

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, JANUARY 5, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

~~Here's action for you,~~ a battle, between American bombers and Japanese warships. They were army bombers; but, the War Department doesn't say from what base they were operating. Wherever they were, they caught a squadron, apparently quite a sizeable squadron, of Jap warships off the coast of Mindanao, the most southerly of the Philippine islands. In the engagement that followed, Uncle Sam's men landed three direct bomb hits on a battleship and ~~completely~~ sank a Japanese destroyer. That's the highnote of tonight's

U.S.
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army communique Number Twenty-Six. The American planes were four-engined bombers, and they pounced on the Japanese off Davao, ~~That's~~ on the east coast of Mindanao. The Communique adds that other hits were

made on other enemy vessels with undertermined damage. Best of all, our planes, everyone of them, returned to their base uninjured. There's nothing to report from other areas, adds the Communique.

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But ~~xx~~ this morning's War Department report tells of a ^{hot}~~warm~~ engagement in Luzon. The Japanese delivered an attack in force on General MacArthur's American and Philippine troops concentrated north west of Manila. The enemy were repulsed and, says ^{the}~~our~~ War Department, "this was one of the most serious reverses suffered by the Japanese invaders since the war began."

The Army tells us that at least seven hundred Japanese were killed in this action. The Communique went on to explain: "The tactics pursued by the Japanese in the invasion of Luzon, were to crush the greatly outnumbered defenders between two invading forces operating as pincers in the north and south.

The Japanese trap was closed," says the War Department, "but American and Philippine troops were not in the draws. To this extent the strategy of the Japanese failed, necessitating yesterday's frontal attack which likewise failed."

And now for the Navy Communique, Number Twenty-Four. In the Far East, the United States warship HERON, a small seaplane tender, was engaged in a fight with Japanese planes for upwards of seven hours. Ten four-engined enemy flying boats and five twin-engined land plane bombers tried to down that little seaplane tender. The enemy dropped forty-six, hundred-pound-bombs and three torpedoes. But, adds the Navy Department, only one bomb landed ~~a direct hit~~ on the HERON, though three ~~of them~~ missed her ^{by just a bit.} ~~closely~~. The Communique adds that "due to ~~the~~ very skillful handling, the ship most courageously fought against

~~most~~ over-whelming odds and destroyed one four-engined flying boat, badly damaged at least one other, and probably more. Though ~~receiving damage from~~ ^{severely damaged by} that one

direct hit, the HERON managed to reach port safely.

And that's a sea fight which in its small way must have been a classic.

In accordance with an order of the Secretary of the Navy, the Commander-in-Chief of the Asiatic fleet, Thomas A. Hart, has awarded the Navy Cross to Lieutenant William Levere Cabler, Commanding officer of the HERON, and recommended that he be advanced immediately to the rank of Lieutenant-Commander.

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The Navy also tells us that the patients, nurses and doctors of the Naval Hospital at Canacao, Cavite, were evacuated to Manila before the enemy occupied the city. ~~Furthermore, the Hawaiian area~~ ^{Also, that} ~~was quiet, adds the Navy Communique, and~~ "the submarine situation in the Atlantic area and off the west coast of the United States ~~is~~ remains unchanged."

MALAYA

About the battle for Singapore, we haven't much detailed information tonight. The British are saying very little, though they admit they have withdrawn their forces ^{still} ~~yet~~ further under enemy pressure on the west coast, that is, on the Straits of Malacca.

The Japanese claim to have landed further south in that area and ~~to~~ have ~~xxx~~ taken a place called Kuala Selanger. ^{Maybe so. We} ~~But there's nothing to~~ ~~prove this is true. don't know.~~

The principal dispatch out of the fortress ^{of Singapore} itself tonight concerns a new tactic employed by the British. They ^{are} ~~re~~ using against the Japanese an attack similar to the one they delivered on the Nazis in Norway. British Empire commandos penetrated ^{ing} ~~ed~~ far behind the enemy lines, and gathered ^{ing} ~~ed~~ at a rendezvous near the chief supply line of the Japanese. There they bushwhacked ~~ed~~ a Japanese convoy with hand grenades, and wiped ~~ed~~ it out. The report adds that "only one

Japanese left the first truckload of troops thus attacked and he was blown out -- very dead," says the story.

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The most reassuring news about Malaya comes from Australia. Radio Melbourne prophesies that Allied naval reinforcements are on their way to the Malayan theatre of war, and that they will threaten the sea-going tonnage of Japan.

RUSSIA

In Russia, the Red armies today were pushing ahead in a new direction. With the important city of Borovsk once more in their hands, they are battling ahead to Mojaisk on the central front. In the communiques from Kuibyshev, the Soviet spokesmen announce candidly that the advance on Mojaisk is part of a pincers movement aimed at the important rail center of Smolensk. Borovsk, which they took after the fiercest kind of house-to-house fighting, is southwest of Moscow but southeast of Mojaisk. If they get Mojaisk, they'll be on the direct rail line to Vyasma and Smolensk.

