

L.T.-SUNOCO. WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 1942.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

In this war, good news is ominous. ^{For it} ~~it is~~
~~always~~ ^{often is} followed by reports of disaster worse than before.

Yesterday we had favorable accounts from Java, the high command of the United Nations claiming that the situation was well in hand. That's an unfortunate phrase, "well in hand." We heard it frequently from the British side while the Japanese were taking the Malay Peninsula.

Today the sequel to yesterday's "well-in-hand" ^{report is not so good! And} ~~report is a pretty sour and disheartening state of~~
~~affairs in Java.~~ It is revealed in one small sentence which the censor allowed to slip through, a sentence which reads that the air support of the United Nations apparently has collapsed. ~~That, obviously, is the.~~

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~~beginning of the end.~~ ^{And} Once the air force of a defending army becomes impotent, it's only a matter of time! ~~and~~ ~~mighty short time at that.~~ The immediate consequence is that the Japanese control of the sea approaches to Java is practically absolute.

~~And~~ It seems probable today that the naval forces of the United Nations in those waters have also ~~been rendered impotent, if not annihilated.~~ ^{suffered heavily.} Evidently a good deal had been censored out of the reports that came to us during the past two weeks. We were given ~~the~~ ^{strong} impression that the Allied naval and air forces had blasted the daylight out of the Japanese in the nearby waters. ~~The truth seems to be the opposite~~ ^{But today's news causes us to wonder.}

Tonight the Netherlands headquarters in London announces that the Japanese have torpedoed and sunk two Dutch cruisers. ^{it does} ~~But did~~ not say whether those were in

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addition to the two cruisers which the Netherlands high command in the Indies had already admitted ~~to be~~ ^{as} ~~having been~~ lost. At any rate, the Dutch in London acknowledge that the torpedoing of these ^e two cruisers is a crippling blow to the Allied sea power ^{in the Indies}, and that the Allied nations' fleets in the Pacific area have been so cut up that it is impossible for them to attempt a counter-offensive now. The Netherlands officials in London go even further. They declare that the southwest Pacific command collapsed when General Wavell was withdrawn and sent to India.

Tokyo today claims that its army in Java now has complete control of the railroad between Batavia and Bandung, and that the forces of the United Nations have been separated. Analyzing the story from Japan, it looks as though the number of troops in Java ~~xxxx~~ has ~~been~~ ^{must} exaggerated. The Japanese have eighty-five thousand
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landed on the island, and they say that the Dutch to begin with had no more than fifty thousand, but since then their army has been increased to a hundred thousand.

Whatever their numbers, the soldiers of the United Nations, including a crack American outfit from Texas, were finding out today what the British defenders of Crete and Singapore were up against. An American reporter with those troops uses these words:- "I know how great is the Jap air superiority, for I lay in a roadside ditch with our soldiers this afternoon and joined in their curses when no Allied planes appeared to challenge the enemy fighters and bombers that were blasting the highway in front of us."

But He adds that the Japanese are not having it all their own way. ^{That} The Allied forces are fighting stubbornly, sometimes even throwing the enemy back, though they have to match their eight ton tanks against

Japanese ten ton[^]ners with heavy cannon.

American and British newspapermen visited the front today following the same road they had ~~gone~~^{travelled} yesterday, but when they got to the point they had reached yesterday, the Dutch soldiers turned them back because of the increased dangers from Japanese filtering through the Dutch lines. One big Dutch soldier grumbled that he had been looking for Japs for three days but hadn't found one yet, because they hide so well.

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And We have official word for it that this battle of Java is a bitter struggle, but ^{that} the Netherlands army will fight on to the bitter end. The only miracle that could save them would be the sudden and apparently unexpected arrival of several hundred bombing and fighting planes.

AUSTRALIA

Another raid on Port Darwin, ~~in~~ Australia.

Reading between the lines of the official communication,

it must have been
~~we may believe that it was~~ a savage one. The Japanese

bombers, amply protected by fighters, came over in two

heavy ~~raids~~ *flights*. Low flying planes machine-gunned the

airdrome, destroying on the ground not only Australian

planes but installations.

MACARTHUR

~~The~~ One note of cheer in today's war news comes ^{again} ~~as usual~~ from General MacArthur.

As we have known, his air force is almost non-existent, just a couple of pursuit planes. But those few were mighty effective today. They staged a surprise raid near Olongapo, former United States Naval base. Also at Grande Island in Subic Bay, northwest of Batan.

