

The story of the great naval victory off the Philippines becomes clearer as the hours pass, as the dispatches pour in. Of course, there is still much to be told to clarify the mighty sweep of naval and air action, and we ~~ix~~ won't get a full understanding until Admiral Halsey breaks his radio silence completely, and flashes a full account. But enough has come ~~in~~ now to give a huge and thrilling picture.

It's a surprising picture - that of Japanese fleet units coming out through narrow channels between islands and engaging the American warships. A mere layman, at least, would have thought that unlikely - the Japs emerging through the channels. But that really was the meaning of the story we had last night - Admiral Nimitz's report of powerful Jap squadrons steaming east, One through Sulu Sea and the other through Sibuyan Sea. Tonight we know there was still another Jap force - three in all. The third came down from the north, from Formosa,

and it was apparently the most powerful of the three.

The whole thing began with a violent air attack, swarms of land-based planes assailing the American fleet - as a prelude to the entrance of the enemy warships into the fight. This was ~~an~~ obvious line of strategy:- try to cripple the enemy warships by air attack and then attack with your own warships. The Jap planes were beaten off with heavy loss - a hundred and fifty shot down, and the number may rise to two hundred by the time the count is complete. So Halsey's fleet was not crippled when the Jap warships sallied forth.

The enemy force coming through Sulu Sea proceeded right on to the island of Leyte, which MacArthur's forces are invading. The enemy warships passed through the channel south of Leyte. This is called Surigao Strait, separating Leyte from the next island to the south. Outside, in the Pacific, was the American Fleet.

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The Jap force consisted of two battleships, a heavy cruiser, a light cruiser, and four destroyers.

It was promptly assailed by American planes and warships. [Early in the engagement, one of the enemy battleships was sunk - a giant of the Yamishiro class, twenty-nine thousand three hundred tons. Both cruisers were heavily hit and probably sunk, and so were some of the destroyers. [The remnant of the ^{first} squadron turned and fled, limping back through Surigao Strait, south of Leyte, and ~~px~~ pursued by American planes, which kept hitting at the cripples.]

only was a huge naval & air engagement, it was also a battle in which warships fought it out with gunfire - hurling broadsides at each other.
Our own loss in this part of the battle was exceedingly light - several P.T. boats sunk or damaged, and one destroyer ² damaged.

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The Japanese squadron in Sibuyan sea consisted of four battleships, several cruisers, and a screen of destroyers. This one came up to the island of ~~lx~~ Leyte and passed through the channel to the north - San Bernadino Strait, between Leyte and the nearby island of Samar. It was attacked by an

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American force that included a number of escort carriers - that is, the very smallest type of carrier. The Japs attacked with gunfire, and one of our escort carriers was sunk and several others damaged. Carrier planes, ~~however,~~ ^{second squad} hit the ~~Japs~~ hard, and several cruisers and destroyers were sunk, three battleships and three cruisers were heavily damaged. The Japanese force, beaten up like that, turned and fled - ~~not back through the Strait of San Bernadino,~~ ~~however,~~ but to the north, along the coast.

The third enemy fleet, coming down from Formosa, was engaged by ~~our~~ our forces off the northern Philippines. The ~~story~~ story of this battle has yet to come in, but it is known that one ^{great} ~~enemy~~ enemy warship was sunk. It had been stated earlier in the day that the Japs had lost ~~in~~ a big aircraft carrier, and now we are told that it happened in the phase of the action north of the Philippines.

We lost one full aircraft carrier, larger than the escort carrier type, a ship of medium tonnage,

Today's earlier word was that in the sea and air battles, planes against ships, Halsey had all the best of it - sinking a big Japanese carrier and two cruisers. The Japs themselves announced the loss of the cruisers. Also, the Japanese battleships in the two forces in the Sulu and Sibuyan Seas, were damaged, ^{a dozen or more of them} smashed by air bombs, and ~~a couple were~~ hit by torpedoes. We lost one carrier, medium size, ten thousand tons - the Princeton. The figure for Japanese aircraft ~~the~~ shot down is up in the hundreds, and grows larger constantly.

