

P.T. - Lunoco. Thursday, Feb. 5, 1942.

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GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

There's little war news from the Pacific
tonight - and that ^{may be} ~~is~~ reasonably good news. Since the
Allied nations are necessarily on the defensive, and
since the Japanese enemy is racing against time, we
might paraphrase the old adage and say - that
comparatively little news is moderately good news.

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On the other hand, the silence from various
points in the Pacific may be ominous. For example,
the Dutch in the East Indies say that there has been
a half ~~+~~ in communications with Amboina - their Number Two
naval base. The Japanese have been on that island for
some time now, with the Dutch defenders resisting
staunchly. So maybe a lapse of communications with

Amboina might mean that the defense has been broken.

And the Holland authorities in Java say that the Japanese air raids have inflicted damage on the ~~islands~~ Number One naval base in the East Indies - Soerabaja. Japanese bombers ^{have raided} ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ that Javanese base time and again, [^] apparently ~~they've come~~ from aircraft carriers. ~~They've~~ ^{ing} Caused [^] heavy casualties - in addition to the damage which the Dutch announced today.

But there's one piece of news from ^{out there} ~~Soerabaja~~ that's a lot brighter.

JAVA

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A dispatch from Washington tells us that American fighter planes in Java got into a thrilling sky battle with an out-numbering force of Japanese aircraft - and the American fighters shot down two and lost ~~only~~ one. The importance of this is not in the shooting down or the mere thrill of the sky fight. It's to be discovered in the word - fighter. This means that we've succeeded in getting ^{combat planes} to the critical area of the ~~fighters~~ - oceanic battle, [^] a force of those small, speedy planes that do the attacking.

For some time now American bombers have been operating from Javanese bases and striking most effective blows at the enemy - in the Straits of Macassar, for example. The bombers went by the air route from the United States to the East Indies. ~~Those~~ ^{They} ~~They're~~ ^{the} long range sky craft, ~~and~~ [^] can make [^] a series of long hops that are necessary to get halfway around

the world. But fighting planes can't go that way. They're short range.

Today's dispatch tells that the American fighters in action are P-Forties. And we know that their range is only 'about eight hundred miles. So they had to be sent by ship - the long, slow way. But they're there now - American fighters in action along ~~xxx~~ with our bombers.

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Today's dispatch states that the formation in the air battle was only a small one, but it's something that we have any out there at all - it's the beginning.

Those American combat units are fighting against the Japanese air raiders that have been striking so heavily at the great naval base at Soerabaja, ~~They~~ caused heavy casualties and some damage, and are

MALAYA

The news about Singapore tonight is a curious contradiction. On the one hand, the Japanese declare that they ^{are} ~~are~~ making a huge attack. The impression they give is that it's an all-out attempt to crash across the narrow Straits of Johore. ^{TP} Singapore, on the other hand, tells of nothing but artillery fire - ~~xxxx~~ ^{with the} ~~most~~ ^{monster} ~~of the~~ guns of the beleaguered fortress knocking out enemy batteries on the other side of the Strait.

The British say that the Japs are moving great bodies of troops toward Singapore. Presumably, for a major offensive against the island. ^{and} That's as near as Singapore comes to the Japanese version - ~~xxxx~~ that the offensive has already begun, and in a big way.

BURMA

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In Burma the British military authorities announce that the Japanese have succeeded in crossing the Salween River -- but only small patrols. No large force of the enemy seems to have fought its way across the difficult river barrier which right now affords a powerful defense line for the empire soldiers.

PHILIPPINES

From the Philippines -- next to no news about the military operations on the Batan peninsula. The reason ~~is~~ -- little fighting. General MacArthur reports a lull, with the battle limited to what he calls -- "relatively minor patrol actions." This ^{is} ~~is quite a~~ contrast to the continued violence and ~~xxxxxxx~~ savage action during the past two weeks.

HOSPITAL SHIP

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Today's report of Japanese attacks on an American hospital ship is none too definite. The story is from Melbourne, and it quotes American wounded soldiers and army nurses as saying that they were attacked nine times by enemy planes. The name of the hospital ship is not given, but the supposition is that it was the S.S. MACTAN, which took wounded out of the Philippines. The American Red Cross in the United States was queried today, and stated that the MACTAN is the only hospital ship in the southwest Pacific. On the other hand, the Red Cross says it has received no word of any bombing attempt against the S.S. MACTAN.