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Tiny as it was, MacArthur's diminutive air force did real damage to Japanese shipping, sinking two large ships and two smaller craft: one a ship of ten thousand tons, and another of eight thousand. Nice going, that!

And, the latest communique just in reports that MacArthur's fliers bagged still another Japanese vessel, one of twelve thousand tons.

These raids, we learn, are in accordance with the MacArthur strategy, best expressed with the

words "Hit 'em and keep 'em guessing."

General MacArthur today gives us the first report we have had on Japanese prisoners. Some, ~~of~~ his troops have taken. The average weight of the captured Japanese is a hundred-and-twenty-five and a-half pounds; average age between twenty-three and twenty-four years. The youngest prisoner, nineteen years old; the oldest, thirty-one. The average length of service a year-and-a-half. Seventy percent of them have grammar school education, fifteen percent high school.

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The news from Burma tonight comes to us from Rangoon by way of London. That's rather encouraging because it means the British High Command still is in Rangoon.

~~All the Burma bulletin tells us is that the British have been in contact with the Japanese northeast of Pegu with both tanks and infantry.~~

RUSSIA

The news from Russia tonight again centers around that Nazi army corps that the Reds have encircled at Staraya Russa. The Soviet dispatches report those ninety thousand Germans as hopelessly trapped, enclosed in a ring of steel. The Russians say they have frustrated all Nazi efforts to fly in provisions to the trapped Germany army corps.

Moscow also claims to have destroyed more than two hundred German planes in three days.

As for the Nazi communique, it refers principally to Sevastopol and Kerch, and claims to have inflicted further loss and damage to the Russian defenders of both. But in London the German communique is interpreted as an admission that it's the Nazis who are now on the defense in that peninsula - in the Crimea.

BOMBING

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There is no doubt today about the effectiveness of that British Royal Air Force raid on Paris. The damage the British bombers did is announced with loud complaints by ~~R~~x Vichy. The R.A.F. bombers left wide industrial areas of the suburbs of Paris in ruins. So says the Petain Government. They also killed six hundred and fifty people and injured fifteen hundred. The Nazi-controlled press and radio of Paris claim fifteen hundred dead.

The R.A.F. lads who took part in the raids, using the new heavy bombs, relate that they flattened buildings and factories like packs of cards. In fact, some of the heaviest blew the buildings hundreds of feet into the air.

But no attack was made on Paris itself. Only the outskirts, where factories are located, where munitions for the Nazi Army are turned out.

And the raid is to be repeated. Naturally, there's a good deal of wonder as to what the ~~px~~

political repercussion will be: Will it drive the Petain Government further and further into the arms of Hitler and ~~we~~ deliver the French navy and French bases in Africa over to the Nazis?

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At any rate, we hear that Petain is going to proclaim a funeral day for the victims of the raid, a national day of mourning.

The descriptions of the raid confirm reports that the latest types of heavy bombs create destruction such as nobody has yet seen. If Goering's air arm had used bombs of such weight -- some of them four thousand pounds -- that is, used them on London and other British cities, the story of the raids of Nineteen Forty and 'Forty-one would have been even more terrible.

TROOPS

Several thousand more of Uncle Sam's doughboys have been landed on the soil of what is politically called Northern Ireland. (The last time I called it "Northern Ireland" without qualifying, I received a salvo of indignant letters.) At an unidentified spot somewhere in the north of Ireland, the first man to walk down the gangplank was Master Sergeant Dorrance Mann of Council Bluffs, Iowa. His colonel had picked him to lead the disembarkation for the excellent reason that a little over twenty-four years ago, Dorrance W. Mann, then just a buck private, was in the A.E.F. that went to France. In World War Number One he fought at the Marne, Chateau Thierry, Toul, the Argonne and St. Mihiel. For that previous war he landed in Liverpool -- December Twenty-First Nineteen Seventeen. Said Sergeant Mann today: "I never

thought twenty-four years ago that I would come over again." Then he added with a grin: ^{Anyhow} "This time I rode a little higher up in the ship." Active service at forty-five years of age ^{seemed to} offered no forbidding picture to ^{from Iowa,} ^{it,} that [^] master sergeant. As he explained, [^] he used to be a mail carrier and he likes to walk, likes to march, and traveling on a troop transport is old stuff to him.

Incidentally, the commanding officer of that contingent today, in civil life a lawyer, is a veteran of the field artillery ~~division~~ in the last war.

