

L.T. - Sunoco. Friday, Feb. 13, 1942.

The Singapore story tonight can best be summarized in the words of the enemy. Tokyo makes the following statement: "The British are determined to die in order to live up to the ideals of British prestige". And a Japanese war bulletin employs this ~~phrase~~ phrase "The inhuman sense of duty of British leaders".

Hitherto the Empire defense of Malaya has not been a thing to arouse world admiration. There have been many stories of incompetence, failure to prepare, failure to understand. But now it looks as if the pitifully outnumbered British defenders ~~are~~ were determined to redeem the honor of their empire by the magnificence of their last ditch ~~and~~ resistance.

They are still holding the city of Singapore -- *yes* in spite of last night's Jap claim that the flag of the ~~the~~ Rising Sun had been hoisted in the center of the City.

Today Tokyo indicates that the fiercest kind of fighting is going on in the suburbs. The British still hold about a third of the island, with overwhelming numbers of Japanese pressing them hard everywhere. The enemy appears to have taken most of the water storage system, and that alone would be most

ominous. Yet, it may be some while before all of the island
of Singapore is taken.

GERMAN FLEET

The flare of anger ~~is~~ in Great Britain today is quite ~~more~~ understandable. The English Channel is Britain's traditional front yard shoreline, ^{the} moat of the island castle, that famous wet ditch. So it's enough to make the British lion growl his head off ~~44~~ because the German fleet was able to run the length of the Channel and not be utterly destroyed in the process.--

The political rumble in London today was like that of an earthquake, and there were indications that even Prime Minister Churchill might be shaken. With the shock of Singapore jangling British nerves for days, now comes the jarring episode of the Nazi warships making so free with the English Channel. London newspapers are printing indignant editorials. And the man of the streets is grumbling questions bordering on incredulity. How could it happen?

How could two Nazi battleships, a heavy cruiser and a number of lesser vessels dash all the way from Brest, right through the Channel, through the Straits of Dover and on to the German Coast?

The question is more pointed, when the average Britisher reflects how often those two Nazi battleships, the Scharnhorst and ~~the~~ Gneisenau, ~~was~~ were bombed in harbor at Brest. They were supposed to have been battered *and* ~~in a savage way.~~ *battered - time and again.*

Why did the German Admirals undertake so bold a venture - requiring every possible bit of surprise, skill and luck? Why were they so eager to get ~~the~~ the Scharnhorst and Gneisenau away from Brest and back to Germany? The most logical surmise that I've seen comes from London - the suggestion that the two battleships had been so badly bombed at the French port that they had to get back to German Naval bases for repairs, the more so as they might expect further bombing from the R.A.F., *d*uring the spring.

*H*owever all the battering they may have taken seems not to have ~~ix~~ reduced their speed -- because they started their run through the Channel at the fastest kind of clip. They slowed up later, and made the last part of the melodramatic trip at a much reduced pace. And this points to the fact that on the

way they were probably hit by British surface and air forces.

London today does not make any definite statement of damage to the Nazi battleships. With scrupulous phraseology, the British ~~Ar~~ Admiralty merely indicates the large probability that British torpedoes did find their mark - and that this was why the Nazi Vessels lost speed. The weather was so bad, visibility so poor, that the results of bombing and torpedoing could not be observed accurately.

The Germans used ~~that same factor of~~ weather and visibility to good advantage, concealing their dash in the dimness of fog and rain. Also, smoke-screens ~~which~~ which they laid.

They covered the operation most skillfully, as London tells us. Swarms of fighter planes from the nearby French coast circled constantly above the fleeing warships and fought wild sky battles with the British planes that came flocking to the attack. The British ~~say they lost~~ ^{admit losing} forty-two ~~two and~~ ^{and say they} shot down eighteen Nazi aircraft.

~~And~~ London reveals one maneuver the enemy used to protect the transit of the warships through the Channel -

a maneuver which indicates the careful and complicated preparations the Germans made as a prelude to the naval move. Nazi warplanes struck at airfields all over the south of England - the heaviest bombing that England has had in months. ^{and} Then the warships went through on their adventurous voyage.

Altogether, it was one of the spectacular stunts of the war, and the British don't like it. True, it hurt the British lion mostly in ^{his} ~~its~~ pride - but that's where Old Leo Britanicus is exceedingly ~~sensiti~~ sensitive.

