what Laval calls - "aggression." He added that Vichy will not break relations with Washington because of Madagascar.

In Washington, Secretary of State Cordell Hull

intimated that American military forces are ready to back up the British in the occupation of the island, if this should be necessary. And Senator Barkley of Kentucky stated that President Roosevelt was satisfied with what had happened. The Senator said this upon emerging from a White House conference at which Madagascar was discussed.

It is assumed that the British landing on the island is being ^{made} ~~met~~ with forces amply sufficient for the task. The strength of the French defenders is not accurately known, but is not believed to be great - probably no more than a division of white troops plus forces of native French trained soldiers. However, Madagascar presents a huge and difficult terrain of rugged wilderness - the sort of area where resistance might linger for some time. ^{TP} The question suggests

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itself - what will the Japs do? Is there any action that they will take or can take? Well, Madagascar is a long way from the nearest place where the Japs are - Sumatra. ~~It is~~ Some four thousand miles away. In fact, the island is almost as far from the Japs as it is from the Germanš - the Nazis in Libya. So obviously, the prospect is that the British will take over Madagascar in due course - with resistance more or less.

BURMA

The fighting in Burma turned into fighting in China today - the Japs having pushed onto Chinese soil. They advanced along the Burma Road to a frontier place called - Wan-Ting, and ~~xxxx~~ in that neighborhood crossed into China for a distance of two miles. The Chinese are fighting fiercely and at last reports had beaten back one enemy thrust. Tonight the Chinese reiterated that they will go on fighting in that sector of war, until the Japs have been driven out of Burma.

RUSSIA

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The Spring offensive in Russia is of the Soviet variety rather than the Nazi - just now. The Big Hitler push is expected at any time, but meanwhile the Red Army seizes the initiative.^H For the first time in recent weeks, the Soviets speak of their military operations as an offensive. They are hammering heavily in the southern sector, the Ukraine - and are scoring advances.^H The Nazi offensive is expected to be launched in the south - toward the Caucasus oil wells; and the present Red Army attack is thought to be in the nature of an anticipatory offensive, seizing the initiative,^{to} break up German plans.

OFFICERS

A Congressional Committee today voted in favor of requiring the Army to report to Congress all officers' commissions granted to civilians. There has been a good deal of complaint about the way civilians of one sort or another have been taken into the Army as officers, and the Military Affairs Committee of the House had before it a measure that would have permitted the Army to grant officers' commissions only to such men ^{as} ~~who~~ had been officers' before or who had attended officers' training schools. ^{And that} ~~This~~ prohibition was opposed by the Army.

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Under-Secretary of War Patterson appeared before the Committee today and ^{stated that if} ~~told the Committee~~ ^{if} ~~that~~ thousands of civilian technical men had not been taken into the Army as officers, the supply and distribution of the system would have, as he said - "utterly broken down." ~~He said that military problems~~

The Army needs, what the Secretary called -- "special skills in which the country is rich, but in which the Army in peacetime is poor."

The Under-Secretary referred to the commissioning of war veterans who had lower rank than officer in the previous conflict. In this connection, he said that the Army is considering Sergeant York -- the Number One hero of the days of Nineteen Seventeen and Eighteen. They are thinking of taking Sergeant York in as an officer. And Under-Secretary Patterson pointed out that this could not be done if the drastic prohibition before the Committee were adopted.

As a result of the strong Army opposition, the Military Affairs Committee switched to a substitute proposal -- which would require the Army to report to Congress every sixty days and give an account of officers' commissions granted to civilians.

DRAFT

In the Senate today, legislation was introduced for the drafting of men who have dependents. Senator Taft of Ohio ^{proposed} ~~introduced~~ a bill that would permit the Army ~~to take such men in a way based on~~ a series of ^{Men to} classifications. ~~They would~~ be graded according to degrees of dependency. For example, in Class Number One would come men under thirty-five who are unmarried and without children - or who were married after the beginning of Selective Service.

Then on down the line there would be other classes, based mostly on age, married ~~and with~~ children. Under the Taft proposal, the classes would be called one after another - no category to be summoned until the previous one had been exhausted. The plan would be accompanied by legislation granting allowances to the dependents of men drafted.

~~Senator Taft said that his bill, with its~~

REGISTRATION OF WOMEN

Q Tonight we have the reasons why the registration of women was dropped. The explanation comes from Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had come out publicly in favor of the idea. The President too thought it would be a good thing, but last week, he said it was abandoned for the time. Today Mrs. Roosevelt told why.

 Women themselves objected, mainly for two reasons. They felt registration would be premature -- as there still is some unemployment among men. And, women were afraid that if they were registered it would mean that they would promptly be drafted for war-time employment.

GAS

It looks as if gasoline consumption on the East coast might be reduced to forty percent of normal. This probability was stated by a committee of the oil experts meeting in Washington.

As the rationing system for motor fuel is about to begin, it seems as if civilian automobile drivers will have to be content with forty percent of the gas they used in times of peace. The committee of experts says that this would mean "complete elimination of gasoline for many uses of passenger cars."

CONGRESSMAN

Today in Washington there was an official hearing on a question which has been agitating political circles in the national capital. How long did the

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Congressman take in saying good-bye to the lady? *We*

~~know~~ *know of course*
~~Of course, there are some who might make the unkind~~

that the ~~remark that Washington~~ *of Congress* lawmakers ~~never~~ were famous for

brevity. Their speeches are long drawn out, so why

shouldn't their farewells be just as extended? *Can't you just* ~~You can~~

imagine a Congressman making a regular Farewell Address to a lady.

Some weeks ago, Congressman John Edward

Sheridan of Pennsylvania took Miss Adeline Maggio to

the theatre. Adeline ~~was~~ *is* described as a beautiful

brunette with big black *melting* eyes. After the show, the

Congressman took her home - and kept the taxi waiting

while he said good-bye. When ~~he~~ *time* came to pay the cab bill,

~~xxx~~ Congressman Sheridan found himself assessed for an

extra twenty cents - for waiting time. That was for the interval while he was saying -- good-bye. Fourteen minutes of good-bye -- declared the driver.

This the Congressman utterly denied, saying that the Farewell Address had consumed only between two and three minutes -- four, at the most. There was an argument about it, and as a result the Congressman brought charges against the cab driver. And the penalty the cabbie faced was the revocation of his license.

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Today the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia held a hearing on the subject. And a star witness in behalf of the Congressman was Adeline, ~~the~~ ^{Sweet Adeline, the} beautiful brunette with the big black ^{melting} eyes. She said that the farewell took only two and a half or three minutes -- nothing like fourteen. And she explained what they talked about during that brief good-bye.

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"Our conversation," the news dispatch quotes her as saying, "was that he was leaving, and would be back in two or three days -- and would give me a ring." She meant, of course, the kind of ring that tinkles in the telephone.

As for the Congressman's farewell, it's a question to provoke discussion and cogitation. For example, any man will tell you that the right kind of good-bye is worth a lot more than twenty-cents -- but why should the taci driver collect it?

So goodbye, farewell, and s-l-u-t-m. And let's all sing Sweet Adeline.