One supposition is that the Jap naval Commanders thought they would take advantage of the fact that Halsey's fleet had been at sea and in action for weeks, and presumably would be short of ammunition and supplies. If that was their calculation, they were mistaken, because we now are given an understanding of how Halsey has been able to operate for so long at sea. In Washington, Rear Admiral Blandy, ~~former~~ former naval Ordnance Chief, stated that

for the first time in history a fleet is being supplied by ammunition ships - the American supply service in the Pacific being ~~xxxx~~ so highly developed now that Halsey's vessels get a regular stream of everything they need. That's how they have been able

to stay out for a length of time that has amazed many people and how they have now been able to inflict on

the Japanese the defeat that ~~the White House has just~~ ~~announced.~~ ~~Pearl Harbor~~

Nimitz and MacArthur have announced.

ADD NAVAL BATTLE

In cooperation with Halsey's Fleet, as it
was winning its triumph, ^{as you no doubt have heard!} the ~~giant~~ B-29 Superfortresses ^{were}
assailed; the Japs. Flying from ~~the~~ bases in China,
the B-29's hit Japan proper, the island of Kyushu.
The target, ~~was~~ a big aircraft factory; - ^a ~~the~~ blow
~~being~~ designed to cripple air reinforcements for
the Japs in the Philippines sector as the enemy fleet ~~was~~
^{fighting} ~~was engaged~~ with Halsey's warships, and taking a licking.

~~The latest word is that
Halsey's men sunk one big Jap
carrier, of the fleet coming down
from Formosa, and severely damaged
two more Jap carriers.~~

PHILIPPINES

In the invasion of the Philippines the American Forces continue to advance on the Island of Leyte. General MacArthur reports that the Japs have been beaten back to the foothills of the Central Mountain Range, where they will be isolated, without supplies, American held territory now has a depth of ten miles and a length of about thirty. Three airfields have been captured, and these are rapidly being put into shape for use by American land-based planes. Bulldozers are hard at work, fixing them up. And twenty-eight towns and villages have been seized. The Jap garrison at Leyte does not appear to be able to hold MacArthur's forces in any serious way. And tonight's dispatch reports what it calls extensive gains in all sectors of the front.

~~There is no confirmation of last night's report of landings on the nearby island of Samar. Today's news of ground fighting in the Philippines was confined to Leyte, with indications of the speedy capture of that island.~~

SUBSTITUTE FOR LAST PARAGRAPH OF PHILIPPINE STORY

General MacArthur confirms the story that the island of Samar has been invaded. American troops have landed on the third largest island in the Philippines, Samar, which is just across Surigao Strait, from Leyte.

PHILIPPINE RESISTANCE

General MacArthur today disclosed one of the epic developments of this war - a Philippine resistance movement that has accomplished so much that the whole thing might seem to be incredible.

we have known all along, of course, that the Filipinos had an underground working against the Japs, **But** none of us could have surmised the magnitude of the patriot resistance and the astonishing extent in which it has been organized. Today's MacArthur dispatch calls it - "A human drama with few parallels in military history."

I imagine that the General himself wrote the dispatch, he being known to have a flair for stately English. The cabled story speaks of the Filipinos in these words: "A people in one of the most tragic hours of human history, bereft of all reason for hope, and without material support - endeavoring to hold aloft the flaming torch of liberty. I gave this movement", continues MacArthur,

"All the spiritual and material support that my limited resources would permit."

He reveals that for two years he has been sending armament and supplies to the Philippine Patriots. At first he was only able to dispatch an occasional submarine - a mere trickle of supplies. But then, as his resources increased, he put four submarines on the exclusive job of transporting aid to the Filipinos.

The MacArthur dispatch states that for long months a vast network of agents in all of the islands have been working on behalf of the United States. In the words of the MacArthur dispatch:-

"Providing precise, accurate and detailed information on enemy moves and installations throughout the Philippine Archipelago." He says that every major island has one or more weather observatories, which have been flashing full data to MacArthur Headquarters weather reports morning, noon and night of every day.

The General says the Philippine Patriots have been reporting on enemy Naval Movements, and have been spotting Japanese ships and flashing the word to American Submarines - telling them about prospective targets. "This information", says MacArthur, - "Has contributed to the sinking of enemy shipping of enormous tonnage." Furthermore, the Philippine Patriots have procured for American military use what MacArthur calls - "Countless enemy documents of great value."

