

An hour ago the press wire flashed a Navy bulletin announcing an exploit to be marked down as one of the great hero stories of this war -- or any other war. The ^{account}~~story~~ is still coming in, increasing the elements of thrill and color. ^{TP} Subic Bay is one of those numerous deep indentations along the coast in the Philippines. The Japs have it now, and it's a station for their ships. Various enemy vessels were lying in Subic Bay -- it was dead of night, tropical night. ^{TP} Then across the dark water came a small craft -- a United States motor torpedo boat, one of those speedsters of oceanic war designed to dash to the attack and launch ^{its} ponderous destruction ^{ve} missile. The motor torpedo boat ^{at} was commanded by Lieutenant John Buck ^{le}ley, and he was on one of the most daring ^{of} missions: -- ~~His plan was~~ to make a one boat night attack in Subic Bay. ^{TP} With its motor roaring, the torpedo craft dashed into the entrance of the land-locked body of water. It was discovered, searchlights flashed from shore and

machine guns and cannon opened fire. Three inch guns of the shore batteries blazed with a rain of shells.

^{American} Aboard the motor torpedo boat they saw a large form ^{looming} ~~moving~~ in the darkness -- the hull of the big ship. ^Q

Five thousand tons ^{net} they judged. They couldn't tell just what kind of vessel it was -- in the dim darkness.

But it was a number one mark for their torpedo. And they launched it. # The next thing a deafening crash,

as the torpedo found its mark, and blasted the big Jap vessel. # Still under heavy fire, Lieutenant

Bulkley's tiny craft swerved ~~around~~ at top speed -- ^{out of the bay and away.}

~~and made its escape.~~ # "Lieutenant John D. Bulkley,"

says the Navy Communique, "has been commended for executing his mission successfully." And that's

putting it mildly -- commendation indeed for the

hero of the night torpedo dash into Subic Bay.

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PHILIPPINES

This follows that previous) -- the sinking of a
~~The latest American~~ naval success ~~occurs in~~
cruiser which occurred in
a sea of tropical romance, off the southwest coast
of ~~the~~ ^{the} large Philippine island of Mindanao, near the
island of ~~Jolo~~ ^{Jolo} -- and that's near the entrance to
the sea of Celebes. Musical and exotic names in an
island area where your Sunoco map will show you such
other names as the Sulu Archipelago, the Strait of
Macassar, the ~~Sea of~~ ^{Isles of the} Moluccas.

The American victory was an affair of big
army bombers against surface craft on the ocean.
Six of our ~~big~~ ^{great} attack planes blasted a Japanese
cruiser and sank it. The War Department report does
not tell us what class cruiser it was, what tonnage.

TP And, the army ~~bombers~~ ^{bombers} also hit a Jap tanker and left
it aflame. All of which makes a total of forty
Japanese vessels sunk by our men thus far.

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To the North of today's scene of sea and air battle, ^{from} ~~on~~ the island of Mindanao ~~we~~ we have ~~xxxx~~ rather surprising news. Today's army bulletin tells us that General MacArthur has received word telling of sharp fighting between Philippine troops and Japanese forces about thirty-five miles north of Davao. ^{TP} That city of Davao, with a Japanese population, was taken by the Japs in the first few days of the war, and since then we've heard mighty little from Mindanao. ^{TP} There ^{was} ~~is~~ nothing to indicate how much ^{of the} ~~the~~ ^{island} the Japs had taken, or whether any resistance to them was continuing. And now the answer is -- yes. The ~~Rxx~~ Filipinos are battling the Japs within thirty-five miles of Davao. And that would indicate a forgotten force ^{belonging} ~~xxxxxxx~~ to our side, one sector of our battle that we hadn't known about.

Further north ⁰ on the island of Luzon,
General MacArthur announced ^S~~ed~~ a new ~~xix~~ violent enemy
assault. After a twenty-four hour period of relative
quiet the Japs are again assailing the American
Philippine defence line across the Batan Peninsula.

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~~General~~ MacArthur reports that the pressure of the
attack is particularly heavy at the center of the
line. The Japs are assaulting with aircraft support,
and three of ~~xix~~ their planes were shot down today.

MALAYA

Tonight's dispatch from Singapore states that the British Imperial troops are holding the Japs, although the enemy is driving hard in western Malaya. Singapore specifies that the heaviest thrust is in the area of the Muar River and the town of Batu Pahat. This latter is a considerable distance down into the Sultanate of Johore, and is about sixty miles from Singapore. Indicating that the Australians, fighting steadily and counter-attacking whenever possible, have made some small retirement.

