

L.I. - Sunoco Wednesday, April 21, 1943.

PRISONERS -

Doolittle Raiders

Good Eve. - Everybody: -

Today begins a new era of American hate for the brutal Jap. For today we learn that the Far Eastern ~~murder~~ ^{murder} gang has executed some of the captured American fliers who raided Tokyo. This was announced today in a statement by President Roosevelt.

HP Two of the bombers that assailed Japan landed on Chinese territory controlled by the enemy. Each plane carried five men - there were ten in all. Of these, five are known to have been captured by the Japs, and three others are believed to have been. Two are missing, unaccounted for. The Japs charged that the American planes had bombed non-military objectives. On this accusation they put the prisoners on trial, and sentenced them to death. Most of the sentences were commuted to imprisonment, but some of the prisoners were executed.

Pearl Harbor was an infamy, but it was an

act of war. It was treachery, but it was a blow struck with military meaning. The execution of American airmen who flew in the Tokyo attack was sheer savagery, wanton, without any reason save blood lust - atrocity, murder. And we can echo the words with which President Roosevelt announced the crime today: "It is with a feeling of deepest horror, which I know will be shared by all ^{civilized} ~~xxxxxxx~~ people," said he, "that I have to announce the barbarous execution ~~xxxxxx~~ by the Japanese government of some of the members of this country's armed forces who fell into Japanese hands as an incident of warfare."

The President reveals that our Government made inquiries about the prisoners - inquiries following repeated Tokyo statements that they had been severely punished. Swiss diplomatic authorities acted in behalf of the United States, and procured an admission

from the Japs, which was transmitted to the United

States. ^{TP} ~~(The American Government, "said the President~~

~~today, "received the communication given by the~~

~~Japanese Government stating that these Americans~~

~~had in fact been tried and that the death penalty~~

~~had been pronounced against them. It was further~~

~~stated, "the President goes on, "that the death~~

~~penalty was commuted for some but that the sentence~~

~~of death had been applied to others." That formal~~

~~language, tells of one of the monstrous crimes of~~

~~this era, and the United States~~ ^{And now our} Government promises

the ^{imposition} ~~execution~~ of justice on those Japs responsible.

The official statement reads: "The American government

will hold personally and officially responsible

for those deliberate crimes, all of those officers

of the Japanese Government who have participated in

their commitment - and will in due course bring those officers to judgment."

The Jap accusation that the Tokyo raiders bombed non-military objectives is refuted completely by the President. He states that the fliers had instructions to attack only targets of military importance. It is known that they did not deviate from those instructions, ~~says the President.~~

To this I can add some things told me by General Doolittle, who led the raid. He explained why his warplanes did not bomb the Imperial Palace of Hirohito. That structure was a dominating object, and the American fliers over Tokyo could see it clearly. They could have smashed it with ease. But Doolittle had given them definite orders not to do so. It might have been a blow to Jap morale if they had ~~smashed~~ ^{blasted} the palace of that absurd Son of Heaven whom the Japs worship as divine. It might have been an effective stroke of war, but the Doolittle raiders had

orders from their commander not to bomb anything but military targets. It might be argued that the Japanese Imperial Palace could be considered a military target, but Jimmy Doolittle went the limit in being scrupulous. He and his men were, not going to attack anything that was not definitely military according to the rules of modern war. Jimmy Doolittle told me that many people had criticized him for being so scrupulous - over-scrupulous they thought. Yet how did the Japs repay that sort of ethics? They executed prisoners, for those very things that our fliers had been so careful to avoid.

So today begins a new era of American hate for the brutal Jap - today, when we have the announcement of the foul deed of Jap ferocity, xxxx

together with the American ^{account} disclosure of the full facts of the Tokyo air raid. ~~And also~~ ^{account} reveal what a gallant exploit it was.