Most of the contingent are huskies from the mid-western states. They were promptly sent out for toughening in the glens of Ulster, which are rated by the British military as a mighty tough seasoning ground. One detachment of that contingent belonged to the Rainbow Division in the last war, the Rainbow Division then commanded by General Douglas MacArthur.

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A few hundred American troops, it was announced today, have been sent to London. How many of them there are, we are not told, but they are to serve as a headquarters detachment.

DRAFT

The Army is going to make one thing easy for men who are drafted. They will be given time to wind up their affairs before going ^{into service.} ~~to camp.~~ This was announced by

Brigadier-General Hershey, Director of Selective Service.

There was a misunderstanding about it because according

to the new procedure, men who pass the physical

examination ^{have not been permitted} ~~are not allowed~~ to return home to wait for

~~any~~ ^{any} notice. ^{have gone right} They ~~go~~ into the Army. ~~right away.~~ But, now

those who have unfinished business at home will be

given furloughs by their commanding officers.

ROOSEVELT

This was an anniversary for the White House.

~~For~~ It was just ten years ago that Franklin Delano
Roosevelt ^{first} became President of the United States of
America. [^] As in previous years, Mr. Roosevelt celebrated
by going to Church. With a number of other top-ranking
officials, he went to St. John's Episcopal Church, just
across Lafayette Park from the White House, ^{there to} ~~and~~ heard
his former headmaster at Groton, the Reverend Endicott
Peabody, offer the prayers.

O.C.D.

Civilians, like soldiers, must learn to take orders. That's the word from the Office of Civilian Defense today. But the O.C.D. qualifies ^{this} and adds that it does not mean ~~that~~ people must take officious dictation on their personal affairs. However, free men must learn to cooperate ^{for} ~~with~~ self-defense.

The O.C.D. evidently was prompted to this announcement by the number of ^{amateur} ~~cracker box~~ critics who have been trying to tell the defense officials how to run a blackout. ~~They've been grousing~~ ^{about} grousing ~~at~~ the manner in which the blackouts were being ^{operated.} ~~run~~. They should remember, said the O.C.D., that the first purpose of a blackout is military. They have been sounded in a hit-or-miss manner, and that, says an official of the O.C.D., is just the way they should be.

ANTI-AIR - JARMAN

I have just

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Today I paid a visit to the anti-aircraft defenses of New York City. That is, I called on Major General Sanderford Jarman, at his headquarters on Long Island. The General is in command of all the anti-aircraft defenses of these Eastern United States, from Maine to Florida. General Jarman is the leading expert in America on anti-aircraft. One of his recent jobs was strengthening the defenses of the Panama Canal.

Well, if the defenses up and down our East Coast were as impressive as General Jarman himself, it would be most reassuring. Jarman stands six-feet-five, weighs around two hundred and fifty, and is a most impressive soldier. But he admits frankly that we have a tremendous coastline to ~~protect~~ protect, and it will take some time before we have adequate defenses.

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In company with General Jarman I visited one battery on Long Island, a battery that defends the apartment house in which I live and this skyscraper from which I broadcast. So I naturally was vastly interested in that particular battery. The guns were formidable-looking. The instruments for spotting planes and drawing a bead on them, most complicated, and likewise impressive. And the troops in that battery, some old-timers, and some lads who have recently joined up -- made one feel that they could handle their job. The guns and range-finders ~~xxxx~~ incidentally were cleverly camouflaged by a chap who sometimes plays on my ball team; the NINE OLD MEN, the well-known artist, now an officer in the Navy, Lieutenant McClelland Barclay. — *Experimental camouflage.*

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If Goering sends one of his long-range bombers across the Atlantic to drop a few sticks of ~~bombs~~ on Radio City, that bomber will be shot down, ~~I hope,~~ by the battery I visited. — *I hope.*

A plane from La Guardia Field passed overhead while we were there. General Jarman suggested that the lads in the anti-aircraft battery get its range, and go through all the motions of shooting ^{it} down.

Reassured though I was at everything I saw, and particularly by ^{the} General ~~Jarman~~ and his men, the principal thought in my mind as I came away was: "How right is the Chief of Staff General Marshall in warning us that we can't expect our soldiers to defend every citizen's home. We are ~~just~~ spread over too much territory for that. The war can only be won by concentrating our fighting power, and sending it against the enemy, and preferably against him somewhere outside our own borders!" — ~~far from~~

~~Radio City. Eh Hugh?~~

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