All of this has been of invaluable help in the invasion of the Philippines. The patriots have been fighting the Japs, and are prepared to do a lot more fighting. "For the purposes of this campaign", says MacArthur, "We are materially aided by strong battle-tested forces in nearly every Philippine Community. "They are alert," ~~he~~ adds, "to strike violent blows against the enemy rear as our lines of battle move forward."

And here is another striking indication

of how well the Philippine resistance movement is organized: - The Patriots have taken control of areas, where in case of necessity, American battle fliers may land with the assurance that they will be safe - protected by the Patriots.

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After all this stirring news - now a word from Stan. of Calif., and then, let's see what has been happening in Europe.

WESTERN FRONT

The British are rolling on in Holland, and German resistance there is described as collapsing. That key city of Hertogenbosh was captured today, completely occupied, and the British drove on. Their advance in Holland is on a hundred mile front, and today scored gains up to eight miles. The Germans in western Holland, threatened with ~~an~~ encirclement, are trying to get out - making desperate efforts to escape before the trap closes.

RUSSIA

Moscow announces that the Hungarian Province of Transylvania has been completely occupied.

And northward in Poland, Soviet Troops have resumed their offensive north of Warsaw.

In East Prussia, violent German counterattacks are reported - four crack Panzer Divisions trying

to drive back the spearhead the Red Army has thrust into the ^{home} Province of the Junkers. ~~attacks beaten off~~

One report is that the Nazis are ~~XXXXX~~ evacuating Koenigsberg, the great East Prussian ^{city.} ~~seaport.~~

And, continuing north, to the farthest north of the European Continent, Russian Troops have pushed from Finland into Norway, and the Germans have evacuated the Norwegian Artic Port of Kirkenes. This is the first Allied push into Norway.

GERMAN HOME ARMY

The organization of that Nazi Home Army doesn't seem to be going any too well - the Storm Units that we heard about the other day. Hitler proclaimed a fight to the death inside of Germany, a bitter-end ~~and~~ battle by all males between sixteen and sixty. But then the question came up of arming the storm Units and that led to a bitter argument.

Propaganda Minister Goebbels insisted that weapons be distributed right away, so that the Home Army, from sixteen-to-sixty, could learn to use them by the time the Allies broke into Germany. But Himmler, the arch-killer of the Gestapo, said "no - nein!"

Himmler argued that it would be dangerous to distribute arms to virtually the entire male population. Some Germans might be tempted to use them against the Nazis. Of course, if there is to be a bitter-end fight, the last ditch battlers have got to have weapons. The Gestapo Chief admits that, **But he** contends that arms should ^{not} be distributed promiscuously ~~only~~ ^{until} the last moment - after the Allies have already

^{deeper} broken ^{into} Germany ^{proper.} In other words, put off until the last minute the danger of giving guns to the German People.

The whole thing is in a state of violent wrangle, and word from inside Germany would seem to indicate that the formation of a home army has more ~~of~~ political than military importance. The mobilization of Storm Units under Gestapo supervision is regarded as a way to keep the sixteen-to-sixties under Nazi Control - and forestall an anti-Nazi Revolt, as the Allies thunder at the gates.

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And now Hugh, will you thunder at the microphone — or whisper, if you prefer.

NAVAL BATTLE

Japan from Pearl Harbor

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

Here's the latest. Just in from Pearl Harbor:- Admiral Nimitz sent the following to the President: "The Japanese Navy in the Philippines has been defeated, seriously damaged and routed by the United States Navy in that area".

And that's the bulletin we have all been hoping for, and expecting, word of a great victory in the naval battle that has been raging off the Philippines.

Previously we had a dispatch flashed to us ~~in~~ by the British, who picked it up from a United States Army Signal Corps broadcast from the Philippines. This broadcast from the Philippines quoted General MacArthur as stating: "The Japanese Navy has suffered its most crushing defeat of the

war. Its future efforts can be only on a dwindling scale."

We have as yet no details of the naval victory, which might turn out to be the decisive event in the war in the Pacific, and to give what understanding we can, we must revert to an earlier ~~xxx~~ stream of dispatches during the day.