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rest of the flight, the getaway. Jimmy, with a heavy load of incendiaries, would light huge fires, and these would guide the planes coming in later. Bombing Tokyo at dusk would have ^{then} meant a night flight across the China Sea - arriving in China in the early morning, with daylight for landing. That was the ideal plan - darkness protecting the getaway from Japan, and then a landing ^{on the mainland of Asia - at dawn!} ~~in daylight~~. But even so, the hazards were great, and the fliers were well aware that they were likely never to return.

^{But} The ideal plan could not be carried out, because a Japanese patrol ship spotted the bombing expedition prematurely - ^{spotted} the HORNET with the other warships of the task force. It had been agreed that if the enemy should ^{discover} ~~spot~~ the squadron sooner than expected, the planes would take off immediately.

The task force, consisting of two carriers, escorted

by cruisers and destroyers, was a mighty valuable lot of equipment over there in Japanese waters. And the deck of the HORNET was covered with sixteen big Army bombers. The carrier could not release its own fighter planes for protection - and what could be more helpless than a big flattop, its deck covered with army bombers?

Well - They sank the Japanese patrol boat, and then the planes took off. The fliers knew what they were going into, they realized the schedule they had to follow. The timing was the most dangerous that could have been devised. They were taking off eight hundred miles from the coast, instead of four hundred miles - more distance to fly with their limited gasoline.

And it was in the morning, instead of the late ~~afternoon~~ afternoon - which put the bombers over Tokyo at mid day, daylight flying into Japan and out.

Meaning - a maximum likelihood of being shot down

by Jap fighters and anti-aircraft guns.

How did it happen that not one plane was lost over Japan? ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ I asked Jimmy Doolittle about that, and he replied that he could suggest only one explanation - that the Japanese anti-aircraft system was completely disorganized by the surprise of the attack. They had been practicing elaborate defense against air raids, but the whole thing went haywire when the crisis came; the warning system, fighter plane mobilization and the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ anti-aircraft batteries were completely befuddled. Because of that, the desperate peril of bombing Tokyo at mid day was minimized, and the skill of the fliers did the rest - several Jap fighter planes being shot down.

Leaving Tokyo a little after one o'clock ~~in the~~ in the afternoon, the bombers had the worst kind of

schedule. They ^{would} approached the coast of China at night.
for landing. In fact, they did ^{not} ~~not~~ expect to reach the
^{at all.} coast. Because of the extra mileage, they figured to
run out of gas some distance from the shore. So the
prospect was - a night landing in the China Sea,
with the bombers sinking and the crews taking to their
rubber boats, if they could. ^{It} What actually got them
to land was a violent storm, a tail wind, a lashing
gale that blew them on into south China ^{over} ~~That's~~
rugged mountain country; and in the storm at night
they could never hope to find a landing field. They
ran out of gas in tempest and darkness among the
mountains.

~~One plane cut for Soviet Siberia, the nearest~~
~~land. Three planes made crash landings in China, and~~
~~the crews came through - although some were injured.~~
~~Two planes got into the part of China occupied by the~~

Some made crash landings. But
~~Japs, eight men captured by the enemy.~~ In the case of
most, the crews bailed out,
~~the others, the crews bailed out,~~ took to their

parachutes. In the driving wind and rain at night,

Two bombers unluckily in Jap controlled
they landed in free China. ~~One was killed. The others~~
China. The others

started walking in some of the wildest country on

earth. Some were weeks in getting to Chinese

headquarters. It took General Doolittle, himself,

three weeks.

Now add to all this the fact that, ~~except~~
for Jimmy Doolittle, all of the Tokyo raiders were
lads just out of flying school - with a minimum of
experience. They had been given in three months an
intensive training for the raid, but they were
~~xxxxxx~~ green youngsters - like tens of thousands
of others who are being turned out at our air training
bases. Their original schedule called for extreme

hazards. The one they had to follow was still more
dangerous by far - the most perilous timing of all.

Today we learn how great their courage really was, and today we are told that the Japs executed some that they captured. Many of us who ~~have~~ not yet loathed that barbarous Far Eastern enemy sufficiently thus far, will do so now.