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A later broadcast this evening from Radio Moscow claimed that they had recaptured several more towns ~~from the Nazis~~, on the road to Mojaisk, ~~and that they~~ killed ^{ing} thousands of German soldiers and captured ^{ing} further large quantities of booty.

An optimistic dispatch from London tells us that

the pincers movement being operated by the Red army, threatens to encircle the German spearhead which last November presented such a great threat to Moscow.

The newspaper PRAVDA had a story that the Soviet troops were chasing the German, Rumanian and Italian armies in the Crimea.

The experts are pointing out that since ~~Fuehrer~~ ^{his} Hitler fired ^{his} Commander-in-Chief, von Brauchitsch, he has been losing more and more men, and his armies are being forced back from the positions which he had intended them to hold as a winter line. At the same time we ~~have to~~ ^{should} remember what British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said to correspondents in Washington, when they asked him about the Nazi rout in Russia. ~~He replied that~~ ^{His reply was that} ~~to~~ ^{to} the contrary, the Germans were withdrawing in good order.

ADD RUSSIA

And here's the latest from the Soviet center. The Red armies have retaken a place called Kozelsk, a hundred and thirty miles west and south of Moscow. The most important thing about this is that it's the first big town they have taken back from the Nazis in the province of which Smolensk is the principal city. So they are well on their way toward Smolensk.

FRANCE

Another assassination in France; and the victim is -- or was -- a man of prominence; in the eyes of the Nazis, for he had been a Nazi Frenchman all along. In a railway carriage on the road to Paris, police found the dead body of Yves Paringaux. That's a name new to most of us,,but important in the New France, for Paringaux was chief of staff of the Ministry of the Interior of the Petain Cabinet. A six-footer and we are told, a politician of the violent storm trooper type. In a recent interview he boasted that he owed his political advance mostly to plenty of fist work.

He was an avowed Fascist, once a member of the turbulent Croix de Feu that raised so much hubbub in French politics six years ago.

The first report of his assassination, which came from the German official agency, had it that not only Paringaux had been killedbut also his chief, Pierre Pucheu, the pro-Nazi Minister of the

~~pro-Nazi Minister of the Interior.~~ But that was found to be untrue, probably the result of wishful thinking.

Pöché

Pucheu is one of the loudest advocates of full collaboration with Hitler.

Moreover

France tonight is distraught with consternation and dismay. Correspondents in Vichy describe it as a major crisis. Naturally, the Nazi partisans jumped at the opportunity of ~~XXXXX~~ cashing in on the assassination.

Ex-Premier Pierre Laval left the bed where he had been convalescing from his own wounds and rushed to Paris.

There was a fiery broadcast from Paris this evening by

Day-ah

Marcel Deat, the man who was wounded last year at the same time as Laval. Since the Paris radio is rigidly

controlled by the Nazis, it was obviously with their full approval that Deat made his inflammatory broadcast. In his

Day-ah

Paris newspaper he had already pronounced the arrival of a crisis, ~~and -~~ blamed it on our Ambassador, Admiral Leahy.

Marcel Day-ah

In his broadcast ~~he~~ declared that France was threatened

with the loss of North Africa and all the rest of her empire if she did not immediately plunge into full

~~XXXXX~~ cooperation with the Nazis. A colleague of Marcel

Day - ah

Deat declared in his newspaper that the Anglo-Saxons want

to induce France to commit suicide. Ambassador Leahy,

he added, wants to make France into another Jugoslavia,

to play a suicide role for the benefit of Britain.

Deat's broadcast was the first time the

collaboration party in France had been permitted to use

such a

the radio for violent harangues. And tonight ~~xxx~~ there is

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plenty of room for wonder what repercussions are going to

follow from the assassination of ~~that~~ government official,

this
x x

ent,

Pierre Pööché.

CONGRESS

The curtain rises on another act of a drama, a sometimes unfairly criticized drama -- on Capitol Hill, in Washington. The second session of the Seventy-Seventh Congress of the United States convened today. Nothing much done, just the opening prayers and the formal ceremonies, the introduction of new members including a Republican Senator, Eugene Millikin from Colorado to fill in the rest of the term of Senator Alva Adams who died.

The Democratic and Republican leaders than went to the White House to wait upon the President and inform him that the Seventy-Seventh Congress was once more in session.

The first big scene of this drama will be enacted tomorrow; with all of us permitted to take a silent part. For at twelve-thirty Eastern Standard Time, President Roosevelt will appear before the lawmakers and read to them a special message that he has been preparing, a report on his latest colossal plans for pushing the war, and

on his conferences with British Prime Minister Churchill. The proceedings will be broadcast all over the world, so then we'll learn what we are all so anxious to know, particularly what additional news he has to reveal.