To the north of Malaya the enemy has pushed into Bura. This is in the sector where Burmese territory reaches like a narrow finger down into the peninsula. This time the advance was made by Siamese troops in cahoots with the Japanese. They are moving in a direction that will take them to the Burmese capital, Rangoon, if they got that far.

In the Dutch East Indies, Holland bombers today smashed the Japs in Sarawak, 00 British Borneo. They blasted the airport at Kuching and started big

fires. On the enemy side, bombers attacked the British island of New Britain -- heavy bombings by plane believed to be based on an aircraft carrier. New Britain is five hundred miles northeast of Australia and on the other side of New Guinea. A reference to your Blue Sunoco map will show you how far this is away from the other end of the fighting in Malaya -- a vivid indication of the tremendous spaces involved in this Pacific War.

CHURCHILL

Winston Churchill today made his appearance before the House of Commons -- his first since his historic visit to the United States. He received a hearty salutation of cheers. But, as it shouted acclaim, the House of Commons was also determined to have some explanation on the subject of Malaya. And they ^{are} ~~are~~ going to have it. ^{TP} The Prime Minister said he felt the general anxiety concerning the Far Eastern situation, and followed that with a measured expression of confidence. This, however, was a mere preliminary. Churchill is ~~prepared~~ to face the Commons in a full-dress debate on the war with Japan. ~~There is to be~~ Three days of it, with the British Cabinet giving a full answer to the abundance of criticism that's being uttered in London. ^{This} ~~which~~ ^{And it} should be one of the great Parliamentary debates; and Churchill may ask for a vote of confidence. ~~and we'll be hearing about it soon.~~

TYPHUS

The ugly spectre of disease and epidemic is appearing from time to time in the war news. They say that ~~ax~~ typhus is spreading in eastern Europe, in Poland and in the war areas of wintry Russia.

The British government is so alarmed about it that ^{the} ~~a large practical measure has been ordered.~~ ~~The~~ British command has ordered the immediate inoculation of all its troops in the Middle East -- protection against typhus. Quantities of vaccine have been sent, and laboratories ~~xxx~~ for diagnosis have been set up.

To all of this London adds a rumor that ~~typh~~ typhus has appeared in Spain.

SOVIETS

The Soviets report a striking success-- one of the most signal victories that they ~~xxx~~ have scored in ^{their} a huge counter-offensive. The town of Mojhaisk has been recaptured -- and Moscow describes it as one of the key points of the Nazi winter defence line. Of recent days Mojhaisk has been the head of ^a ~~the~~ salient, with Red army forces driving wedges on both sides of the ^{place, it} ~~city~~. ~~The place~~ was repeatedly reported ~~to be~~ about to fall, and now this has happened.-- ~~It~~ happened at a temperature of twenty-five degrees below zero -- in that fearful degree of intense cold in which the Nazis and Communists are fighting.

The Red army reports that it is pressing on to compel further German withdrawal, perhaps all the way back to Smolensk.

SUBMARINES

Here's one interpretation of the Nazi submarine attacks along our Atlantic coast -- the latest example of which was the torpedoing of the ~~and the Navy has just announced~~ tanker Malaya^{a.} There's a surmise that this ~~xxx~~

U-boat activity was timed with reference to the Western Hemisphere Conference at Rio. (The supposition

is that Hitler is making a show of destruction against our shipping to affect the attitude of the South American delegates.) This was expressed by

Senator Connolly of Texas, Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee ^{who} ~~He~~ issued a statement using these words:

"It is plain why the Nazis planned these attacks to take place just this week. They hope by ~~xx~~ their stealth," the Senator continues, "to create confusion among the nations of this hemisphere. They had in mind the convention of the twenty-one

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that there have been other attacks!

American Republics."

This view, however, is contradicted --
contradicted by the President, In a ~~press~~ press
conference today he said he thought there was no
connection between the recent submarine campaign
off our East Coast and the Inter-American Conference.
The President argued that ^{we had} ~~we had~~ had warning of
these undersea attacks some while past, warning from
him. The President recalled that he had announced
three weeks or a month ago that enemy submarines
would soon be off our coasts.

