

L.T. - SUNOCO. THURSDAY, OCT. 22, 1942

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

It was revealed today that a few airmen of General Doolittle's bombing of Japan are missing. This follows Japanese claims of holding some of the Doolittle air raiders as prisoners. The Secretary of War today listed four of the missing and their names correspond closely to names mentioned by the Japanese.

Secretary Stimson repeated the declaration that no American planes were downed in Japan. However, after leaving Japan, General Doolittle's raiders encountered bad weather. "One landed in Siberia," the Secretary pointed out. "And several others made forced landings at night in China." To which he added that some of the airmen may have been forced down in Japanese controlled territory when their gas was exhausted.

Secretary Stimson said he had no knowledge of any Jap intention to punish Doolittle airmen. He repeated that he had no information to indicate that the Japanese were failing to abide by international law in the treatment of war prisoners. He said he was, in his own words, "loath to believe that Japan would violate the Geneva convention concerning the treatment of prisoners of war. The Secretary went on to point out that in the Doolittle raid on Japan, only military targets were aimed at -- General Doolittle having given his men strict orders not to bomb anything non-military, the Imperial Palace, in Tokyo, for example, which Doolittle himself could have bombed easily.

ADD DOOLITTLE

Now up speaks the mother of one of the Doolittle airmen supposed to be a prisoner of the Japs. She tells of the last letter she received from her son -- Lieutenant William Glover Farrow. He sent it to her last March at the time when he was training for the Doolittle raid. Of course he could tell her nothing about what he and his companions were up to. He merely sent to his mother this admonition:- "If the going gets tough," he wrote, "remember this and don't forget it -- that there's nothing too good for us to do for our country."

Today his mother read that to newsmen, then folded the note and said softly: "It has inspired me and kept me going."

SOLOMONS

The lull on the ground on Guadalcanal continues - according to today's navy bulletin. The only ground action reported is what the Navy calls -- "A minor enemy thrust against the Western flank of our troop positions." This minor thrust was apparently in the nature of a feeler -- designed to try out the strength of the American line. And it was promptly repelled.

Beyond this, the Navy Bulletin tells of no land action. "No report of any material change in the military situation in the Solomon Island has been received," it says.

But, there is air action with United States war planes hunting out and smashing concentrations of Japanese troops and supplies on Guadalcanal. An enemy bomber was shot down. It seems to have been on a reconnaissance mission, and was hit by anti-aircraft fire.

So the general picture is this: For days the Japs appear to have been poised for an attack, having

landed large numbers of soldiers at Guadalcanal. But thus far their assault has not materialized.

## FAHNESTOCK

At Port Moresby in far off New Guinea a mournful ceremony was solemnized today -- a double funeral. In a military cemetery there were laid to rest Byron Darnton, war correspondent of the NEW YORK TIMES and Bruce Fahnestock, the explorer. Both were killed in an accident, the nature of which is not revealed.

Bruce was one of the two Fahnestock brothers who made history in the realm of thrills in far off travel. And today his brother Sheridan, having flown from Australia to New Guinea, stood at salute as his brother's flag-draped coffin was lowered.

I knew Bruce Fahnestock well, and only a few days ago received a letter from him -- a letter addressed jointly to me and the Secretary of the Explorers Club. In it he told of experiences as an American soldier fighting the Japs in the jungles of New Guinea.

"My exploration these days," he wrote, "consists of going over old trails I've known in the past.

Undaunted and intrepid," his letter continues, "we push through the impenetrable jungle with one great and glorious purpose in mind -- a drink of nice cool ice water."

And then Bruce Fahnestock gave an expression of the spirit of our fighting men in the far off southwestern Pacific: "We're here because we have to be here if we're to win," he wrote. "And we're going to win, win here, win later in Java and the Celebes, and Sumatra and the Philippines; avenge Corregidor and HongKong, march back to Nanking and North to Great Peking. We're coming out of the bush," he concluded, "and then in the end do a little exploring in Tokyo."

But now, Bruce Fahnestock will take this earthly trail no more. He has left it to his comrades in arms -- and his brother Sheridan to do that eventual exploring ~~ix~~ in Tokyo.

## TRANSPORTS

Here is a definite denial that any American troop transports were torpedoed in the Atlantic last month. The claim was made by the Axis enemy -- and it is false. This was stated in London today by Lieutenant General Eisenhower, American Commander in chief in Britain. Axis tales about the torpedoing of several American troop ships are, in his words, "completely unfounded."

General Eisenhower explains why the denial was made today. "The information has been withheld," says he, "until every soldier on the Atlantic at the time of the German announcement had been landed safely in the United Kingdom -- and we could assure for ourselves the complete falsity of the German claims."



R.A.F.

Daylight raiding against Nazi Germany went on today -- with R.A.F. bombers and fighters sweeping deep into occupied France and Naziland itself. They smashed at industrial plants and transportation centers - losing only one plane.

It was revealed today that the American Flying Fortresses shot down nine enemy fighter planes in their raid of yesterday against the Nazi U-boat base at Lorient in France. This assault is reckoned as the most daring that Fortresses have staged thus far in Europe.

They flew all the way to the great U-boat base without any fighter protection -- and the weather was against them. They had to bomb from lower altitudes than is best for Flying Fortresses. The big bombers like to be away up there. But they had to swoop down to a comparatively low altitude -- low for them. This because of clouds that kept them from seeing their target. In consequence they were a better mark than

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usual for the German anti-aircraft batteries and for the Nazi fighter planes of which they, nevertheless, shot down nine.

