

L.T. - SUNOCO. MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1943.

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY:

The principal news from Africa tonight is that the flying forces of the Allies yesterday won the most important air victory since we landed there. The British and Americans between them shot down no fewer than eighty-five Nazi and Italian planes in one day. ~~That is~~ <sup>a</sup> loss that no air force can afford. Today, the total bag was raised to ninety-six.

Allied scouts had reported large convoys of Axis aerial transports crossing the Straits between Sicily and Tunisia. Our men attacked, in one of the fiercest air engagements ever fought anywhere. <sup>Of</sup> ~~The~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~sixty-eight~~, <sup>sixty-eight</sup> Axis planes destroyed, were huge "Junkers <sup>v</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>fifty-two</sup> Transports." A message from Cairo reports that those air transports appeared to be carrying troops

The inference is that they may have been evacuating some of Rommel's men to the mainland.

It was early Sunday when a huge aerial convoy of more than a hundred Junkers including ~~those~~ *the big* ~~sixty-two~~ transports, took off from airports near Tunis and swept out in a low, slow flight toward the southeast coast of Sicily. Immediately, an Allied force of War Hawks and Spitfires joined battle. The War Hawks dived down on the transports. The Spitfires, which can fly higher, went ~~upstairs~~ to take on the enemy fighter planes. <sup>TP</sup> According to the dispatch, <sup>during</sup> the next few moments *there was an* ~~were~~ <sup>^</sup> indescribable confusion of circling, diving and falling planes. The cumbersome transports dropped like wounded birds. Many of them burst <sup>ing</sup> <sup>^</sup> into flames. Some of the escorting aircraft plummeted to the sea in long dives. <sup>TP</sup> A few of the German transport pilots made crash landings on the beaches. But <sup>British</sup> ~~our~~ <sup>^</sup> fighters

followed them relentlessly and set most of them afire.

This engagement ended with nearly three-quarters of the entire Axis <sup>air</sup> ~~convoy destroyed~~ wiped out

According to the Nazi-controlled radio in

Paris, the armies of the Axis in Tunisia are receiving constant reinforcements.

well, In addition to that air battle, our Flying Fortresses for three days in succession blasted Palermo in Sicily and the airfield nearby. Liberator bombers from the Middle East raided the harbor of Catania in Sicily, landing direct hits, <sup>leaving</sup> ~~that left~~ many fires. <sup>also</sup> ~~behind them~~ Wellingtons of the Royal Air Force bombed the docks of railroad yards of Tunis. French bombers took part in an attack on the airdrome near Tunis.

## CONVOY

Tonight we have news of a great battle at sea, a battle between Allied airplanes and Nazi submarines. The British Air Ministry describes it as one of the greatest battles ~~of~~ the war. . . ~~It lasted~~ <sup>And it</sup> lasted four days.

Two big ~~important~~ convoys were at sea on the other side of the North Atlantic. The Nazi under-water wolf-packs attacked them. The convoys were protected by American Liberator bombers, Fly Fortresses, and Royal Air Force Sunderland flying boats. In those four days, the U-boats attacked nineteen times - and nineteen times the Allied planes drove them off.

The crews of the planes reported that "several times the submarines were blown up to the surface, came out of the water end up, and then sank slowly."

The courses of both convoys were marked by floating debris and oil slick. Several times U-boats



came to the surface to fight it out with the planes, then the big bombers would swoop down, raking their gun crews with sub-machine guns.

One flight-lieutenant went down to sea level and swept over the submarine so close that he could see the looks of horror on the faces of the U-boat gunners. Several U-boats were caught as they came to the surface to recharge batteries.

One American commander of a Liberator plane spotted six submarines within an hour and attacked three of them. <sup>And,</sup> One Sunderland, sank two U-boats.

But the Air Ministry admits that, in spite of all the airplanes could do, several ships of the convoys were lost.

AIR WAR

The contribution of the British Royal Air Force last night was a big raid on Spezia; ~~That is~~ Mussolini's great naval base ~~on~~ the Gulf of Genoa.

Though it was a large force, the R.A.F. lost only one bomber in this attack. <sup>Which</sup> ~~That~~ illustrates the weakness of Italian defenses compared with those of the Nazis.