The latest is that a storm of blame is falling upon the Royal Air Force - which is usually the idol of Britain. London now tells us that it had been predicted in England for days that the German warships would try to make a run from Brest through the Channel - and with this forewarning they should have been potted before they were. The German fleet ran a long distance before it was ^{even} detected. Tonight's London story tells that the R.A.F. reconnaissance service was at fault, and it is reported that Prime Minister Churchill is going to stage a shake-up. They say he may strip the R.A.F. ^{of its} independence as a separate air unit.

Today's full story of our naval attack on the Gilbert and Marshall Islands arouses the first loud victory cheer that we've had in this war. True, there was plenty of occasion for acclaim when we got the first news of the daring exploit of naval strategy. But, the Navy bulletin at the time was brief and terse and revealed little of the rich color of victory. The chiefs of our fleet were waiting to assemble the full story -- then to give it to us as a glowing revelation.

We were told briefly two weeks ago that heavy damage had been inflicted on outlying Jap Islands in the Pacific. Today we know in detail the heaviness of the blow that ~~our~~ our men inflicted. The list, as a mere catalog, is exhilarating.

Sixteen enemy ships destroyed, ~~and~~ five of these ^{being} ~~were~~ warships -- a light cruiser, a destroyer, two submarines, and a seventeen thousand ton aircraft carrier. ^{also} ~~and~~ other ships ~~were~~ damaged. The Japs lost forty-one planes including two large sea planes. Six aviation hangars destroyed, two anti-aircraft batteries, two coast defense guns, ~~an~~ one radio building -- and all sorts of ammunition dumps, ^fuel tanks, warehouses and other buildings.

What losses did we sustain? Eleven planes.

We were told that in the previous bulletin two weeks ago -- the first ~~news~~ news. And the Navy today confirms that number. The damage to our surface ships was very slight. The principal item being a bomb hit that pierced a deck. And this takes us to a thriller, a story of ^{Keith}~~Keith~~ Miller, correspondent of the Chicago Times.

He was aboard an American warship, the one that was most heavily attacked by Japanese war planes. He tells of the bomb hit as follows:- "An extremely persistent Jap got a bomb into us. There was a splintering, rocking crash. The ship heaved and hot fragments rained over it. The explosion blew pieces of the decking as high as the navigation bridge and cut through steel bulkheads as if it were butter".

Yet the American craft of war went right on -- playing its part in the battle. War correspondent ^{Keith}~~Keith~~ Miller tells how the Japanese bombers flew over at high altitude. "Eight of them came upon us," he writes, "and cut loose with nineteen bombs weighing eight hundred and fifty pounds each. Only the skipper's calm and the speed of the ship saved us." ^{TP} He speaks graphically of the icy calm of the Captain. "The Japs

were right in every calculation but two," he says. "They misjudged our speed a knot or two, and they didn't know the skipper was waiting for them to unload before he pulled the stern around ~~xx~~ sharply."

And that did take icy nerve - waiting for the Japs to loose their bombs before maneuvering the ship. By pulling the stern around, the skipper dodged neatly. Keith Miller says the enemy bombs fell just astern -- "right where we would have been," says he, "had not the skipper changed his course". As it was the tremendous explosions deluged the ship with spray, showers of water and bomb fragments.

~~War Correspondent Keith Miller tells~~
~~how the Japanese bombers flew over at high altitude~~

From a technical point of view the admirable thing that we discover lies in the element of -- timing. Today's Navy bulletin tells how Admiral Halsey, in attacking half a dozen enemy islands, divided his naval and air force into independently acting units. They were timed to the minute -- to attack at the same time at widely separated areas. The bulletin puts it in these words:- "Timing the arrival of

each force at its destination perfectly, he was able to carry out simultaneous and highly destructive attacks on each island, "meaning ^{that} Admiral Halsey ~~certainly does know~~^s how to calculate accurately in terms of miles and minutes.

PHILIPPINES

General MacArthur's bulletin today tells of activity by Japanese dive bombers. They've been too busy for their own good, in fact. At one point they dive bombed their own land forces with disastrous results for the enemy on the ground. MacArthur tells how Jap war planes swooped down on their own Sixty-Fifth Division and hit them hard with bombs and machine guns.

