

P.T. - Suisco. Monday, June 14, 1945.

(Given by Dr. R.C. Andrews. P.T. in Pacific theatre
of war.)

Good Evening Everybody

The following information has just been handed to me as we were going on the air. The Navy Department announces the loss of the destroyers Morrison and Luce off Okinawa with heavy casualties. Each carried a crew of more than two hundred. The exact number of casualties is not given. However, the commanding officers of both of the destroyers were among the survivors.

JAPAN

Japan begins to remind us of Nazi Germany in its dying hours. The Nips are talking about new weapons. They are preparing balloons laden with bombs and manned by suicide pilots. These will fly way up in the stratosphere, carried to America by the prevailing winds. The Japs calculate that these balloons will reach the United States in a hundred hours or so.

Tokyo ~~also~~ announced today that the entire aviation corps of the Mikado's Navy has become a suicide force for attacks on American and British warships.

Apparently they are not any too confident about these desperate measures. One officer said that if this tactic is successful, Japan will be sure of victory; otherwise there will be many naval heroes for Japanese shrines.

ADD JAPAN

Of immediate and concrete importance is the appearance of a new type of Japanese fighter plane in the air. Dispatches from the front report that this new model can outfly even the swift American Corsair plane. One squadron leader reported: "The Japs just thumbed their noses at us".

What is more, the enemy seem to have a new batch of pilots. They are sharp, well-trained and of first-class capacity. These new appearances have developed fresh tactics against our fighter pilots.

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OKINAWA

In Southern Okinawa the Japs tried a Dunkirk on a small scale today. Or rather, on several small scales. More than one group tried to escape by sea under cover of darkness. But the Marines got them. In one instance an entire Japanese unit committed suicide en masse when an American patrol appeared. On Chinen Peninsula Japanese soldiers and civilians are wandering about dazed and confused. That was after the Seventh Division cut them off in its quick dash to the beach on Saturday. Some Japanese are caught stark naked except for a bunch of hand-grenades over their shoulders.

BARB

Uncle Sam's Navy today released a story which you might call incredible if you read it in a magazine. It's the story of how Commander Eugene B. Fluckey won the Medal of Honor. Incidentally the entire crew of the submarine Barb which he skippered gets the Presidential Citation.

Fluckey and the crew of the Barb went out on what was considered a suicide mission. He had long suspected that the Japs had a concealed harbor. The Navy does not tell us where it was, but it was believed to hide a large number of Japanese men of war, tankers and munition carriers. Fluckey steered his pig boat right into the harbor. The night was dark, visibility poor. But not too poor for him to see a large number of Jap auxiliary ships. They were anchored behind a protective screen of escort vessels. To make things more difficult it was in shoal water, which meant that any submarine would have to come in on the surface and stay there for at least an hour after attacking.

Commander Fluckey figured his route

carefully. He moved the Barb inside the screen of enemy escorts. Then he fired all the torpedoes he could in a short time. Immediately several Jap ships began to spout columns of fire. His first target settled in the water right away. Great pillars of smoke streamed upward. The side of one ship blew ~~up~~ out entirely. Two others exploded. Only the Japanese themselves know how many vessels Fluckey disposed of. He himself had no time to stop and count.

Fluckey then made a quick turn and ran out along the course he had picked. It led him through uncharted waters filled with mines and rocks. Numerous fishing junks were in the way. The junks helped the American pig boat. And Fluckey figured that the Jap escort skippers would hesitate to take the chance that he did. They made for him as fast as they could, throwing a storm of shells. But Commander Fluckey did a marvelous job of broken field running. The fishing junks served the purpose he had expected they would. They confused the Japanese, who took several of them as

targets and sank them. At dawn the pig boat reached open water. There an enemy plane spotted her. Then Fluckey submerged for the first time. The entire crew is alive to tell the tale.

CHINA

Today's dispatches report that the Japanese in southeast China are fleeing pellmell from Chinese columns. One of those columns is already halfway to Liuchow. Another column has ~~advanced~~ advanced to the Liu River of the city. Further north other Chinese divisions have pushed the enemy out of the territory they captured two months ago in Western Hunan.

Lieutenant General Wedemeyer, Commanding Uncle Sam's forces in China, made another encouraging report. He announced that our famous Mars Task Force which hoped to reopen the Burma Road, is now at work in China.

Furthermore, the Civil Air Patrol which has done so much invaluable war work on the home front, is being sent to Indo-China to cooperate with the British forces there. The C.A.P. men will be mobilized for an air ambulance squadron as part of the American field service volunteer ambulance corps.

PRAVDA

The men who led France to her ruin are now creeping back into positions of power. So said a Russian writer in the Communist Newspaper Pravda. He pointed out that this is all because of a dirty trick the Nazis played on France in the dying hours of the Hitler regime. They sent back Petain and a batch of other ministers of the Third Republic to work their old mischief. These political corpses, said Pravda, are headed by Daladier and Reynaud. They make speeches and statements as if nothing had happened.

Pravda then paid its compliments to the two hundred families always reputed to rule and own most of France. They handed France over to German Fascism. They collaborated during the occupation. Now they emerge unwet from the great deluge. They are fighting desperately to return to their prewar positions.

