

P. I. - Luzon. Friday, Jan. 23, 1942.

The Army bulletin just in from the War Department paints a picture of ruthless Japanese severity in the Philippines. General MacArthur reports a proclamation by the enemy commander, in which the death penalty is ordered for various ~~offenses~~ offenses -- a list of seventeen things that the Japanese prohibit. These range ~~all the way~~ from espionage through sabotage, and all the way down to the mere spreading of rumors.

The news from the battle front on the Batan Peninsula tells of continuing enemy ^{assaults,} ~~attacks~~ with accent on "continuing." ~~General~~ MacArthur reports that the Japs are trying to wear down the Americans and Filipinos by assaults, on a twenty-four-hour-a-day schedule -- and never mind the casualties. Thus ~~They~~ they

~~are~~ Trying to overwhelm MacArthur's men by sheer numbers. Thus far the twenty-four-hour-a-day ~~attacks~~ assaults have ~~not~~ been beaten off.

MALAYA

At the great naval base in Malaya people today were talking about -- the "Battle of Singapore."

Hitherto they have called it -- "the Battle of Malaya!"

But now the city at the cross roads of Asia can think of the approaching clash of arms as -- its own battle.

The Empire forces have made a series of withdrawals --

~~through~~ ^{so} the line of the Japanese is still about sixty miles

from Singapore at most points. However, they ^{are} still

pursuing their policy of infiltration by sea, and

apparently have made landings behind the British

positions in the most important sector -- the Batu

Pahat area on the West Coast.

^{But} They're pressing on with what the British say

are -- "greatly outnumbering forces." Hence, at ~~the~~

Britain's Far Eastern

~~great~~ [^] naval base tonight they are saying -- "The Battle

of Singapore."

BURMA

In Burma the air power of the United Nations won two big air battles today -- and British and American fliers were the victors. The Japanese attempted huge air raids on Rangoon. These were beaten off. Not a bomb fell in the city, and twenty-one enemy planes were destroyed. The British and Americans lost only two planes.

The Japanese came in two waves, and in one sky clash British and American pilots dashed through a protective screen of thirty Japanese fighting planes to get at enemy bombers and shoot them down.

On the ground, however, the news is not so bright. The British Empire forces are retiring in the Burmese wilderness of jungle and mountains; ~~They're~~ withdrawing to low country further back -- in front of the key city of Moulmein.

Reverting to the air again -- there's more

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victory news for the United Nations, a bulletin from China. Chinese and American planes have bombed Hanoi, the Japanese-controlled capital of French Indo-China. The Americans were members of the flying force sent to guard the Burma Road. Fifty-seven war planes caught the Japanese defense by surprise. The Chinese and American pilots shot down more than a score of enemy aircraft, and gave Hanoi a thorough blasting -- dropping ^{TP and} twenty tons of bombs. This is the first time in many, many years that China has delivered a military blow outside of its own territory.

DUTCH

Between the islands of Borneo and the Celebes is a strategic ~~width~~ width of water called the Straits

Today of Macassar. The Japanese are *still* vigorously attacking *in* that rich [^] region of oil — *North and East Borneo* — ~~an area of abundant oil.~~
East Borneo.

One ace enemy objective is the East Borneo oil port

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of Balikpapan. And, as we heard last night, the

Dutch authorities have scorched the earth, ^{there.} Meaning --

destroyed the oil equipment, ^{a pre} ~~in~~ caution against a

Jap assault. The enemy, apparently, is preparing to

seize the oil port of Balikpapan. For in the

Strait of Macassar appeared a powerful fleet of

warships and transports.

Deeper inland on the huge island of Borneo is a dense country of jungles and mountains, and there, in the miasmal wilderness of tropical forest, the Dutch have constructed secret airdromes, hidden bases for the operation of their flying force -- those sky

squadrons of the Dutch East Indies that have been so surprising in this war.

Today's news tells how they carried on that surprise -- with still another heavy blow against the enemy. For out of the secret airdromes of the Borneo jungle, Dutch bombers flew to the attack -- smashing at the warships and transports in the Straits of ~~Mac~~ Macassar. Eight ^{ships} ~~ships~~ were hit, blasted by bombs. One direct hit was made on a capital ship, either a battleship or an aircraft carrier. And bombs devastated a heavy cruiser, a smaller cruiser, a destroyer, and four transports. Twelve bomb hits on eight ships. Thus the East Indian Dutch are showing the way that is most likely to bring about the eventual defeat of Japan, -- fleets of bombers smashing at the long-drawn-out enemy lines in the war of oceans and islands.

