

L.T. - SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17, 1941.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Good news tonight from our own battlefronts.

First of all, a communique from the high command of our Asiatic fleet. Admiral Hart, its Commander-in-Chief, announces that three submarines of the United States Navy, have made attacks. Two of them ~~were~~ successful,

The ~~another~~ failed. The Admiral gave no further details. *He* preferred ~~not~~ to say what those two subs had achieved or whether their operations were against Japanese battleships, troop transports or auxiliaries. Nor would he say where the successful attacks had been delivered.

~~But~~ *The* British radio reported that a spokesman for the Japanese Navy in Tokyo had broadcast the warning that there are probably twenty American

submarines at large in the waters around Japan, and the Tokyo spokesman said further that, in his words, "the enemy submarine forces are still comparatively intact and ~~they~~ are in a position to carry on those guerrilla tactics which the Chinese armies have been using on land." ^R That we may take for what it's worth: ~~It~~ has no corroboration from our own naval high command.

Admiral Hart ^{added} ~~said~~ that except for minor details, the strategy ~~being operated by~~ ^{of} our Asiatic fleet is according to a plan formulated some time ago, a ~~xxxxxx~~ defensive plan. The United States, he added, had never planned offensive operations in those waters and had no intention of attacking Japan.

Another communique from the Navy announces that "It has been established that there were no injuries to personnel in the weak Japanese attack on Johnston Island, ^{out there at} ~~in the~~ Hawaii, reported yesterday. A bit of

news that challenges our admiration, is the fact that Midway Island still is holding out.

Now for the Dutch. A bomber of the Royal Netherlands Navy made a direct hit on a Japanese destroyer that was protecting landing operations of the Mikado's army in Sarawak, British ~~northwestern~~ Borneo.

Here's the latest communique from the War Department:- General MacArthur's army has the situation in the Philippines well in hand. The communique *says* *that* ~~continues:~~ "small enemy forces in the areas around Aparri, Vigan and Legaspi are still under attack.

Hostile vessels off the coast were attacked by army air forces. ^{"))} ~~At Hawaii, no further enemy activity has been reported and no reports of hostile operations, have been received from other areas."~~

~~An earlier communique reported that the attacks at Hawaii Island and Johnston Island were merely~~

~~nuisance operations, weak and ineffective, no~~
~~casualties.~~

As for our Allies, ^{the fighting in} ~~of course the campaign~~
^{Malaya} ~~to take Singapore~~ is the most serious. The Singapore
radio reports that the British Imperial Army is rushing
reinforcements up to Kedah, near the Siamese-Burmese
frontier. These reinforcements are supported by heavy
equipment, to stop the mechanized units of the
Japanese. The British admit that the swiftness of the
enemy's advance offers a serious threat to ^{the city of} Penang.
Japanese mechanized forces are only about ten miles
from the northern tip of the island ^{on which is} of Penang, four
hundred miles northwest of Singapore.

Furthermore, ^{that} Japanese expeditions have smashed
their way into three points on the northern coast of
British Borneo. The British ~~have~~ retreated inland,
blowing up the ~~xx~~ oil wells and leaving the Japanese

nothing but scorched earth. The Japanese are also
landing reinforcements in the Province of Kelantan,
on the eastern side of the ^{Malay}~~Maya~~ Peninsula.

Hong Kong still holds out. And the Chungking
radio reports that two Chinese armies are fighting
their way to the rescue of that beleaguered British
island. The Chinese claim to have smashed their way
across the mainland territory of Hong Kong, along the
railroad from Hong Kong to Canton. The Chinese
declare ^{have}~~that~~ they ^{have}~~ve~~ been successful all along the
line and have inflicted ^{heavys}~~big~~ casualties on the Japanese.
~~who are not strong in manpower in that part of the~~
~~world.~~

RED ARMY

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In case there's any doubt about the Russian advance, we now have a story from American eye-witnesses. The Soviet high command has at last allowed ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ correspondents from the United States to see for themselves what's happening on the Moscow front.

So here's an account by
~~So today we have a story from~~ a staff correspondent of
dated: —

United Press, "with the Red Army." ~~and~~ ^{he} reports that the counter-offensive of the Soviets is gaining speed on that eastern front. American reporters got a first-hand glimpse of what the United Press man describes as "the devastating route of the ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ Nazis in the sectors around Klin and Volokolamsk."

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The American newspapermen arrived at a village fifty-one miles ~~xx~~ northwest of Moscow ten hours after the Germans had retreated. From the point where they were, they could hear the Red artillery hammering away

at the Nazi lines.

On a march of
~~In an area for~~ thirty miles, it is reported, every village they passed was utterly scorched. The headquarters of one army group advanced so quickly that a staff officer spent hours trying to catch up.