A dispatch from Melbourne quotes a wounded soldier as saying:- "The fighters and bombers came over like swarms of flies." And a Red Cross nurse employed some picturesque phraseology, which the

United Press dispatch summarizes in a new medical term -- butterfly stomachitis. The nurse put it this way:- "The bomb crashes," said she, "made our stomachs act as though butterflies were flying about inside." Now that must be a curious sensation. Butterfly wings swishing about in your stomach!

LIBYA

A vivid sign of the way things have been going in Libya comes in a late London story which ~~xxxxxx~~ quotes British military men as saying that the Empire forces in North Africa may again dig in at Tobruk , and stand siege there. Meaning, of course, that General Rommel's Nazi panzers are still moving forward, and the British think they may go all the way to the Egyptian border.

RUSSIA

In Russia, the Red Army reports that it has broken through on the Smolensk front - and that's about the most important sector on ^{the} a long winter battleline. Smolensk, the key point in the central ^{area,} ~~sector~~

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Further south, the Red army says it is driving against the Ukrainian city of Kharkov, thrusting wedges on both sides of ~~the~~ Kharkov. This - in deep snow, which is said to be hampering the Soviet advance. But they're moving on, snow or no snow.

BRITISH CASUALTIES

There's a good deal of talk about how much the British themselves are doing in the war and how much of the fighting is being done by the British dominions and colonies. London seems to have felt the criticism, and today releases some figures to refute it.

Of all the battle casualties sustained by the forces of the Empire, the home island has incurred more than seventy-one per cent. The Dominions having ~~xxxxxxx~~ suffered something more than eighteen per cent of the casualties. The Colonies ^{and} ~~in~~ India - five and a half per cent.

And London tells of the proportions of troops engaged in the various campaigns of the war. In the battles of France and Belgium, there were seventy times
—— 70 times,
as many British troops as colonial, Norway - all

BRITISH CASUALTIES - 2

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British. Greece - thirty-three per cent British,
the rest Australian, New Zealand and other colonial.
Crete - forty-six per cent British. In Malaya, right
now, because of the geographical location - ~~threxxxxfxxxxx~~
three-fourths of the troops are from the dominions and
colonies, and one-fourth from ~~Britix~~ Britain - three
Scottish regiments and two English.

One surmise is that it might have been British
policy to play up the deeds of the soldiers from the
Dominions, ^{And this} ~~which~~ may have caused a kick-back -- the
impression that the dominions were doing more ~~thxxx~~
than their share.

CHINA

As an example of the fact that there is comparatively little news about the war in the Pacific, ~~today,~~ here's a dispatch that was granted a place on the news wires today - those usually over-crowded news wires of war-time. It's from China, Chungking, and tells about the asphaltting of the Burma road. No, not bombs or shell fire - just plain asphalt used in

roadbuilding. ^{TP} The Chinese reported ~~that~~ they've ^{improved} ~~made~~

that all-important Burma Road for seventy-seven miles

north of the Burmese border. ^{That amount of} ~~They've done the~~

4 asphaltting in ~~a mere~~ three months, instead of one year -

as predicted by British engineers. This, says the

Chungking dispatch, is an illustration of Chinese

efficiency ^{as stepped up by American} transportation men who went out there.

LOAN

The Senate did a fast job today in putting its unanimous okay on the war loan to China - five hundred million dollars. The quick work was spurred on by ~~advice from~~ Cabinet members, who requested the loan as an urgent means of strengthening ^{China's} ~~China's~~ internal economy in the war with Japan. The secret session of the Senate committee heard Secretary of War Stimson and Secretary of the ~~Navy~~ Navy Knox give testimony which painted what one Senator called - "an encouraging picture insofar as long term activities are concerned."

When Secretary of the Navy Knox emerged from the hearing, he was asked about the statement made by British General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief for the united nations in the Far East - the Wavell statement that British and American aid is being hurried to Singapore under siege. ^{TX} What about it?

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Secretary Knox was asked.[?] To which he responded,
"I honestly don't know how to answer that one."