AUSTRALIA

The war today stretched out to its widest extension thus far -- when Japanese troops landed in the Solomon Islands, four thousand miles east and south of Singaporek, at the other end of Japan's far flying battle line. Which is indeed flung gar.

The enemy power of Japan is drawing a line right across the ocean just north of that great sub-continent of Australia.

Melbourne tells us that, in addition to making landings in the Solomons, the Japs today invaded New Guinea -- and that's the island nearest to Australia. The huge and barbarous land of New Guinea right across the narrow Torres-Strait from the northernmost Australian point.

The War Minister of the Land Down Under made a statement which might even seem to indicate that the Japanese have begun an invasion of Australia. He spoke as follows:- "For the first time in history," said he, "Australian territory has been attacked and

foreign invaders are trying to get a foothold on our shores. The Australian militia," he added, "is probably in battle for the first time."

He probably meant Australian mandated territory. Not Australia proper.

Britain's great Commonwealth of the Southern Hemisphere is making an urgent appeal -- for British and American reinforcements. And once again the Australians are repeating their contention that the Pacific area has been sadly neglected. "If sufficient forces of tanks, guns and planes had been sent to Malaya," the War Minister declared today, "the Pacific battle need not have reached this stage - and become the Battle of Australia." And he gravely informed Great Britain and the United States that the conflict in the Pacific, can, in his words, "easily lose the entire war."

LIBYA

The sudden Axis drive in Libya is spectacular, but how serious it may be it is impossible to say.

General Romell's panzer forces were lined up in strong positions at El Agheila. That ^{is the} ~~was a~~ sector the British reached in their first Libyan drive, which so heavily defeated the Italians. Then from El Agheila the Nazi North African Corps ^{launched its} ~~continued their~~ counter attack which swept the British all the way to Egypt. ^{TP} ~~Now kkkx~~

^{TP} That bit of ^{history, tonight,} ~~kkkx~~ gives some impression of trying to

repeat itself. [General Romell has driven ninety miles

eastward from El Agheila, ~~and his tank columns have~~

~~reached a position they previously held -- in the last~~

~~big battle south of Benghazi. The British, with only~~

~~light forces so far forward, have retired. Cairo today~~

doesn't know whether the new Nazi advance is merely a

reconnaissance in force, a big scouting operation or --

a regular offensive. This depends upon how much

reinforcement General Romell has received. The British

know that he's had some -- but they're in the dark as

to whether enough tanks got across to encourage

Rommel to hazard a large scale drive. However, the

British do know that he has received heavy air

reinforcements. (The ninety mile Axis drive today

is reported as having been supported by large squadrons

of the sky.)

RUSSIA

The Red Army announces more victories --
they're still driving on. Moscow ^{proclaims} ~~announces~~ the
recapture of various places -- including the town of
Kolm on the central front. In the Kalinin area,
northwest of Moscow, the Soviets say they have driven
a wedge westward to an important river -- a wedge that
has broken deeply between the Nazi lines in the
Leningrad sector and those in front of Moscow.

CONFERENCE

Here is something just off the wire from Rio. And the United Press bulletin calls it news of a major diplomatic victory for Argentina. The word is that the Western Hemisphere resolution for a general break with the Axis will be limited to ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ "a recommendation." Instead of a pledge that every one of the twenty-one Latin-American Republics will cut all diplomatic ties with Japan, Germany and Italy, the resolution will merely recommend that they do so.

The agreement was initialled this afternoon pending a vote in the full session of the conference. This full session will be held tomorrow, and the word is that they will okay the resolution that ~~is~~ is nothing more than "a recommendation."

APPROPRIATION

Congress today voted twelve and a half billion dollars to provide the army with thirty-three thousand planes. Twenty-three thousand are to be combat craft, and ten thousand are to be trainers.

The twelve and a half billion ~~xxxxxx~~ dollar appropriation is a record-breaker -- ~~now~~ the largest single sum of money for armament in American history.

The thirty-three ^{thousand} military planes represent a sizeable ^{proportion} ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ of the schedule set by the President -- sixty thousand for this year, and a hundred and twenty-five thousand next year.