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The American reporters found ditches and roads cluttered up with an incredible mass of wrecked ^{Nazi} tanks, guns, tractors and armored cars. Here and there in the glittering snow, were black patches, the ~~half-submerged~~ half-submerged bodies of men and horses. ~~All along the~~ ^{skis} Engineer regiments of the Red Army were busy repairing communication lines while phantom patrols ^{on} could be seen in the woods looking for stray units of the enemy. The Americans report that ~~an~~ an apparently endless column of Soviet reserves and supplies was moving toward the front. The closer the newspapermen approached the ^{battle} ~~patrol~~ line, the less destruction they saw. The

Red soldiers in explanation said that those points had been retaken by surprise in ^{the} dead of night, so the Nazis had not had time to destroy anything as they fled.

Thus we have ^{some real} ~~a substantial measure of real~~ ^{the stories the Reds had given out about} corroboration of ^{the} Nazi defeat. The Soviet spokesmen

declare that since yesterday's reports they have

advanced ^{more} forty miles on some parts of the line. Even

Berlin admits that the Reds are attacking strongly. But

They explain that their own armies are falling back in order to shorten their lines.

A Nazi spokesman from Berlin was overheard complaining that the Red Army remains unimpressed by

the Axis armies. ^S The Nazis declare the Soviets have

shown an insensibility and an insistence that

astonish ^{as} Europeans. ^{That the Red} ~~Their~~ generals remained unimpressed

by huge losses ^{of their own} ~~in~~ men and materials. Never before,

says the Nazi news agency, have the Germans fought an enemy so active and so offensive.

Evidently the Axis countries have been spreading the propaganda that America will have to cut down on Lend-Lease help to the Allies because we are now in the war ourselves. To which President Roosevelt replies emphatically that shipments of Lend-Lease material will go on no matter how many the countries with which we are at war.

Today another announcement to the same effect comes from Secretary of War Stimson. Substantial quantities of Lend-Lease material, he said, are now being shipped, that is, material not necessary for the immediate needs of the United States. In fact, a more thorough study of the shipping problem has been made, and, added the Secretary, "in the overall picture, the declarations of war against the United States already have resulted and will continue to result in a vast stimulation of our munitions industry. This," said he, "must inevitably increase rather than diminish our shipments to those who are fighting our common enemy."

INDUSTRY-LABOR

We haven't won the war by a long shot, said President Roosevelt today. He said it to twenty-four representatives of labor and industry who gathered at Washington for their big conference. He said further that we can't have stoppages of work. He let the men know in plain language that he ^{hoped for} ~~expected~~ an agreement by tomorrow night, a unanimous agreement on a plan for a voluntary let-up of strikes in war industries. Speed, speed, and more speed, is what we need, said the President.

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The White House made public a transcript of the words that the President had used to the heads of industry and labor. He told them he expected their help in winning the war just as much as ~~they~~ though they were in uniform. And he used these words: "We have got to do ~~perfectly~~ unheard of things. We have to feel that we, all of us, are subject to a self-imposed discipline."

While the President was talking to the industry and labor conference, the Maritime Commission was receiving a voluntary promise from the Seamen's and Longshoremen's Unions. A promise from them not to strike during the war.

DRAFT

The Military Affairs Committee of the House came in for some caustic remarks from ~~no less than~~ the majority leader today. ~~It's~~ ^Q because the Committee ~~steadfastly~~ refuses to lower the draft age to nineteen ~~years~~. Democratic leader McCormack of Massachusetts declared on the floor of the House, that we ought all be good soldiers, and that applies to the House Military Affairs Committee too. Then, said McCormack: "While I recognize that members of the Military Affairs Committee are all military leaders and great tacticians, I cannot accept their judgment in these days in preference to the judgment of the President and his advisors."

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Pretty ^{from} acid remarks ^{be hurled by} ~~to come from~~ the majority leader ^{directed at} ~~xx~~ prominent colleagues of his own party.

~~and Congressman May of Kentucky, Chairman of the~~
~~Committee, was listening most attentively.~~ ^{hard} McCormack

~~said further: - "We should not let ourselves fall into
an attitude of complacency."~~

Chairman May of the Committee then stood up to
reply to what he called McCormack's unveiled criticism
that he and his ~~xxxxx~~ fellow-committeemen are not good
soldiers. Even though we are in war, said May,
legislators have not lost their function or their power
to do what is right. Men under twenty-one, he said,
should not be drafted until they ^{are definitely} ~~are~~ needed. Let's act
like statesmen, and go soberly at the task of getting
a good draft bill, *said Congressman May. There'll
be more arguing about that age limit.*

ADD DRAFT

A hot fight ensued on the floor of the House, but the administration lost out. The House passed the Draft Bill putting the age limit at twenty-one to forty-four, in spite of all the efforts of the leaders to put over President Roosevelt's plea for a minimum limit of nineteen. ^{TP} A congressman from Mississippi offered an amendment that the President should be given authority at his own discretion to lower the limit to nineteen years. The reply to that was a vociferous "No", roared out from all corners of the chamber. The leaders did not even ask for a count. And there it stands. ^{TP} It is estimated that this ^{may enable us to raise} ~~might raise~~ an army of six million men. ^{TP} ~~However,~~ ^{And, as we expected,} all men from eighteen to sixty-five will be obliged to register, for army or ~~non-combatant~~ ^{non-competent} services.