<sup>And, it</sup> ~~This~~ was the fourth raid on Spezia since the war began.

<sup>Also,</sup> the second ~~the~~ British delivered in less than a

week. <sup>R</sup> The naval base at Spezia is ~~an~~ of particular importance in view of the probability of an evacuation of the Axis forces from Tunisia.

<sup>Not was this</sup>

~~This was not~~ the only <sup>R.A.F.</sup> raid, ~~the R.A.F. made~~

British planes <sup>roamed</sup> ~~went all over~~ German occupied Europe

for the fourth night in succession, attacking trains, installations, and destroyers at sea.

ADD TOKYO RAID

And here is a timely bit of news about Jimmy Doolittle from Africa. On this, the anniversary of the Tokyo Raid, the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action has been awarded to Major-General James H. Doolittle. The citation reads that, ~~XXXXXX~~ since February Nineteenth, when he started in command of the Allied strategic air force, "By his untiring energy, initiative and personal example, he has inspired the units under him to renewed successful efforts against the enemy." ~~PR~~

The citation continues: "On April Fifth, Nineteen Forty-Three, the strategic air force was responsible for the destruction of forty-eight enemy planes in the air and approximately a hundred on the ground. This extraordinary achievement under the leadership of General Doolittle reflects great credit to himself and to the armed forces of the United States."

TOKYO RAID 2

A new story of General Jimmy Doolittle's raid on Tokyo was released for publication today, the anniversary of that famous feat. It was told by George Radulovich, a machinist's mate of Lakewood, Ohio, twenty years old, who was aboard the carrier, the Shangri-La, from which Jimmy and his eighteen fliers took off to visit Tokyo. The story is carried in the CLEVELAND PRESS.

Radulovich said the task force was three days out before the men were told they were bound for the bombing of Tokyo, and said he: "Everyone aboard our carrier whistled, cheered and threw up their hats when we heard this."

Within three hundred and fifty miles of Japan, the task force came across two Jap fishing boats. In a few seconds they were sunk, to stop them warning the mainland by radio.



The fleet had not gone much further before it came upon a Jap destroyer. The fleet's guns ~~went into~~ <sup>were</sup> ~~instant action and~~ <sup>turned on her</sup> she went to the bottom before her radio could get into action.

~~Radulovich~~

Machinist's Mate Radulovich said when they

got two hundred and fifty miles from Tokyo, the decks were cleared, and, said he: "Jimmy Doolittle was pilot of the first ship that went off. He circled until all his planes were in the air. Then he got them into formation and headed toward Tokyo. Many a prayer followed them."

After the bombers disappeared, the fleet turned round and really made knots to get away from there. Incidentally, the carrier ~~Radulovich~~ was on was sunk in a naval engagement some months later.

## SOLOMONS

From the Solomons word that our fliers are keeping up raiding Japanese shipping in the Shortland Island area. U. S. Torpedo bombers scored five hits on a ten-thousand-ton Jap ship, which later was seen to be sinking. They also got two hits on another cargo ship and some near hits that may have sunk a third.

Flying fortresses, Liberators, heavy bombers and Avengers, attacked the Jap base at Kahili in the Solomons, leaving fires that could be seen for miles.

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In the North Pacific more raids on the Japs at Attu and Kiska, where the Nippinese are working persistently on new airdromes.

McGILLICUDDY

We have been hearing a lot about the Gremlins, those invisible ~~sinister~~ imps that have been afflicting the flyers of the Royal Air Force and Uncle Sam's air forces. But now we learn that the Gremlin has a cousin whose aim in life is to pester the Navy, <sup>King's</sup> ~~of King George the Sixth~~. The Gremlin <sup>cousin is named</sup> ~~is named~~ McGillicuddy.

McGillicuddy, we hear, is neither here nor there, but everywhere. For the last several weeks he has been making miserable the lives of sailors up and down the English Channel. He suddenly appears on top of the waves, flashing out many colored flares in a code all his own. Sometimes he sits on the side of light boats dragging his feet in the water and slowing them down. He fouls their anchor chains, cloggs their propeller shafts and desparks their spark plugs, cuts mines loose, and casts weird shadows on the water.