In addition to authorizing the loan to China,
the Senate today completed its action on the enormous
appropriation for the Navy - twenty-six and a half
billion dollars for warships and warplanes.

SHIP

These days, anyone of us might well ask - How much on the alert is our navy submarine air patrol? ~~Are they on the job,~~ Those planes ~~of ours that are~~ on duty against hostile undersea craft? Here's an answer - in the form of a brisk little story told by a ship captain in New York today. ~~He told how~~ ⁷⁷ His vessel, an ocean liner, left a southern port and was steaming along- when a startling sight was seen. Three submarines ^{emerged from} ~~were seen, came out of~~ the water, Nazi U-boats undoubtedly. The moment they were spotted, the captain had the radio operator flash the emergency wireless signal. There was a tense few minutes - it looked as if the undersea pack of three would attack. And the captain thinks they would have, but in an incredibly short time a droning sound was heard. A spec was seen in the sky - a United States patrol bomber, with ~~And~~ two others were close behind. The ~~resistance~~ ^{response} of the

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air patrol to the danger signal was so swift ~~that~~ it was startling - and certainly it must have been startling to the commanders of the three submarines. They didn't wait, had no desire to be targets for the bombs from the air.

With the appearance of the plane, the prowlers of the deep immediately submerged, and made off. So that's the answer to the question, Is our navy submarine air patrol on the alert?

MORALE

Today in the Senate a thing was said that should have the thoughtful consideration of all of us - those of us who are on this end of the radio, and you who are on the loud speaker side. The congressional statement concerned the handling of war news in this country right now - the good news and the bad news.

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"I think," declared Senator Maloney of Connecticut, "that our newspapers have magnified our successes, and have minimized news which should be more properly presented to the public." In other words, the good news ~~has been magnified~~ ^{played up,} and the bad news ~~has been minimized~~ ^{played down} — according to the Senator. ~~and he does not agree with this.~~

~~Now that does~~ ^{All of which} opens a large field for discussion, among us, Americans. The only important issue in the matter is - winning the war. ^{and} Everybody concedes, I suppose, that the way the news is presented can help

or hinder. ^H~~the winning of the victory.~~ The Nazi
totalitarian theory is to manipulate the news by
suppression and falsification. That's their way of
— *faking; fool the people.*
strengthening war morale. ^A The democratic way, as
exemplified by the British and ourselves, is to treat
the ~~xx~~ war news according to the morale of freedom -
withhold such military ^{*Facts*} ~~news~~ as might be useful to the
enemy, but, keep the people enlightened as much as
possible. ^H ~~So we may ask ourselves~~ Which is likely to
be the stronger and stand up the best? [?] The morale of
totalitarian suppression, or the morale of democratic
liberty? ^A Few of us, I imagine, will say that the
spirit of the people of Nazi Germany ^{*or*} ~~and~~ Fascist Italy
is likely to be more staunch than the steadfastness of
the British and ourselves.

So let's have the truth, as accurately and

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as intelligently as we can give it! Which, by the way,
is not too easy. We tend to swing with our emotions, ^{and}
let our emotional reactions color our perception of ^{the}
I do. We all do.
facts. ^ It's only too easy to seize upon the slightest

cause for cheers, get all steamed up, dismiss the
whole thing with the blithsome exclamation - "Our side
is winning!" ^{TP} Then, too, it's easy to think that we're

pleasing the people we talk to by ^{applauding} ~~cheering~~ the good

^{TP}
news and passing over the rest. But do we really
^{people of this nation}
please the ~~American people~~ that way? - by appealing to
emotional reactions instead of sound, hard sense?

^{8 1/2}
I leave that for you ~~folks~~ to decide - whether or not
you want the war news presented with as much realism
and patriotic common sense as the fellow sitting next
to the news wire can give it.

Anyway, there has been word from Washington
of late that the ~~xxxxxxx~~ men in charge of our war

believe that too much eady optimism in presenting the war news is a bad thing -- does not help in winning the victory, but is a positive hindrance.

And this thought was spoken openly in the Senate today by Senator Maloney of Connecticut -- when he decried the magnifying our successes; undue optimism, which causes apathy and indifference. "In too many instances," said the Senator, "people are conduding that the war can be won with little or no effort."

And now Hugh