APOLOGY

In times such as these, you'd think a fellow would get nothing but applause for talking up in favor of the Star Spangled Banner. With our country at war, what could be more loyal than defending our national anthem against attack? That's what I did last night -- and today I am overwhelmed with abuse. Is there a Fifth Column? No, it's ^{all because} ~~a simple fact that~~ a lot of people in this country know about a lady called Julia Ward Howe. ^{TP You see} It's this way. Last night I took a fling at composer and critic Deems Taylor for suggesting that we ought to dispense ^{with} ~~of~~ the Star Spangled Banner because it's not singable. ^{His idea is} ~~He suggests~~ that we take as a substitute -- the Battle Hymn of the Republic of Civil War vintage. ^{And} I gave Deems what I called a patriotic argument on that. ^{TP} My patriotism was okay, but ^{5. p} ~~un~~fortunately I got my facts twisted. I spoke of the Battle Hymn of the Republic as having been written by

Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

So what **did** I hear this morning? People denouncing my ignorance and informing me of the undoubted fact that the Battle Hymn of the Republic was written by Julia

Ward Howe. The climax in the shower of letters and telegrams was a wire from a grandson of the rightful

author of the Battle Hymn, ~~of the Republic~~. John

Richards of Concord, New Hampshire ^{telegraphs} ~~writes~~ me as follows:

GREATLY ENJOY YOUR 6:45 EVENING BROADCAST STOP

So far ok. But then he goes on:-

WOULD POINT OUT HOWEVER THAT JULIA WARD HOWE WROTE

BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC NOT HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

STOP THIS IS FROM A GRANDSON OF THE FORMER. ^{TP} And he

ought to know!

But it only goes to show that even when a fellow is demonstrating his patriotism the radio audience expects him to get his facts right. Which would seem to be a lesson for us who talk on the air.

PEARL HARBOR

There appears to be no end to the stories of the gallantry and valor of the men of the Army and Navy at Pearl Harbor. Here's the latest made public by the Navy today:- "When the alarm first sounded, a detail of welders was aboard a destroyer tender in the harbor. They promptly went to work to weld machine guns into the tops of the deck houses aboard the tender. All this while bombs were dropping around them, and machine gunners from Japanese combat planes blazing away at them. In the midst of a hail of bombs and bullets, the welders did their jobs. And they got the guns welded so that in the final action on that fateful day those very guns were being used.

While all that was going on, aboard another of our warships a Navy chaplain was getting his compartment ready for divine services. It was his last living act, for he was killed while performing his religious offices.

On board one of our destroyers, all the senior officers were killed in the first fury of the

raid. The only wardroom survivors were four naval reserve ensings. The senior of those ensigns immediately took command and the four of them got thier ship ready for action, took her out to sea, and steamed off in pursuit of the enemy. The Navy announces that these young fellows met all emergencies and "operated the ship like veterans."

And here's an Army story of gallantry, from Manila. Last week we had some glowing dispatches about the exploits of First Lieutenant Boyd Wagner, who was then reported as being from Philadelphia. Some of his pals now tell me that he's a Johnstown boy. At any rate, he's in the news again.

Buzz Wagner, as he is familiarly called, has taken less than two weeks to become known as a flying fool, indifferent to the odds against him, even when they're ten to one. He has destroyed so many enemy planes on the ground, that the Army officials have stopped trying to keep count of them. Buzz has practially lived in the air since the war broke out,

and today's communique credits him with having destroyed twenty-six enemy aircraft near Vigan in northern Luzon.

KIMMEL

Here's a sudden revelation from Washington
that came over the wire only ^{a moment} ~~five minutes~~ ago.

~~stat~~ ^{stat} Admiral ~~Husband E.~~ Kimmel, ~~the Cincom~~ Commander-in-Chief
of the United States Fleet, has been relieved of his

command. That's the announcement from the Navy
Department, a spectacular sequel to the report by
Secretary Knox that our services were not on the alert
when the Japanese made their sneak attack on Pearl

Harbor. At the same time, it is announced that

Admiral Chester ~~N~~ Nimitz is appointed to succeed

Kimmel. He has been serving as chief of the Bureau of
Navigation.

And here's an announcement equally sensational from Secretary of War Stimson, a shake-up in the Army command at Honolulu. Lieutenant-General Walter C. Short is relieved of his command at Hawaii and Lieutenant-General Delos C. Emmons of the Air Combat Force takes his place. Furthermore, Major-General C.L. Tinker has arrived at Honolulu to take command of our air forces there, replacing ^{Major-} General Frederick L. Martin, who is also relieved of his command.

So they are remembering Pearl Harbor in Washington today! And now Hugh.