But occasionally, it appears, McGillicuddy

turns around on the other side and does things to annoy the Germans. Once he attacked German coastal defenses single-handed. This came to light when the Nazi high command issued a communique telling of an attack on the Dutch coast by British motor torpedo boats, an attack driven off by German coastal artillery guns.

When British naval officials read that communique they snorted: "Those Germans are insane!" Said the Royal Navy: "We did not exchange a shot with them." ~~So said the higher officers.~~ *Whereupon* And the enlisted men nodded their heads and said: "That was McGillicuddy, ~~the little devil, he made~~ *making* Jerry look silly. ~~that time.~~"



RUSSIA

The news from Russia? Not much of it.

Fighting still going on in the Caucasus, at that Kuban Riger bridgehead, where the Nazis are holding on. Moscow reports that the Nazis are suffering heavy losses, as the Red Army keeps up relentless pressure.

## SECOND FRONT

A word of caution from Canada's Prime Minister, MacKenzie-King, today, reminded his countrymen that we must not be in too much of a hurry to open that long-wished-for second front on the continent of Europe. "No worse fate could ~~have~~ befall an invading force than to find itself opposed by German divisions vastly superior in numbers," said he. He said this at the opening ceremony of the Canadian Fourth Victory Loan drive in Toronto.

## HOLLAND

The people of the Netherlands are about to be officially absorbed into Hitler's Third Reich. Of course, all Dutch men and women have been under the heel of the Nazis since May, Nineteen Forty. But, up to now Holland has been treated as enemy-occupied country. Henceforth -- a part of Germany.

The Nazi General who has been Hitler's so-called protector of Bohemia and Moravia, and also head of the German police, has been in the Netherlands for two weeks, clearing the way for this business of attempted brutal absorption. Nazi officials and newspapers for some time have been shouting that it is only logical that the Netherlands become an integral part of Hitler's Reich.

## SERBS

Americans of Serbian descent are anxious to give fighting help to the celebrated Serb General Mikhailovich and his daring Chetniks. They want to be allowed to organize a special unit of Uncle Sam's Army, a battalion to be called the "American Chetniks." And, they would like it to be sent into Serbia as quickly as it is at all possible to join up with the Chetniks of Mikhailovich.

At a mass meeting in Pittsburgh, delegations of Serbs came from Chicago; Gary, Indiana, and Detroit, where there are many Americans of Serbian descent.

A resolution was passed petitioning President Roosevelt to permit them to volunteer for a battalion of American Chetniks. And they asked Ruth Mitchell, sister of the famous General Billy Mitchell, to present the petition to the President.

You may recall reading of the adventures of



Ruth Mitchell in Serbia, where she actually became a member of the Serbian Chetniks. As a result of her experiences, Ruth Mitchell is convinced that the Serbs are a crucial factor in Europe. She declares that the Chetniks are the only organized army west of Russia still resisting the Axis. And, adds Ruth Mitchell:

"As anxiously as my brother tried to make America airplane conscious, just so anxiously am I to make America conscious of the key position which the Serbs hold now and which they will hold later in the problem of peace."

ROOSEVELT

We have just heard that President Roosevelt will deliver a broadcast tomorrow night at four o'clock. It will be a nationwide broadcast carried on every network -- eleven P.M. At present we are given no indication about what subject he will talk.

O.W.I.

More and more members of Congress are casting critical eyes at the Office of War Information. One thing that arouses the lawmakers is the report that the O.W.I. is disseminating not only factual information, but partisan propaganda. For instance, Senator Taft of Ohio introduced a resolution today to require the O.W.I., also the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, to show the Senate copies of all propaganda, propaganda not only to foreign countries but to the armed forces of the United States.

Then came Senator Van Nuys of Indiana, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. He is going to ask Elmer Davis, Director of O.W.I., to hold his next press conference on Wednesday not only in the presence of newspapermen but with the Judiciary Committee Senators listening in.

All this comes at a critical time because the

date is at hand when the Office of War Information  
must go to Congress and ask for funds, ~~the~~  
~~the~~

~~the~~.