~~The Army has its own resolve. XXXXXXXXXX~~

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The Army has its own resolve, and knows what to do to avenge those Army fliers. (The War Department *this afternoon* gives us the pledge, that the Doolittle raid will be repeated with bombings ten times as great, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ a hundred times -- the Japs to be bombed time and again, without end, until they are blasted to utter defeat.

NORTH AFRICA

The war news is mostly about Tunisia, where the British have driven a wedge two miles deep into the Nazi defenses. This follows the word we had last night -- the news that General Montgomery's Eighth Army had begun the assault of Rommel's Tunisian fortress. The British ^{have} captured the key point of Enfidaville, described as an anchor of the Nazi line. There was no resistance ^{at} Enfidaville, Rommel pulling out, as a result of a clever maneuver by General Montgomery. ^{TP} The fighting is savage and the going is slow. The Germans defending their powerful mountain lines with desperate tenacity ~~and~~ are launching ferocious counter attacks. Rommel has his back to the wall, and is acting accordingly, defending every foot of the rugged terrain of hills and cliffs. ^{TP} The British note that the forward defenders in this engagement are Germans -- not Italians, as in previous encounters. Rommel has had a habit of using the less trustworthy Italians, for initial defense, and then throwing in his hardened Afrika Korps at critical points. This time he is relying on his desert veterans

from beginning to end -- fighting ferociously for every foot of the restricted territory that he now occupies.

Allied Headquarters in North Africa tells us that the Americans and British have absolute control of the air -- with Allied bombers smashing ^{the} ~~an~~ enemy at will. ~~They~~ ^{These} are destined to play a great part in the final reduction of the Nazi stronghold. Everybody realizes that incessant bombing will ^{be} ~~play a~~ decisive ~~part~~ in pulverizing the pocket into which the enemy is backed.

MEXICO

Today the Presidents of the United States and Mexico were on American soil. After their meeting at the old ^{Mexican} City of Monterey yesterday, Presidents Roosevelt and Camacho crossed the border to the United States today. Special cars for the Camacho party were added to the President's train, and off they went - into Texas, to Corpus Christi. There they conferred again - President Camacho in a formal sense repaying President Roosevelt's visit to Mexico.

We hear that ~~the effect of~~ ^{fact} the Roosevelt journey to the southern Republic has made a profound impression in the land below the Rio Grande. The Mexicans are a proud people, much given to punctilio. And they take it as a special courtesy that the President of the United States, ⁱⁿ ~~under~~ the stress of war-time, has gone to their country to meet their President - instead of Camacho, for example, going to Washington, the White House.

We have prompt reports that Mexico will redouble its effort in the war, and there is a belief this sister Republic may send an expeditionary force to fight beside American armies on foreign fronts.

HELICOPTERS

A new great development in the art of human flight ^{has just been} ~~was~~ announced. ~~today~~. We are informed that helicopters are now being used extensively against Nazi U-boats. The helicopter, that kind of flying machine which can rise straight up and hover in the air, ~~has~~ long ^{been} ~~the~~ a dream of aeronautics. And now, all of a sudden, we hear that not only has the helicopter become a real and practical thing, but also that it's in operation ~~and~~ a major weapon of war, helicopters in large numbers being used as protection for convoys out in the Atlantic.

Captain Leland ~~E.~~ Lovett, Director of Public Relations ^{for} the Navy, makes the disclosure and states: "We think that ^{the} helicopters will be the secret of success against the submarines."

Important for war? Yes. And also in peace-time to come. The experts believe that some day, ^{before long—when the war ends—}

these new fangled,
 7/2 we'll use ~~the~~ flying machines ~~surmounted by the big~~
~~revolving blades,~~ as everyday vehicles for traveling

Fool proof they say,
 between such points as home and office. And today's

announcement about helicopters ~~that are already~~
on a major scale may
 fighting submarines ~~in a big way,~~ points to a

spectacular revolution in the way^s of life in times to
 come.

And now the time has
 come — for you, Hugh.