From Pearl Harbor, Admiral Nimitz reported that the Japanese fleet had, in his ~~xxx~~ words -- "been brought to action". That Navy expression, "brought to action" - usually means a fight between ships, a battle of cannon fire, and not merely one fleet ~~xxxxx~~ sending its planes against the other.

In Washington, a Navy spokesman said that was what he understood, a ship to ship battle. Later, however, Admiral King said he didn't know whether the giants of the sea had been battling it out with their guns, or ~~xx~~ whether it was a matter of planes against ships. The way fleets preserve radio silence while in action, left our own navy department in the dark about the actual character of the

engagement. However, Admiral King did say that the Japanese navy was out, virtually the entire fleet of the Far Eastern Enemy.

Tonight we have an elucidation of the brief bulletin flashed to us last night by Admiral Nimitz - an elucidation of the geographical factors. And these are mighty interesting. Admiral Nimitz stated that Japanese naval ~~fm~~ forces steaming eastward, had come into the Sulu Sea and the Sibuyan Sea. The Sulu Sea, a great area of water west of the southern Philippines, while the Sibuyan is an inland sea - situated in the maze of islands between Luzon and Mindanao.

Today's word indicates that there were two Japanese naval forces, one in the Sulu Sea and the other in the Sibuyan sea - both proceeding eastward, toward the island of ~~L~~ Leyte, which General Macarthur has invaded.

It is ~~none~~ none too clear what they were trying to do. The supposition was that they were trying

to reinforce the Japs on Leyte. But Admiral King said today that he was frankly puzzled about why the Japs should drive naval squadrons into the maze of inland waters of the Philippines. He thought - maybe they were just trying to mystify the American Naval Commanders. Or maybe their idea was to divert the attention of our forces from still another naval force - number three.

This one was coming down southward from Formosa, and was heading straight for Admiral Halsey's fleet, which was in waters east of the Philippines. Halsey's fleet was separated from the first two Jap squadrons by a line of islands, with only narrow channels between them. It would be difficult for the American warships to get at those two Jap outfits, but in the case of enemy force number three - a great naval battle could be easily fought, if the Japs were willing. And, indeed, we are told that the engagement which Admiral Nimitz announced was between Halsey's fleet and the Japanese naval power that came down south from Formosa.

Today in Washington, the proposed American-British Treaty dealing with oil was criticized scathingly - the statement being made that the treaty, as it is now worded, would permit the establishment of a world wide oil cartel, a strangling monopoly, a global oil thrust.

The charge was made by J. Howard Pew, President of the Sun Oil Company, in an address before the petroleum Industry War Council. He said the verbiage of the proposed treaty is so vague that the whole thing amounts to what he called - "A blank check". And the whole thing would result in what he called - "the embroiling of our domestic petroleum industry in a vicious cartel system".

As for the character of such a cartel, J. Howard Pew said: "Such arrangements in international trade are exactly what we at home call monopolistic practices or combinations in restraint of trade". And he added that an oil cartel would only be the beginning. "The first", said he, "of a long series of

similar cartels which the economic planners are prepared to ram down the throats of the American people".

the ten thousand ton carrier Princeton. It is not clear from the dispatches where the Princeton ~~was~~ was sent to the bottom, but it may have been in the phase of the battle north of the Philippines. The Princeton was severely damaged by explosions and apparently was sunk by our own forces. Most of the crew was taken safely off the vessel.

A summary of the enemy losses cannot yet be made accurately, but word up to this moment lists - one battleship sunk, one battleship knocked out of action and probably sunk, three battleships damaged severely, several cruisers and destroyers sunk, several cruisers and destroyers damaged.

The Jap attempt against Halsey's fleet off the eastern coast of the Philippines resulted in a major disaster, and the American Navy won one of the greatest sea battles in history. The ~~the~~ whole thing is summarized in those two dispatches ~~in~~ that have flashed jubilantly all over this nation. →

The one from Admiral Nimitz station:-

"The Japanese navy in the Philippines has been defeated, seriously damaged and routed by the United States Navy in that area".

The other from General MacArthur, who sent this flash: "The Japanese Navy has suffered its most crushing defeat of the war. Its future efforts can be only on a dwindling scale".