Said Senator Taft: ~~said~~ "Our Government has been  
spending millions of dollars on short-wave propaganda  
to foreign countries." And he continued: "I have  
heard ugly rumors that much of this broadcasting is  
futile and idiotic."



## HARMON

Here's the latest on Tommy Harmon, ~~the~~ former All-American football star -- at Michigan. He is alive, and will recover.

Tommy Harmon, who is a flying lieutenant, was somewhere in the air over South America, in "Old Ninety-Eight.", the football numerals that Harmon made famous on the gridiron. There was engine trouble and Harmon and his crew bailed out. The report is that Harmon landed in the jungle where he wandered for four days. Finally he was found by friendly natives who helped him reach Paramaribo, in Dutch ~~Guiana~~ <sup>Guiana.</sup>

Tommy wanted to go straight back into the jungle to look for his two companions who are still in there, somewhere. But the doctors insist that ~~he~~ he stay in the hospital until he recovers from ~~xxxx~~ exhaustion and exposure.

This afternoon his folks, at home in Ann Arbor, Michigan, got him on the phone. Or rather the other way round. To the astonishment of his ~~parents~~ parents the telephone rang and a voice said: "This is Overseas

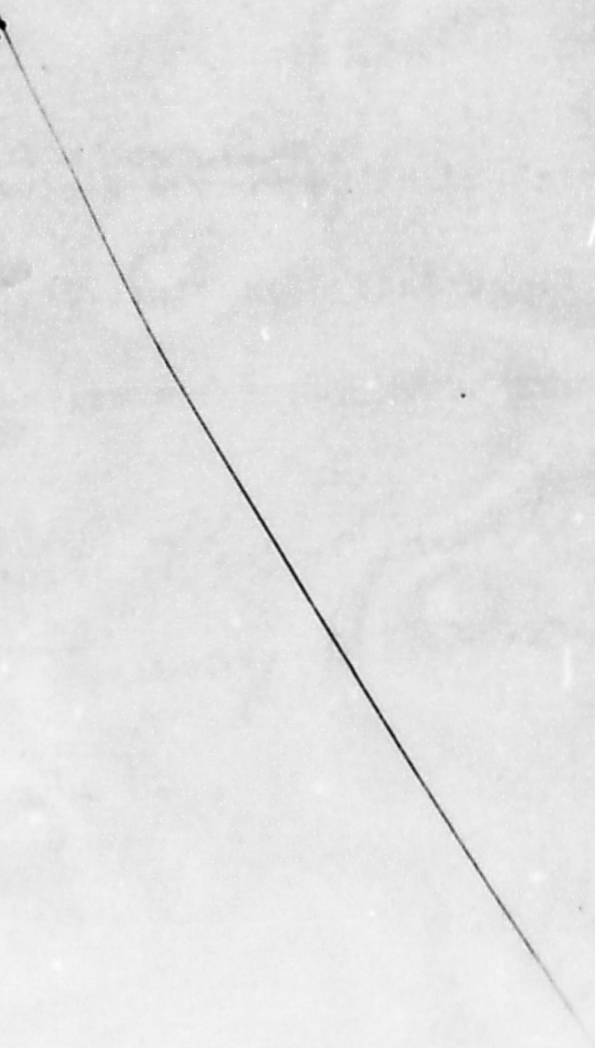
operator -- Lieutenant Tom Harmon calling."

Then came another voice saying : "Hello Mom!"

He then proceeded to tell his mother that he was safe and well, altho shaken a bit.

In the Harmon house at that time was

"Fritz" Crisler



~~and known to the football world as the University of Michigan coach, who taught Tommy Harmon to play~~

<sup>coach</sup>  
Said Crisler: "Hello you old ghost, you all right?"

And the voice of Harmon replied: "Sure!"

Before he rang off, he asked his mother to call his sweetheart at Los Angeles, ~~and~~ "Tell Elyse I am safe and well."

<sup>Remarked</sup>  
~~When the talk was over,~~ Fritz Crisler, ~~sighed~~  
~~and said~~ "You just can't stop that boy."

~~And fortunately for us, there are plenty like~~

~~him.~~  
And the country is full of Tommy Harmon —  
fortunately.