The Japanese are continuing their attempts to outflank our line by landing behind it, and this has produced a bit of brilliant American work - the mopping up of more than a thousand enemy shock troops who had succeeded in landing. They got our lines and took up a strong position, but were eliminated after fierce fighting.

We hear today that the American soldiers on the Batan Peninsula are clamoring for more of the attacking kind of strategy. They're hardened veterans of war now after those long weeks of desperate battle, and they want to take the offensive.

MACARTHUR

There was support in the Senate today for Wendell Willkie's proposal that General ^{Douglas} MacArthur be brought home from the Philippines and placed in supreme military command of this nation. Willkie's idea is that the hero of the Bataan Peninsula should be given complete ~~fixed~~ ^{over all} direction ^{of} American armed forces - under the President and free of all political bureaucratic interference.

To this Senator Tydings of Maryland says - okay.

He describes MacArthur in these words:- "The only inspiration ~~is~~ to which the American public can turn". But the Senator added that it might be hard to remove the General from the Bataan ~~Reax~~ Peninsula. "It would take the strongest kind of order to make him leave his men", said the Senator.

And he thereupon called for reinforcements to be sent to our men on the Bataan Peninsula. "I would like to see a convoy of sufficient ships, airplane carriers and arms to make a fighting effort to get to the Philippines," he shouted.

This drew a retort from Senator Josh Lee of Oklahoma, who described the Maryland Senator in these words:- "The greatest

advocate of trying to run the war from the floor of the Senate."

Senator Tydings had another suggestion in the way of an appointment to high position in the war program. This time he didn't endorse a Wendell Willkie opinion - he endorsed Willkie himself. He thought that the man who was the Republican candidate in the last Presidential election should be given a number one war job. "We're not fighting a New Deal war, an old deal war, a Democratic War, or a Republican War," he cried.

And other leading Republicans are saying: "Why are not the talents of the young, resourceful and brilliant Tom Dewey being used in this all-out war? Able Magazine Editor Fulton Oursler is among those asking that question.

All of which points up angles of war time politics, and here we may refer to the declarations made by Dewey, who is making a decided bid for the G.O.P. leadership. He pledges the Republican party against all ideas of a compromise peace.

"The issue of appeasement and compromise will surely arise," Dewey declares. "While today its advocates are present in both parties, history teaches that they all may attempt to sneak into the opposition party." And Dewey pledges the Republican Party to reject them. "We have but one course," says he. "We shall wage this war to a total victory."

CANDIDATES

A new political idea was put forward today by the Mississippi House of Representatives - a Democratic President and a Republican Vice-President for Nineteen Forty-four. In other ~~xxx~~ words -- President Roosevelt and Republican leader Senator McNarry. They would make what the ~~Missip~~ Mississippi Legislature calls - "National unity candidates".

8
The resolution argues as follows:- "It would be dangerous to change leaders in Nineteen Forty-four. And, since patriotism is evident among Republicans as among Democrats, the Republican party is entitled to representation in office". And so they launch a Roosevelt-McNarry ticket ~~for~~ for Nineteen Forty-four.

INGALLS

In Washington, Laura Ingalls has just been convicted. The woman speed flier has been found guilty of having been a paid Nazi propagandist and failing to register as such. Prosecution today described her as "a charming German agent." Her counsel defended her with the phrase "a bit of a crackpot." The jury agreed with the prosecution and the verdict is -- guilty.

NAME

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It may seem like treason, but I'm glad that there's one American soldier who has not performed an exploit of heroism. I mean the kind of exploit that would cause a radio news man to repeat his name time after time. Because this particular soldier, who is in camp at Fort Hamilton, California, has the longest name on the lists of the United States Army. He is Private Kam-u-wela Kam-á-kai-pol-an-i-wo-ho-lan-ih-naph-u-lan-ia Ke-kae- Ku-nane, Junior. I especially like the "Junior" - the only pronounciable part of it.

In all the mix-up of syllables, the first is the Hawaiian form of Samuel. Another of the names is Hawaiian for "Star of Heaven". Still another is polynesian for "hustler" or "go-getter".

59
So I suppose we might call the soldier Private Samuel, ~~starr~~ Star of Heaven, Go-Getter, Junior. I wonder what the top Sergeant calls him. ~~Proxi~~ Probably just - "Sam".

9/14
And now a word from a chap whom we usually call just Hugh.