## ALERT

Here's an item just in from my office in Radio City.

The metropolis of America had its first daylight air raid alert today, and for twenty-two minutes New York looked like a city of the dead.

It was as if somebody had pressed a button controlling all city activities. Everything came to a stop -- trolley cars, buses, subway and elevated trains.

Private automobiles and taxicabs stood motionless at curbs. Streets were deserted and empty, except for policemen and air raid wardens.

A city of suspended animation. And even the stock market halted financial operations in the midst of a rally, with stock market prices going up.

It was a test alert -- in order to see how New York would respond. And the big town responded -- plenty.

## TRANSPORTATION .

It was stated in Washington today that it may be necessary for the Government to take buses and possibly taxicabs from one place and put them to work at some other place. This would apply to buses and taxi cabs in cities where there is no particular congestion, no great shortage of motor transportation. The idea would be to transfer motor vehicles from such uncongested places to war boom areas -- where they would serve as a means of getting workers to and from their jobs.

We have this from Transportation Director Joseph B. Eastman, who speaks of the possibility of "a common carrier pool." That is, pool all of the nation's motor vehicles. He explained that the pool idea is still in the study stage, but, they might end by extending it even to passenger automobiles.

## HOLYOKE

Perhaps some of those taxicabs will be sent up to Holyoke and Springfield, Massachusetts, where I have been today -- here in the heart of one of the busiest regions on earth. Why, even the Spaulding plant, where a short time ago they were making tennis racquets, golf balls, and other sporting equipment for us, now, instead of tennis balls the Spaulding employees are turning out shells.

And, in the vast Holyoke plant of the Worthington Pump and Machinery Corporation I stood today with Governor Saltonstall, General Drewry, Commander Saunders, and eight thousand workmen and their families, while another Army-Navy "E" flag was run up in recognition of the way in which the workers of Holyoke have done their wartime job, not only on pumps and compressors for Navy vessels, and war plants, but in building anti-aircraft guns that operate by remote control. And we saw those guns swinging about, without a human being near them.

## COFFEE

From Boston we have a report on the black market in coffee. How good is it? The Office of Price Administration reports - - "vile." Boston black market coffee is being sold at exhoritant prices, as high as forty-five cents a pound -- and it is pronounced to be -- "unfit for human consumption."

The O.P.A. elaborates on the descriptpion by saying the bootleg coffee is so poor in quality it might have been made from "boat sweepings." You know what you sweep up from the bottom of a boat. So I suppose that when you brew a beverage of the black market coffee you get -- "Bilgewater."

## PROHIBITION

Today the Navy joined the Army is opposing the liquor amendment to the bill to lower the draft age to eighteen. This amendment would prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages in the vicinity of all army and navy posts. Secretary of War Stimson has protested that such a measure would interfere with the Army's own methods of teaching temperance to the soldiers. Also, prohibition affecting the vicinity of camps would take in so much territory that the Army would be in the position of having to enforce prohibition at such places as New York, Chicago, Washington, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Today, Chairman Senator Walsh of the Senate Naval Affairs Committee stated:- "I talked with the Secretary of Navy this morning and asked his decision. He stated, "the Senator continued, "that the Navy was in full accord with the views of the Secretary of War." So that puts both branches of the service in opposition to the proposal to enforce prohibition in the vicinities of camps.

Administration Leader Senator Barkley is trying to have the prohibition proposal considered as a separate bill and not as an amendment to the draft bill. Because the debate on the proposal as an amendment would hold up and delay the legislation to take the Nineteen and Twenty year olds in the Army.



ADD PROHIBITION

Here's the latest. Senator Josh Lee and his Dry-Up-The-Army-Camp amendment took a defeat tonight, when the Senate referred his proposal to the Military Affairs Committee. And this keeps it from being incorporated into the draft bill, and puts it into unfriendly hands. For the Military Affairs Committee is known to be opposed to the demand for a modified kind of prohibition.

MRS. ROOSEVELT

Here is a story about -- Totty. Now, who is Totty? You could hardly guess. Totty is the First Lady of our land. This news comes from England, where things are being revealed about Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, things you might not be able to find out here in America. The reason is that Mrs. Roosevelt in her girlhood went to a finishing school in England and British newspapers are digging up information about her girlhood school days there.

All of which is in connection with the forthcoming visit of the wife of the President of the United States to Great Britain as a guest of Queen Elizabeth. At the town of Cobham in Surrey there is a schoolmistress, Miss Helen Gifford, who was a fellow pupil of our First Lady, in England. They were together at Madame Souvestre's finishing school at Wimbleton.

When the present Mrs. Roosevelt arrived as a young girl, she was then called -- Totty. In fact,

at Madame Souvestre's finishing school, there is to this very day a desk with the following written across the top:- "Totty Roosevelt, summer term, 1902."

Even then she felt a concern for the future President of the United States. On her dressing table she kept a picture of the then youthful Franklin Roosevelt -- so says Miss Helen Gifford, now a gray haired principal of a girls' school in Surrey.

"I remember the day she arrived," says the English school mistress. "The first meal, we hardly dared open our mouths. She sat beside Madame Souvestre, chatting away in French."

Well, that must have been impressive, the new American girl holding forth to the French school mistress -- in French. Nowadays the First Lady does most of her chatting away in English.

And that's the story of Totty in England. And now let's get back to Milton Cross in New York.