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The vote in the House of Representatives was ~~xx~~ preceded by a disclosure of information from ~~xxxxxxx~~ General Arnold, Chief of the Army Air Forces. He rebuffed any insinuation that the war planes we are producing are not up to the highest of standards. He praised the performance of American-built aircraft

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on the fighting fronts throughout the world. For example, he related that American air power along the Burma Road has s**bt** down from ninety to a huddred of the enemy since December Seventh, with a loss of only three planes on our side.

LABOR

We hear from Washington that ^a~~the~~ Labor peace
proposal has been agreed upon. The ~~plan~~ for patching
~~the~~ thing ^s up between the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O.
was set forth by President Roosevelt, and has been
okayed by William Green of the A.F. of L. and Philip
Murray of the C.I.O. (~~No enthusiastic okay is reported
from John L. Lewis. In fact the new Labor peace
treaty is said to have been devised for the purpose
of checking Lewis and his own project for a union of
the two union factions.~~)

The Presidential plan is said to call for
the forming of a joint A.F. of L. and C.I.O. Committee
-- a six-man Board, each of the rival organizations
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We hear from Washington that a Labor peace proposal has been agreed upon. The plan for patching things up between the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O. was set forth by President Roosevelt, and has been okayed by William Green of the A.F. of L. and Philip Murray of the C.I.O.

The Presidential plan is said to call for the forming of a joint A.F. of L. and C.I.O. Committee -- a six-man Board, each of the rival organizations to be represented by three delegates. The President, himself, would have what amounts to a seventh-man position on the committee -- a deciding vote. The purpose of this joint Board would be to form agreements that would prevent jurisdictional disputes, stop those jurisdictional strikes. There will not be a reunion of the rival factions as proposed by John L. Lewis -- but a way to harmonize them, get them to pull peaceably together in harness.

What's Lewis likely to do about it? In

labor circles they say that he's "just about ready" to take his own powerful union out of the C.I.O. -- the United Mine Workers with its four hundred thousand membership and strong Lewis leadership.

SPY

Here's one for all you Junior G-Men -- a set of espionage clew to figure out!

At Kansas City the police investigated an automobile that had been parked on a street for two weeks. Upon searching it they found the following: "A set of blueprints of a rifle, a map of Washington, one box of home-made bullets, four hundred machine-made bullets, one lead melting pot for making bullets. And to complete the sinister touch -- a black mask, a dark disguise. Finally, a driver's license was found -- issued to C.H. Mann of Dubuque, Iowa.

The Kansas City cops instantly informed the F.B.I. and the F.B.I. men were making a profound study of the clews, when who should appear but Mr. C. H. Mann of Dubuque, Iowa, demanding -- "Hey, what's the matter?"

Well, he sure had to reply to questions during the next few minutes. Here are his answers: He

hails from Dubuque, and is now an inspector at the Remington Arms plant near Kansas City. That's why he had blueprints of a rifle. His previous job had been as a draftsman in Washington -- hence the map of the national capital. As for the bullets, his hobby is target shooting -- and to save money, he likes to make his own bullets, as target shooting enthusiasts often do. Hence the home-made missiles and the lead melting pot.

Two weeks ago, as his automobile stood on the street, the motor froze and ^{he} ~~the cylinder block~~ ~~cracked.~~ He left the car there while a mechanical friend was repairing the damage in his spare time. But why the black mask, the sinister dark disguise? It had been left in the car after a Halloween party last Fall.

So there, you Junior G-Men, is the solution of the spy mystery problem in Kansas City.

SUBMARINES

There are a lot of rumors about the sinking of Nazi submarines off our own Atlantic Coast. And today some confirmation was given. In Washington a navy spokesman made the following statement; "Some of the recent visitors to our Territorial waters will never enjoy the return portion of their voyage," said he. Which would indicate that U-boats have been sunk or captured.

But the Navy spokesman gave no details - no figures. Instead, he gave some good reasons why not.

"This," said the Navy spokesman, "is a phase of the game of war secrecy into which every American should enter enthusiastically." And he added, "people can help the Navy and the country by keeping quiet about what they see or hear. Even if you have seen a submarine captured or destroyed, "he went on, "can get a chance to participate personally in anti-submarine action at sea, but every American can regard silence and secrecy as his own anti-

submarine weapon."

And Hugh have you any suggestions as to
what we Americans can do?