EUROPE

The Allied Control Commission will meet in Berlin tomorrow. It seems definite tonight that the French representative will be General ^{de Tass-e-ne.} ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Outside of Germany reports of trouble and dissatisfaction are rife throughout Europe. In Jugoslavia Marshal Tito is talking big and rattling the sabre. He announced today: "Corinthia is ours and we will fight for it".

In Rome there are loud demands that the Allies get out of Italy. That comes from the Socialists. The six Major political parties in Italy have not yet succeeded in choosing a successor to Premier Bonomi.

LEVANT FOLLOW EUROPE

And in Paris the entire French cabinet backs up General DeGaulle's policy in the Levant. Unofficially we learn that his colleagues have tried to persuade him to be more diplomatic. But that didn't get to first base. Spokesmen for the French government in Paris charge the British as trying to seize complete control of the Levant. The British have already imposed censorship ~~on~~ on the Syrians and Lebanese, and the French believe they have seized the outgoing cables.

The French also charge the British with failing to protect French nationals from abuse and injury and murder by native mobs. French homes have been pillaged, they complain. DeGaulle today sent for our Ambassador, Jefferson Caffery. They talked for an hour. Nothing official is reported about their discussion. The guessing is that DeGaulle asked for American arbitration.

Meanwhile at Cairo something began which some people believe may change the ^{map} ~~map~~ of both the Near East and the Middle East.

I mean ~~the~~ Congress of the Arab League. ~~Which~~ convened at Cairo today. The Arab leaders hope and believe that this means the beginning of Pan-Arab unity for the first time since the capture of Baghdad by the Mongols. Such authorities ~~as~~ on Arab culture as T. E. Lawrence have declared that this was a dream, and never could be achieved. I know men who have travelled and explored there, and they have told me very much the same thing; but they said that several years ago. In the last ten years the tide of Arab nationalism has grown tremendously in both Africa and Asia.

Naturally nothing important happened at the first day's meeting of the Arab league. But it was quite evident that all the delegates were in favor of the immediate withdrawal of France from the Levant.

INVASION

Tonight we have answers to more of the questions people have been asking about Nazi strategy.

One of them is: Why did not Hitler invade England immediately after Dunkirk? German staff officers today explained that the Fuehrer never believed the English would continue to resist. He thought they would surely throw in the sponge.

When months passed and that did not happen, he did then decide to cross the Channel. He issued orders on June Sixteenth, Nineteen Forty. The plan was to throw ten of the best Nazi divisions into England. One force was to land on the shore of Kent, another in Sussex, another near the wash. That column was to make for Bristol. If it succeeded it would cut England in two. It would shut London and the British government off from the factory districts in the midlands and in the North. The Fuehrer confidently believed that the conquest of Britain would be over in ten days after his troops landed

You may remember that we heard several times a story that the Nazis had actually launched their

invasion. It was supposed to have been defeated by the Royal Air Force which dumped oil on the waters of the Channel and set fire to it. Actually, there is nothing to that at all. The German staff officers declare no such thing ever happened. They needed a huge fleet of vessels to transport those troops plus the equipment for the blitz.

The General Staff was divided in opinion. Field Marshal Walther Von Brauchitsch was then Commander-in-Chief of the German Army. He was against the idea. He said that even if Goering's Luftwaffe destroyed the R.A.F. the German Navy was not strong enough. Britain still had its powerful battle fleet which could prevent any invasion. Brauchitsch further told the Fuehrer that the attempt would cost a quarter of a million German lives even if it succeeded.

But Goering was all for it. He persuaded Hitler that his Luftwaffe was enough to blast a gateway to the British Isles. His argument won. Throughout June, July and August the Nazis worked at top speed

preparing the invasion. They collected all their ocean-going shipping at Hamburg, Kiel, Luebeck and Stettin. They took over every small motor launch, every cruiser on Germany's lakes and rivers. They massed invasion barges at Antwerp, Rotterdam and other ports. Shipyards were diverted from building submarines to producing barges. The Luftwaffe went into action with a bombardment to soften up the British. But when their D-Day came the R.A.F. was still going strong and fighting hard. Goering confessed to Hitler that daylight bombing was costing too many German aircraft, and Hitler postponed the invasion ~~but~~ until October. Then weather was against them. Then, also, they realized that with all the shipping that had collected it was not enough to transport ten divisions plus equipment across the Channel. It was on October Twenty-second that Hitler called it all off. Then, too, he began preparing for the drive into Russia.

CONSCRIPTION

The State Department today endorsed the idea of universal military training in peacetime for the United States. The testimony came from Acting Secretary of State Joseph Grew. He spoke out of his experiences as a diplomat. "If we had been reasonably prepared in Nineteen Forty-one, Japan would never have attacked us", he said to the postwar military policy committee of the House. Then he pointed out that unpreparedness is a grievous impediment to the foreign representatives of any country. It makes our diplomacy weak and ineffectual. He also ^{remarked} ~~noted~~ that modern armies and navies do not spring into being ^{-in a day,} ~~overnight~~

And now Goodnight