H So many spectacular things were made public last week, culminating with the appointment of Sir Archibald Wavell as Generilissimo, that it will be particularly exciting to hear what the President has to ~~cap it all~~ *add to all that.*

REGISTRATION

Registration day will be ~~on~~ February Sixteenth; ~~that is,~~ registration for military service. That's the date set aside by the President in his proclamation today. But he has not taken advantage of the full powers given him in the act passed by Congress a couple of weeks ago, ^{which included men up to sixty-five. His} ~~The~~ proclamation applies only to men between the ages of twenty and forty-four. And of course those between twenty-one and thirty-five who are already registered, ^{do not} ~~don't~~ need to do it again. In other words, the men who will have to remember ^{that} ~~date,~~ February Sixteenth, are those between the ages of twenty and twenty-one, and thirty-five and forty-four.

The last draft netted seventeen and a half million men. The next one will bring in some ten million more, ^{many of whom for various reasons will not be asked to serve.} And here's a ^{proviso} ~~proviso~~ particularly interesting to young men and their parents. Lads who have their

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twentieth birthday after December Thirty-First,
NineteenForty-One, do not register, only those who
have become twenty this year.

The law applies to every male citizen ~~and~~ *as well*
as resident aliens of friendly nations *who are now* in the United States,
^ Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

BRIDGES

West coast Labor Leader Harry Bridges is not to be deported, does not have to go back to Australia. That is, unless Attorney General Biddle overrules the decision of the Immigration Appeals Board, which was published today.

The Appeals Board has completely reversed the order of the official examiner who found that Bridges had had unholy commerce with Communist organizations, ~~which were working for the overthrow of the United States Government by force or violence.~~ It took the Appeals Board ^{some} ninety pages to say ^{it did not think} ~~that, in its opinion,~~ the Australian had ~~never~~ been mixed up with the Communist Party after he had entered the United States, ~~and~~ ^{As} for his having ^{once} belonged to the I.W.W., ~~once,~~ the Appeals Board ^{hold} ~~found~~ that the Wobblies ~~we~~ were not an illegal outfit in favor of violence.

So, ~~that,~~ unless the Attorney General disagrees, ~~is this, the end of the~~ ^{the} ~~Affair~~ Bridges. ^{affair}

AUTOMOBILES

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Makers of motor cars have been asked to ~~turn~~
~~their factories over to the making of~~ ^{produce} more than five
billion dollars' worth of war weapons. Between five
billions and six billion dollars, ^{worth. So} announced Director
Knudsen of the ~~P.O.M.~~ ^{O.P.M. and} That's more than double the
figure ~~that had been~~ originally planned.

Knudsen and Hillman admitted ~~that it~~ ^{this} would mean
the building of new plants as well as the conversion of
most of the existing factories. There was a big meeting
in Washington today with more than two hundred men
present, union chiefs, ~~and~~ managers and government
officials. ~~There is going to be~~ ^{an} over-all committee
of industry and labor, a permanent committee ^{of ten men will} to plan
the work. As Knudsen acknowledged, it will ^{involve} ~~mean~~ the
making of ^{a tremendous} ~~an awful~~ lot of new tools.

The C.I.O. spent a slice of its money in
half-page advertisements today, with an open letter to

the Office of Production Management, beginning with the address: "Mr. O.P.M." The Ad went on to say that we, the nation, with the greatest mass production machinery, have been unable to match Japan in equipment. And it continues:- "Mr. O.P.M., why aren't we doing it?" Then it sets forth that half of the nation's auto plants are closed down. ^{and} By the end of January, virtually all of them will be blacked out, but not by Hitler and Japan.

The C.I.O. continues that approximately a quarter of a million automobile workers, trained in precision, mass production ^{methods are now idle,} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ also highly skilled tool and die makers, ~~are now idle.~~ By the end of January there will be four hundred thousand of them.

The nation has lost two million man-days every week in war production, through failure to put the four hundred thousand automobile workers to work. The C.I.O. says

AUTOMOBILES

further that our own war production is poorly allocated, on an insignificant scale, ⁱⁿ in adequate quantities,. With only a few plants turning out the vital materials of war. For instance, only one General Motors plant is being converted. And the C.I.O. backs up its statements by extracts from the report of the Tolan Committee of the House of Representatives.

TIRES

in the street

Some people in Norfolk, Virginia, parked their car last night, as most of us do when we have to go indoors.

On the back seat they left a purse containing a valuable diamond ring. When they returned, the purse was there, with the diamond ring intact. But one of the wheels was jacked up and the tire gone. And inside the purse was a note which read:

"Roses are red,

Violets are blue,

We like your jewels,

But your tires are new."

Hugh, have you anything new to offer?

5-9-12