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CONFERENCE

News from Rio brings a striking bit of information. (Hitherto Argentina has taken the lead of nations ^{reluctant} ~~that don't want~~ to join in the general break of diplomatic relations with the Axis, but today it was Chile that put up the argument against the idea.) ^{Chile is} ~~That republic of~~ Western South America will not sever relations unless United States warships are sent to protect the long Chilean coastline. [#] The contention is made that Chile has only a tiny navy, and if support of the United States should lead to war with Japan -- there ^{would be} ~~is be~~ no protection against enemy attack. So Chile wants a guarantee that the United States will send two ^{or} more cruisers, four destroyers and two or three squadrons of war planes for the protection of the Chilean coast, before the republic will take action against the Axis powers.

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The case of Canada and conscription produces what appears to be a new kind of political device -- this according to reports from Ottawa. They say that Prime Minister McKenzie King is going to ask the Canadian public to release him from a campaign pledge -- and will seek this release by means of a nation-wide vote, a referendum.

In the Dominion elections in Nineteen Forty McKenzie King, appealing to the voters, gave the promise that he as Prime Minister, would oppose any suggestions to draft man-power -- no conscription. Now he thinks that Canada should have a draft, but feels himself bound by his campaign pledge. So he's going to ask the voters to release him from it. Today's dispatch from Ottawa tells us that McKenzie King will announce this conscription referendum when he addresses the Dominion House of Commons on January Twenty-sixth.

RECRUITING

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The Director of Selective Service today asked the Army and Navy to stop enlistments. General Hershey wants the armed services to get their men entirely through the draft -- without recruiting.

This follows a series of shifts in policy. Last December Secretary of War Stimson announced that voluntary enlistments would be discontinued as soon as the recruiting rush had subsided, the surge of patriotism that followed the Jap ~~sneak~~ attack at Pearl Harbor. Then that was reversed a couple of weeks later, ^{when} ~~when~~ the Secretary of War stated ^{that} ~~that~~ the Army and Navy needed men in the age classes of eighteen and nineteen. ~~Ex~~ Lads that young are not subject to the draft as legislated by Congress. And so the armed forces would go on recruiting -- to get them.

Now Selective Service Director General

Hershey wants this reversed. He says that recruiting threatens to take into the army men who are needed on civilian jobs. And that selective service should decide what a man should do.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The President proposes to provide Federal relief for workers who lose their jobs in the next few months because of the change over of factories from civilian production to war production.

A special kind of war emergency unemployment which the President now proposes to relieve. Today he asked Congress for three hundred million dollars to do it -- that amount of money to be paid to those who are made jobless by the industrial dislocation of war. The plan is to pay them sixty percent of their regular earnings -- but not more than twenty-four dollars a week for twenty-six weeks. The President wants these emergency unemployment benefits to be paid only to those of the jobless who are willing to take training for war production work.

DAYLIGHT SAVING

President Roosevelt today signed the bill to put the entire nation on Daylight Saving. That makes it definite and final, the time to advance the hands of the clock is Two-A.M. on February Ninth. That will be on a Monday. Then you are to advance your clock one hour.

This Daylight Saving is to be in effect only for the duration of the war, and for not more than six months thereafter. And it is estimated that the nation will save electricity to the tune of half a million kilowatt hours a year.

DRUNK

We are told tht acting on the stage should be realistic, and true to life -- and those dramatic merits were certainly demonstrated by an actor and actress out on the Pacific Coast. They were husband and wife, and they ^{ve been playing} ~~played~~ in that old classic of ex teetotalling temperance called -- "Ten Nights in a Barroom." The purpose of that highly moral drama is to give warning against the curse of liquor.

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Today in a Seattle divorce court Mrs. Ted Howland testified to the ~~amount of~~ realism ^{with which} ~~that~~ her husband ~~put into the performance as he~~ played the role of the drunken husband in the venerable temperance classic. "He not only enacted the part of a drunk -- he was drunk," she testified, ^{then she} ~~and~~ came to a climax by saying: "At Centralia, Washington, he was so drunk I had to point the audience out to him." And that would seem to be the height of intoxication --

when you can't see the audience.

The wife's acting, too, was realistic -- as she played the role of the drunkard's wife, pleading with him to give up John Barleycorn. "I put real feeling into those lines," said she, "hoping my words would really register with him." But if he couldn't see the audience how could he hear her?

And now let's hear him. I mean Hugh.